

Montgomery 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. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to student-athletes, coaches, and their families.

The MASD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, UPMC, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. Montgomery Area School District 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, student-athletes, and spectators.

The requirements include but are not limited to:

1. Student-athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and it will include a questionnaire and temperature check. If anyone has a temperature greater than 100.4°F and/or answers yes to any symptom listed on the questionnaire, the person will be sent home immediately.
 - a. All Coaches and Staff will be pre-screened prior to the start of practice.
 - b. All those driving student-athletes to practice will be asked to remain until the student-athlete completes the pre-screening.
 - c. Student-athletes will line up with a distance of six feet between them while waiting for their pre-screening.
 - d. The temperature check and questionnaire will be filled out in a location where the information will remain confidential.
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.
3. Limit/avoid overall contact between individuals such as no handshakes or celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging).
4. Intensify cleaning and disinfection by utilizing the Victory Sprayer.
5. Each individual will be responsible for the cleaning and sanitizing of all their personal equipment before and after each workout. Before the workout, the student-athlete will be provided with a disinfecting wipe to wipe down all of their equipment. All equipment must be taken home after every workout and disinfected at home.
6. Parents are encouraged to stay in their vehicles during drop-off and pickup of their children and will not be permitted on/in any practice facility.
7. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups.
8. Educate student-athletes, coaches, and staff on health and safety protocols regarding COVID-19.
9. Any person (coach, student-athlete, or staff) displaying any sign or symptom of COVID-19 and/or has a fever greater than 100.4°F must stay home and cannot participate until cleared by a medical professional.
10. If a student-athlete or staff tests positive for COVID-19, contact tracing will be initiated by the school and is encouraged by the family of the infected individual.
11. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures without any person's name being released.
12. Student-athletes and coaches MUST provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles MAY NOT be shared.
13. 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 student-athletes while practicing or competing. Face coverings must be worn inside while not actively participating.

Parent/Guardian and Athlete Signature Page

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 exist. 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 stated recommendations put forth by Montgomery Area School District 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 MASD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations by contacting Mike Snyder, Director of Athletics and Athletic Pandemic Coordinator, at msnyder@montasd.org**

***Please return all signature pages to the Head Coach prior to participating in any workouts.**