

MEMO

TO: MESC Principals

FROM: Brian Wildcat- MESC Superintendent

DATE: August 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Directive 3: School sports - Teams and event guidelines

CC: Associate Superintendents
MESC Board

Review the directive below. This procedure will apply to all MESC school sports teams and sporting events during the course of the 2021-2022 school year. This will be added to the MESC 2021-2022 Re-Entry Plan as an attachment.

Directive 3: School sports - Teams and event guidelines

In order to participate on any MESC school sports teams (including individual sports), all players and coaches must be fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021 and provide proof of vaccination prior to the start of the season.

Any sport season beginning between September 1st and October 31st, participants must:

- Have received their first dose prior to the start of the season.
- Receive their second dose as soon as eligible.
- Provide proof of vaccination.
- Any athlete/coach who does not receive their second dose when they are eligible will not be allowed to participate until they are fully vaccinated.

MESC school sports teams must follow these guidelines in order to participate in any internal or external sporting events.

Pre-Screening of Participants

- All participants must use the Alberta Health self-screen for symptoms prior to entering a MESC facility or departing to a host facility. MESC coaches will be responsible for contacting visiting team coaches to complete screening prior to arrival.
- Any participant that is exhibiting any symptoms cannot enter the facility or participate as per AHS guidelines.
- Be aware that there may be different restrictions for some sports versus others. e.g. some sports that can physically distance may have less restrictive guidelines, but these are not published at this time. Any impact of different restrictions will be addressed by MESC.

Participant Tracking

- In the event that a positive COVID-19 case results from a sporting event/activity, the MESC Guideline to Manage a Positive COVID-19 Case will be initiated.
- To support Maskwacis Health Services contact tracing efforts it is required that the names and contact information of participants is collected each time there is a practice or competition.
- It is required that all participants' parents/guardians sign a "Event Participation Waiver".

Health and Safety Guidelines

The following are guidelines for hosting a sporting event:

- Strict cleaning and sanitation protocols and practices must follow the MESC Re-Entry Plan.
- Hand sanitizer must be provided at the venue for games and practices.
- Physical distancing protocols and practices where appropriate and/or designated.
- Hand shaking ceremonies before or after the game will be prohibited.
- If a player or coach starts feeling symptoms during sporting activity:
 - Immediately isolating the participants from others.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic participants.
 - Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the participants.
 - The attendee must self-isolate away from school as soon as possible.
 - Informing school administrators of the situation.
- Mask wearing:
 - Not required to be worn during intense physical activity.
 - Is required for all student athletes when they are not engaging in physical activity.
 - Coaches will designate a "cool down" area for players before they return to the bench.
 - Is required for coaches and trainers during games.
 - MESC will provide disposable masks when required.

Individual Equipment

- It is strongly recommended that participants not share their personal equipment with anyone. (e.g.: Cleats, Pads, Helmets, Clubs, etc...)
- All participants need to **have their own labelled water bottles and water bottles should not be shared or stored in close proximity to one another**. Follow school safety plans in regard to refilling water bottles and use of water fountains.
- All equipment of individuals should be labelled with the participant's name.

Scheduling

- It is recommended that activities be scheduled with sufficient time between activities to avoid any overlap of players on the court or field or other sports facility.
- Congestion during pick up and drop off should be avoided. Follow the school safety plan procedure for student pick-up and drop off.

Entry/Exit Points

- The school safety plan must be followed in regard to entry/exit.

Spectators

- Spectators are not permitted in MESC facilities until further notice.

Travel

- Participants must not seek sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities out of province.