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## MCPS ATHLETICS

### RETURN to R.A.I.S.E.

Update—November 12, 2021

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Dear MCPS Community:

We have enjoyed a successful fall season and look forward to the start of the winter sports season on Monday, Nov. 15! Following are some updates regarding program operations.

#### **Masks/Face Coverings**

Face coverings are not required indoors for student-athletes actively participating in activities, practices and contests; however, students who are not fully vaccinated (with approved medical exemptions) are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings. During competition, face coverings are not required for coaches and officials who are fully vaccinated. All other individuals, including managers, event staff, and spectators, are required to wear a face covering at all times indoors. All participants shall bring their own mask/face covering; extra masks are available at all activities.

#### **Winter Sports Registration**

Be sure to complete your registration for winter sports - the season begins on Nov. 15! Only students who have completed the registration process, which includes submitting verification of vaccination or medical exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

#### **Student-Athlete Vaccination Requirements**

Beginning with the start of the winter sports season, Nov. 15 for high school, and Dec. 7 for middle school, all high school and eligible middle school student-athletes will be required to submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to participation. This requirement applies to the winter and spring sports seasons, as well as all out-of-season activities conducted through MCPS Athletics.

#### **Student-Athlete Vaccination Exemptions**

Only medical exemptions will be permitted. [MCPS Form 560-30A: COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemption Request for Student-Athletes](#) must be completed by a licensed health care professional and submitted during the registration process for athletics.

#### **Vaccination FAQs**

[Here](#) are answers to FAQs regarding the vaccination requirements for MCPS Athletics.

#### **GoFan - Digital Ticketing**

Beginning with the second round of the football playoffs, along with state semifinals and finals, tickets for MPSSAA events and football games will be sold exclusively through GoFan. [Links](#) will be provided to participating schools in advance of each game to promote to their communities. There will be no cash sales at the door. MCPS will also utilize GoFan for additional events starting with the upcoming winter sports season. More information is available [here](#).

## **MPSSAA Playoffs**

Region and state playoffs are underway! Be sure to follow your favorite team on their quest for a region and state championship! More information is available on the [MPSSAA State Championship Central](#) website.

## **Testing in Schools**

Free COVID-19 testing is available for all students in every school. Testing is an important strategy for keeping schools open and students and staff safe. With testing, MCPS can minimize the number of students in quarantine and minimize interruptions to program activities. Parents/guardians must give their consent for testing. Families can [fill out the consent form](#), which is available in [multiple languages online](#), or request paper copies from their school.

There are two types of COVID-19 testing available. Rapid tests are used when a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Results are available within 15-20 minutes. Screening tests are given weekly to a random sample of students with no COVID-19 symptoms. These results are available in a few days. Read [here](#) for more information.

## **Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan Operations**

The Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan will continue to drive program operations in regard to COVID-19 procedures and protocols. The plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. The latest version is always available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage. The [November 12](#) update includes updated language regarding concessions and indoor face covering/mask guidance.

## **Communication and Resources**

Our COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics will continue to evaluate and implement the latest safety measures. Updates and guidance from the Task Force will continue to be provided and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator \(AC\)](#), or coach.

Montgomery County Public Schools