

8/18/2021

Dear Parent/Guardian and high school athletes,

With fall sports beginning today (football in cooperation with Pullman High School), and Volleyball and Cross Country starting on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, here is some updated information in regards to fall sports. Additionally, guidance from the Department of Health, and WIAA has been released, and will be included also. Finally, a combine is in the works with Pullman High School for athletes who would like to swim. The registration process would be the same as for football, so the instructions sent out earlier should work just fine. Girls swim team is during the fall season, and boys swim is in the winter.

The following is a list of practice times for fall sports leading up to the first day of school:

Football practice is from 3:30 to 6:00 pm at the Pullman field.

Girls swim practice is from 3:15 to 5:30 at the Pullman Aquatic Center.

Cross Country practice is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at GP High School.

Volleyball practice is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at GP High School.

Transportation times are as follows:

Volleyball and Cross Country will leave Garfield school at 5:15 pm

Volleyball and Cross Country will return to Garfield following practice leaving at 8:15 and arriving at 8:30

Please remember that ALL registration documents need to be completed and a current physical form needs to be on file by the first practice. If all paperwork is not completed by the first practice an athlete cannot practice until the paperwork is complete and on file.

Thanks,

Scott Thompson

Athletic Director

Garfield-Palouse High School

**The following is the current guidance for athletics for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, this guidance is subject to change as we receive new and updated information.**

### Sporting Activities

Sporting activities must follow the requirements listed below. In this document, universal masking means that face coverings are required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status. Physical Education (PE) classes are curricular classes and are not considered sporting activities. Students and staff must all wear masks indoors during PE classes. Masks are not required outdoors.

The use of cohorts within the team limits the potential for team-wide transmission in the event of an exposure or outbreak and should be considered for practices, warm-ups, and when traveling.

Travel trips must follow CDC's order for all riders and drivers to wear a mask on buses or other public transportation, regardless of vaccination status. Seat cohorts together on the bus and separate the cohorts by at least 3 feet to the degree possible. Increase ventilation by opening windows as weather permits.

Athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel should maintain at least 6 feet to the degree possible when not playing (e.g., on the bench, in the dugout, on the sideline, in locker rooms and other similar situations). Please also refer to DOH's Guidance for Sporting Activities for additional information.

### Mask Requirements for Sporting Activities

- Universal masking is required by all athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and support personnel when in weight rooms, regardless of vaccination status. Weight rooms are high-risk indoor settings. They are often poorly ventilated, crowded and used by athletes from sports of multiple contact levels, as well as PE students. Practice physical distancing to the degree possible.
- Masks are not required for athletes while competing in low-contact or moderate- contact sports indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing. Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in DOH's Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities .
- Masks are not required for fully vaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports. Masks are not required for unvaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports if they

participate in screening testing. Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing. Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in DOH's Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities.

- o Indoor basketball, wrestling, and water polo are high-contact sports and require screening testing of unvaccinated individuals in order to participate. See the section on Screening Testing for Sporting Activities below.
- o Cheer is a high aerosol-generating activity. Fully vaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing, performing or competing.

Unvaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing performing or competing if they participate in screening testing. Masking of cheerleaders is required indoors when not practicing, performing or competing.

- o High contact indoor athletes who are engaging in practices off-season must either:
  - Practice universal masking at all times, regardless of vaccination status; or
  - Initiate the screening testing protocol of unvaccinated athletes to allow the removal of masks by all athletes, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while practicing. Masks must be worn at all other times when not practicing, regardless of vaccination status.

(This applies to Football, Cross-County, Baseball, and Track)

- Masks are not required for outdoor sports of any contact level but are recommended in settings where unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and/or support personnel are in close proximity, such as standing on the sidelines, in a huddle, or sitting in a dugout.
- All coaches, athletic trainers, and other support personnel involved with sporting activities must wear face coverings indoors in K-12 settings, regardless of vaccination status.
- Referees who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear face coverings indoors when actively officiating and running {e.g., basketball}. When they are not running, masks are required {e.g., talking with coaches, between quarters}. Unvaccinated referees must wear face coverings at all times when they are officiating, unless they participate in screening testing.
- Masking is required universally for all spectators attending indoor K-12 sporting activities, regardless of vaccination status. Audience members should be seated in "family units" and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart.

Screening Testing for Sporting Activities (This applies to MS Girls/Boys Basketball)

- Screening testing is required for all unvaccinated athletes in high contact indoor sports (basketball, wrestling, water polo). Fully vaccinated athletes do not have to participate in screening

testing. Screening testing must be performed twice weekly using a molecular or antigen test. A rapid antigen test should be performed on all unvaccinated athletes within 24 hours of the competition. In a multi-day event, testing should occur before each competition. The second test during the week should be performed 3-4 days prior to or after the competition and may be a molecular or antigen test. If a molecular test is performed, the athlete does not need to isolate while awaiting screening test results unless they are exhibiting symptoms.

- Unvaccinated athletes participating in indoor low or moderate contact sports are recommended, but not required, to participate in screening testing once or twice weekly. This is especially important when community transmission is substantial or high. Please see the CDC's matrix (Table 1) for definitions of the levels of community transmission.
- Any athlete with a positive test must be excluded from the event and removed from the venue. See Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID -19 for more information. Positive test results must be reported to the local health jurisdiction as outlined in the Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health section.

Contact tracing should be performed per guidance in the What to Do if Someone is a Close Contact of Someone with COV ID-19 section. The team should work with local public health to determine how to approach isolation, quarantine, and further testing.

- Unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should quarantine immediately, even if they recently had a negative test.
- Fully vaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive. If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
- All point of care test results should be reported to the DOH in accordance with guidance available at the Reporting COVID-19 Test Results for Point-of-Care Testing Facilities site.