

Concerns with IDOE Guidelines of Re-Entry for Athletics

Clarity is needed for how K – 12 school athletics will safely resume in the 2020 – 21 school year. Safety is a top priority and ensuring all districts and teams are following appropriate recommendations for public health will be crucial as teams from different counties and regions meet for games and matches. We look to state health and education officials for additional information.

- Locker Rooms
 - 50% capacity of what? 50% of the team or 50% of fire code?
- Will an entire team be allowed to practice at the same time? If not, what percentage can practice?
- Face coverings
 - Are schools going to require those not playing and the coaching staff to wear them? If so, will they be provided? Where will they be placed once a player enters a game? Where does someone exiting the game get their face mask?
- If school staff has to launder uniforms, who will it be responsible? How do we verify students laundered their uniforms? What happens if they do not?
- Who will be responsible for cleaning equipment each day? How will we verify that all equipment was cleaned?
- Will the school provide water bottles for each athlete? What happens if an athlete forgets to bring a water bottle? What are the consequences if they do share water bottles?
- How will training coaches for symptoms be implemented?

There is no discussion of how to handle fans – selling tickets, seating in venues (other than social distance), use of restrooms, etc., other than to follow mass gathering guidelines.

What happens if a coach or athlete is diagnosed with COVID-19? Is practice and/or the game suspended? For how long?

The guidelines are doable, but will put a strain on schools, athletic departments, coaches and athletes.

The coach will more than likely be responsible for cleaning the equipment at the end of each practice. Some will be vigilant, but it will also become a hassle for them over time, which may lead to lapses in proper cleaning.

If schools are doing any type of remote learning, how will athletes be able to get to practice and/or a game (especially for those in middle school)?

If the number of games is reduced, how will that be determined? Will it impact the length of the season and/or the pay for each coach?

