



Dept. of Health and WIAA Modify Testing Requirements
Updates to COVID-19 Testing Protocols for Winter Sports

Parents and Athletes,

In response to recent sports-related outbreaks, the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association updated testing requirements to require screening testing of all athletes, coaches, trainers and supporting personnel, **regardless of vaccination status**. Further, the testing frequency has been increased to 3 times weekly. Among those screening tests, at least one must occur no sooner than the day before the competition; ideally and whenever possible, the day of the event.

Deer Park School District will implement the state's new screening testing requirement when students return to school on January 3rd. Current testing protocols will continue during winter break for those teams practicing and playing games. Beginning January 3, testing will occur every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The following is a summary of the policy which can be found in the full K-12 Guidelines document (<https://bit.ly/Dec17testingupdate>):

*Schools are now required to implement screening testing protocols for **all** athletes, coaches, trainers, and other personnel who work with athletes in indoor sports and activities (basketball, wrestling, and indoor cheer), **regardless of vaccination status**.*

- *Screening testing of participants must be performed at least 3 times per week using a molecular or antigen test.*
- *One of the three weekly tests must be performed on all athletes, coaches, trainers, and support personnel no sooner than the day before the competition. Ideally and whenever possible, pre-competition testing should be performed the day of the event.*
- *The other tests should be performed on a designated cadence, e.g., M/W/F, determined by the school, in coordination with local public health, to maximize assurance of safer practice and competitions.*
- *If a molecular test is performed, the athlete does not need to quarantine while awaiting screening test results, unless they are exhibiting symptoms then they must isolate.*

Deer Park School District remains committed to using every available tool and strategy to allow our students to continue participating in the activities they love. Thanks for your support and understanding as we adapt to the changing requirements.

Thank you,

Travis W. Hanson
Superintendent