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## MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Update—February 25, 2022

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Dear MCPS Community:

Thank you for your continued support of MCPS Athletics, as we navigate the ever-changing challenges and dynamics of COVID-19. Here are some important program updates and reminders:

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

Effective March 1, the wearing of masks/face coverings will be **optional for student-athletes, coaches, and officials** while participating in practices, team activities, and contests across the program (**all sports**). This also includes on team benches and to and from locker rooms. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks/face coverings when indoors.

**Spectators and other event personnel must continue to wear masks at all times indoors.** All individuals shall bring their own mask/face covering; extra masks are available at all activities.

This guidance will remain applicable across MCPS Athletics, pending future review and guidance for schools.

#### **Updated Quarantine Guidance**

Effective March 1, MCPS Athletics will align with updated quarantine guidance announced at the Board of Education meeting on Feb. 24, which reflects moving from a **10-day isolation and quarantine period for students to a 5-day isolation and quarantine**, if certain health conditions are met. [The Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan](#) has been updated to reflect this updated guidance.

#### **Religious Exemptions - COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement**

In alignment with CDC guidance, MCPS is accepting requests for religious exemptions because of the decreasing COVID-19 community transmission rate, coupled with Montgomery County's high vaccination rate. This updated process begins with the Spring 2022 season - registration is now open.

Religious and medical exemptions are submitted using [MCPS Form 560-30A](#), which is also available [in Spanish](#).

#### **Spring Registration**

Registration for high spring sports and out-of-season conditioning is open through ParentVue! The first day of the spring sports season is Tuesday, March 1. Only students who have completed the registration process, which includes submitting verification of vaccination or exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

#### **Winter Postseason**

The winter postseason continues - the schedule is [here](#)! More detailed information regarding postseason events can be found on the [MCPS](#) and [MPSSAA](#) websites. Updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

## **NFHS Network**

Contests in stadiums and main gymnasiums will continue to be broadcast live on the [NFHS Network](#). Parents and fans can [subscribe](#) to the network and have access to all games for a monthly subscription of \$10.99/month (or yearly pass for \$69.99/year). All games are free after 72 hours. Information regarding programming is provided by local schools.

## **Middle School Athletics**

Registration for middle school spring sports is open through ParentVue! The first day of the spring sports season is Tuesday, March 8. Only students who have completed the registration process, which includes submitting verification of vaccination or exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

## **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.

## **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. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator \(AC\)](#), or coach.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support of our student-athletes and MCPS Athletics!

Montgomery County Public Schools