



Whitehall-Coplay School District Athletic Department Statement on Return to Sports

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges concerning this highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the Whitehall-Coplay School District (“WCSD”) will take necessary precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA, to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, WCSD reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

Recommendations for **ALL LEVELS** for Junior and Senior High Athletics

1. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The screenings could range from a verbal/written questionnaire to a temperature check. Temperatures at 100.4 or higher will be sent home.
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing (20 seconds with warm water and soap) and coaches and staff wearing a cloth face covering as feasible. Hand Sanitizer will be available for team use as resources allow.
3. Intensified cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Social distancing is required through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, where feasible, in Pennsylvania yellow or green phase.
5. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will be educated on health and safety protocols
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home.
7. There is a plan in place if a student or employee gets sick.
8. Regular communication will occur along with the monitoring of developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
9. Athletes and Coaches **MUST** provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared.
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments.
11. Identify Staff and students who may be at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions. If there is a concern that someone is immunocompromised or has any concern regarding their risk in participating in athletics returning to sports, please contact Chris Ohocinski, Supervisor of Sports Medicine. (See - CDC “People Who are at a Higher Risk for Severe Illness”

PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR ATHLETIC COVID-19 QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Supervisor of Sports Medicine – Chris Ohocinski – ohocinsic@whitehallcoplay.org

Throughout activity as a part of athletics in the Whitehall-Coplay School District, student-athletes may have exposure to Covid-19, among other infectious diseases. The Whitehall-Coplay School District will follow its Return to Sports plan as detailed on our website at www.whitehallcoplay.org or www.zephyrathletics.com. If you **DO NOT** give permission for your child to participate in these activities in our school setting, please provide written notification of your request to the Whitehall High School Athletic Director.