

## COVID-19 MITIGATION INFORMATION 2021-2022

Participation in interscholastic activities benefits students, schools, and communities. School activities positively impact the physical, social, emotional, and mental health and development of students, support academic achievement, and enhance school culture while providing pride across a community. In order for the benefit to be realized as part of the 2021-22 school year, all stakeholders should support efforts for continued health. The impact of COVID-19 may have subsided, but experts warn it is not yet over and mitigating the risk of infection spread is still critically important during this school year. All school personnel should stay abreast of current local county health guidelines, CDC, and KDHE recommendations and implement the appropriate risk mitigation measures for their schools and activity programs.

## KEY RISK MITIGATION MEASURES TO CONSIDER IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- 1. Vaccination is currently considered the best way to prevent the spread of the virus and end the pandemic. This is also the best way to ensure your activity programs are not disrupted due to an outbreak.
- 2. Students not feeling well should stay home and follow up with their healthcare provider to determine if testing is necessary.
- 3. Continue to reinforce the benefits of good personal hygiene and respiratory etiquette among your students.
- 4. Mask use in public indoor spaces, by those vaccinated and unvaccinated is recommended by the CDC in areas of high or substantial transmission. In locations where face coverings are required, an exception may be granted to athletes during the time they are competing and for officials during active play. Participants and/or officials may still choose to wear a mask during active play unless it poses a safety risk.
- 5. Screening testing for unvaccinated participants is an option schools may consider. Click <u>HERE</u> for information from the KDHE on this topic.
- 6. Unvaccinated students and staff should continue to follow the guidelines of the local health department and school district for quarantine protocols when an exposure or infection takes place.

**EVERYONE** Plays a Role in School & Community Health.



## **Additional Resources:**

CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

KDHE Updated Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

KDHE Guidance for School Events

KDHE Screening Testing Information