



# WASHINGTON STATE DOH K-12 ACTIVITY GUIDANCE FAQ'S

*Washington Interscholastic Activities Association*

## UPDATED:

**(August 24, 2021)** - *The following are answers to frequently asked questions submitted to WIAA staff about the latest K-12 guidance for schools. Please note that this document is intended to highlight key policies and add clarity to the DOH policies, it does not reflect WIAA policies. The full language issued by the DOH can be accessed [here](#).*

*WIAA staff strongly encourages each school to work with their risk manager while planning for a return to participation.*

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q: What are the guidelines for weight room activities?**

**A:** *Universal masking is required by all athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and support personnel when in weight rooms, regardless of vaccination status.*

**Q: If football, as a high-contact sport, were needed to be moved indoors due to smoke, do the players, coaches and other staff need to be tested and/or wear a mask?**

**A:** *If a football practice is needed to be moved inside due to air quality or other factors, they do not need to engage in the testing procedure, but must practice universal masking at all times despite vaccination status.*

**Q: Do cheer teams need to test if they are only practicing inside on poor weather days or related to air quality when preparing for outdoor performances?**

**A:** *Yes, as a high-aerosol generating activity, unvaccinated members would need to go through the testing protocols in order to practice, perform or compete.*

**Q: Do cheer teams have to test when they are performing outdoors?**

**A:** *No, outdoors, cheer teams do not have to test or mask for performances.*

**Q: If my student does not want to participate in screening, can they mask and still participate?**

**A:** *No, in order to compete or perform, unvaccinated athletes will have to participate in screening or go through the vaccination process. Masking is only an option during the off-season practice time, such as open gyms.*

**Q: How often do students need to be tested?**

**A:** *Students should be tested twice weekly using a molecular or rapid antigen testing. A rapid antigen test should be performed on all unvaccinated athletes within 24 hours of the competition or performance. 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.*

**Q: How often, or when, are we supposed to supply testing information to the DOH?**

**A:** *Schools need to be reporting within 24 hours to DOH through SimpleReport with all positives and negatives. Schools need to report manually using the Excel method until they have registered for their SimpleReport information.*

**Q: If we have a positive test, who does the contact tracing?**

**A:** *Contact tracing needs to be coordinated with local DOH. Only students that have been vaccinated would be exempt from quarantine if not exhibiting symptoms. Schools should immediately work with their local DOH to work through the appropriate steps.*

**Q: If a student who tests positive believes there is a false positive, can a second test be given?**

**A:** *If someone thinks there is a false positive, a molecular test may be offered. If that result comes back negative, teams should work with local public health to determine if that person can return to practice and competition.*

**Q: Is there a pathway for athletes to get back to competition sooner than 14 days? Currently some schools use the CDC guidance for reduction of testing on day 5 of quarantine if symptom free and coming back on day 8 if the test is negative?**

**A:** *Yes, the CDC allows tests on day five (5) and out on day seven (7) of quarantine. It depends on the guidance of your local public health, as DOH will not prescribe which quarantine guidance to use. Refer to pages 11-12 for quarantine options less than 14 days.*

**Q: If an athlete has tested positive in the last 90 days, do they have to participate in the testing program?**

**A:** *Yes, any unvaccinated athlete will need to be tested in the high-contact and high-aerosol indoor sports.*

**Q: Can schools cross state borders for competition?**

**A:** *Yes, the travel restrictions have been lifted at this time.*