



## WIAA Requirements for High Contact, Indoor Sports Implementing COVID-19 Testing Protocols for Winter Sports

Parents and Athletes,

Working in conjunction with the Washington State Dept. of Health, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) recently published specific testing requirements which will allow HIGH CONTACT, INDOOR SPORT seasons to take place this school year. In compliance with the WIAA regulations, Deer Park School District plans to perform COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated athletes, coaches, trainers, and related personnel.

Unvaccinated individuals will be asked to test twice each week and 24 hours prior to contests. The test is a self-collected nasal swab, in which the individual inserts the swab less than one inch into the nostril. Results from the test are available in 15 minutes. Staff facilitating the tests have been trained to observe the specimen collection and interpret the result of the test.

Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 will be immediately placed into the district's established isolation protocol. According to the WIAA guidance, unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts will also need to quarantine, *even if they recently had a negative test*. According to the WIAA's guidelines, fully-vaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, and other support personnel identified as close contacts will need to 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.

We plan to document the vaccination status of all individuals participating in winter sports. As is *always* the case, we take matters of personal privacy and the privacy of student records seriously and understand the privacy rights afforded you child by both FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

To be clear, at this time your child is **not** required to share vaccination status. However, if an individual's vaccination status is uncertain, we are required to proceed as if that individual is not vaccinated (which has implications for testing requirements and quarantine timelines). Without participating in twice weekly testing or showing proof of vaccination athletes will not be able to participate in a high contact, indoor sport this winter.

Additional information about the state's requirements for K-12 school programs and specific requirements for athletics and activities are available on the websites of the Washington State Dept. of Health and the WIAA, respectively. That being said, please feel free to reach out to me or our building administrators should you have questions or need clarification.

Thank you,

Travis W. Hanson  
Superintendent