

**Wyoming Area School District
Athletic Department
Participation Waiver for Communicable Diseases Including COVID – 19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reports in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggest there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches and their families.

The WASD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The WASD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available, in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students and spectators.

These Recommendations include but may not be limited to:

1. Athletes, Coaches and Staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. It will include a questionnaire and temperature check, as needed.
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices, such as: hand washing, using hand sanitizer, cough in your elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, no gum chewing, no handshakes/celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging).
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
5. Educate Athletes, Coaches and Staff on health and safety protocols
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home
7. Plan in place if a student or employee gets sick
8. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees and families regarding cases, exposures and updates to policies and procedures
9. Athletes and Coaches **MUST** provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared. **Refill Stations and Water Fountains initially will NOT BE AVAILABLE!**
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing.

I understand that participating in athletic programs, events and activities may include a possible exposure to a communicable disease including, but not limited to, MRSA influenza and COVID-19. While particular recommendations and personal discipline may reduce the risk, the risk of serious illness and death does not exit. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of others, and assume full responsibility for my participation. I willingly agree to comply with the state recommendations put forth by the WASD to limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

Sport: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

Signature of Student Athlete: _____ Date: _____

Parents/Guardians may request a full copy of the WASD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations. Contact Joe Pizano, Athletic Director at jpizano@wyomingarea.org; School Nurse Nicole Biago at nbiago@wyomingarea.org or Athletic Trainer Faith Musinski at fmusinski@geisinger.edu.