



Central Fulton School District Athletic and Large Group Activity Health and Safety Plan

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics and large group activities across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, 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 current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families.

The Central Fulton School District (CFSD) will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The CFSD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

As more public health information becomes available, the administration will work with the impacted entities to release further guidance that could involve changes impacting our various athletic programs.

The CFSD Point of Contact for COVID-19 related Athletic and/or large group activity questions is Middle/High School Principal, Dr. Christina Ramsey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for **ALL LEVELS** of Junior and Senior High Athletics and Large Group Activities:

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.
2. All involved will promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing (20 seconds with warm water and soap) and employees wearing a cloth face covering as feasible. (Face coverings are recommended to help decrease potential exposure to COVID-19 respiratory droplets by an infected individual. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing.) Hand Sanitizer will be available for team use as resources allow.
3. Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, Coaches, Directors and custodial staff will intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. All involved will encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, if feasible.
5. Principal, Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, coaches, and directors will be educated on health and safety protocols.
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home.
7. There will be a safety plan in place if a student or employee gets sick (Follow CDC, DOH, and PDE guidelines).

8. There will be regular communication that will monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
9. Participants, Athletes, Coaches, Directors, and Staff MUST provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles MUST not be shared.
10. Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed as situations warrant or determined by local/state governments.
11. Staff and students who may be at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions will be identified. (See - CDC “People Who are at a Higher Risk for Severe Illness”)
12. Concession Stands or other food during events will be made available and must adhere to the Guidance for Business in the Restaurant Industry.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

High Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Examples: musical, soccer, basketball, cheerleading (stunts)

Low Risk: Sports that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between uses by competitors. Examples: FFA, Track & Field, Cross Country, Golf, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Sideline Cheer.

PRACTICE/OPEN GYM/SUPERVISED WORKOUT GUIDELINES

Basic Guidelines

- Participants, athletes, coaches, and staff should abide by guidelines set forth by local and state governments (SEE PA State Guidelines).
- During off season, students should come dressed for activity in order to limit access to other facilities. Limit indoor activities and the areas used within the building when necessary. Locker room use is not permitted. Facility showers cannot be used.
- All coaches and students will be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a workout. Screenings WILL include a temperature check and will include answering the questions on the screening checklist (See Appendix for COVID-19 Screening Form).
- A baseline temperature for each athlete/participant will be established by recording of temperatures over a five-day period.
- Responses to screening questions for each person shall be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19.
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should NOT be allowed to take part in the workout and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- Team/group attendance shall be recorded and may be used in lieu of the COVID-19 Screening form for any athlete answering “NO” to each of the questions on the checklist. The screening form must be kept on file for any athlete answering “YES” to any of the questions and/or for any athlete with a recorded temperature at 100.4 degrees F or higher.

Limitations on Gatherings

- CFSD will follow State and Local Guidelines for all events.
- Social Distancing should be applied during practices, in locker rooms, and in any gathering areas.

Cleaning of Facilities

- Adequate cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease.
- Athletic Facilities will be cleaned prior to arrival and post-workouts. Team gatherings and high touch areas should be cleaned more often.
- Weight Room Equipment will be wiped down after each individual's use.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes must always be worn in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces.

Equipment/Personal Cleaning

- Students will refrain from sharing clothing/towels and all items should be washed after each practice or workout. This includes pinnies.
- Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, shotputs, discus, etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as necessary.
- Hand Sanitizer and washing of hands shall be used periodically as resources allow.
- No chewing gum, spitting, licking fingers, or eating sunflower seeds is permitted.

Hydration

- Students MUST bring their own water bottle. Water bottles may not be shared.
- Hydration Stations may not be used.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Transportation

Modifications for student/coach transportation to and from athletic events may be necessary. This may include:

- Reducing the number of students/coaches on a bus/van
- Using hand sanitizer upon boarding a bus/van
- Social distancing on a bus

These potential modifications will be determined by the school district, bus contractors, Department of Education, and/or State and Local governments. The Screening checklist will be performed and completed prior to entering the vehicle for transportation.

Social Distancing during Contests/Events/Activities

- Sidelines/Bench – appropriate social distancing will need to be maintained on sidelines/bench during contests and events, as deemed necessary by the school, PIAA, and state and local governments. Consider using tape or paint as a guide for students and coaches.

Who should be allowed at events?

- Group people into tiers from essential to non-essential and decide which will be allowed at an event:
 1. Tier 1 (Essential) – Directors, staff, athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, security, administration
 2. Tier 2 (Preferred) – Media
 3. Tier 3 (Non-essential)– Spectators, vendors
- Only Tier 1 and 2 personnel will be allowed to attend events during PA Red and Yellow Phases or until state/local governments lift restrictions on mass gatherings. Tier 3 will be permitted to attend events during

the PA Green Phase but number of spectators may be limited due to the recommendation of state/local government and/or CDC (See PA State Guidelines).

- Changes to seating capacity and social distancing may be necessary for each venue facility and will be determined as more recommendations are released by the local/state governments.

Overnight/Out of State Events/ Events in COVID-19 Hot Spots

- The CFSD will evaluate each event and follow all local/state government guidelines on a case by case basis. Every consideration will be taken as to not expose students to unnecessary or potential high-risk exposure.

Positive Cases and Coaches, Staff, or Athletes Showing COVID-19 Symptoms:

What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms may range from mild to severe. (See CDC Fact Sheet in Appendix)

Symptoms may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

What to do if you are sick?

- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you are infected with the virus, STAY AT HOME. It is essential that you take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home or community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.
- If you feel you are sick, notify the school immediately (principal, athletic director, coach).
- It will be determined if others who may have been exposed (students, coaches, staff) need to be notified, isolated, and /or monitored for symptoms.
- If a Positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, Contact Tracing will be implemented with the assistance of local health professionals and the CDC/PA DOH (See Information in Appendix).

What to do if a student or staff become ill with COVID-19 symptoms during practice, event, or during transportation to or from an event?

- Every effort will be made to isolate the ill individual from others, until the student or staff member can leave the school or event.
- If the one with symptoms is a student, a parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up at their current location.
- The individual with the symptoms will be asked to contact their physician or appropriate healthcare professional for guidance.

When should a student athlete, participant, or staff return to athletics following a COVID-19 diagnosis?

- Student or staff should have medical clearance from their physician or appropriate healthcare professional, determined to be non-contagious, fever free (without fever-reducing medicine), improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath), and no vomiting or diarrhea.

EDUCATION:

Staff, Coaches, Parents and Athletes will be educated on the following (through posters, flyers, meetings, emails, phone calls):

- COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Proper ways to limit exposure to COVID-19 (hand washing, cough in your elbow, disinfecting touched surfaces, social distancing, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, gum chewing, etc.)
- No Handshakes/Celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging), etc.
- The content of this Return to Sport Guidelines Document
- Any pertinent COVID-19 information released by state/local governments, NFHS, and PIAA.
- During off season, students should come dressed for activity in order to limit access to other facilities. Limit indoor activities and the areas used within the building when necessary. Locker room use is not permitted. Facility showers cannot be used.
- Student Athlete or participant should remain with their assigned groups during each workout and during daily workouts to limit the number of people they come in contact with.
- No students allowed in training areas without the presence of a coach, athletic trainer, or school employee.

PA State Guidelines

Phase 1 (PA State Red)

- All school facilities remain closed as per PA State Guidelines
- Athletes and coaches may communicate via online meetings (zoom, google meet, etc.)
- Athletes may participate in home workouts including strength and conditioning.
- Athletes and coaches should abide by guidelines set forth by the local and state governments.

Phase 2 (PA State Yellow)

Pre-workout Screening:

- All coaches and students should be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a workout. Screenings may include a temperature check (See Appendix for COVID-19 Screening Form).
- The responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19.
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- Team attendance should be recorded.

Limitations on Gatherings:

- No gathering of more than 25 individuals including athletes and coaches per scheduled field/court
- Controlled non-contact practices only, modified game rules
- Social Distancing should be applied during practices and in locker rooms, and gathering areas
- No Concession stands

Facilities Cleaning:

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease.

- Athletic Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post workouts and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often.
- Weight Room Equipment should be wiped down after an individual's use.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces.

Physical Activity:

- Lower risk sports practices may begin.
- Modified practices may begin for Moderate and High-risk sports (practices must remain non-contact and include social distancing where applicable).
- Students should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pennies.
- Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, shotput, discus, pole vault, etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary.
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow.
- Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar.

Hydration:

- Students **MUST** bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water coolers, water fountains, etc.) should not be utilized.

Phase 3 (PA State Green)

Pre-workout/Contest Screening:

- Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms should not be allowed to participate in practice/games, and should contact their primary care physician or another appropriate health-care provider.
- Team attendance should be recorded.

Limitations on Gatherings:

- No gathering of more than 250 individuals including athletes and coaches per scheduled field/court.
- When not directly participating in practices or contests, social distancing should be considered and applied when able.
- Concession Stands or other food made available must adhere to the Guidance for Business in the Restaurant Industry.

Facilities Cleaning:

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease.
- Athletic Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post workouts and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often.
- Weight Room Equipment should be wiped down after and individual's use.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces.

Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment:

- Low, Moderate, and High-Risk practices and competitions may begin (As per State, Local, and PIAA Guidelines).
- Students should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pinnies.
- Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, shotput, discus, pole vault, etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary.
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow.

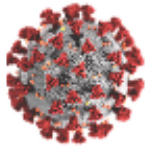
- Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar.

Hydration:

- Students **MUST** bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration Stations may be used but **MUST** be cleaned after every practice/event.

APPENDIX

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

BACKGROUND

Contact tracing is the process of reaching out to anyone who came into close contact with an individual who is positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing helps monitor close contacts for symptoms and to determine if they need to be tested. Contact tracing is a key strategy for preventing the further spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

WHAT DOES THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

- In contact tracing, public health staff work with a case to help them recall everyone they have had close contact with during the time they were infectious.
- Public health staff then inform individuals who have had close contact (e.g. “close contacts”) that they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts are only told that they may have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19; they are not told who may have exposed them.
- Close contacts are given education, information and support so they understand their risk. They receive information on what they should do to separate themselves from others who have not been exposed, how to monitor themselves for illness, and are made aware that they could possibly spread the infection to others, even if they do not feel sick.
- Close contacts will be asked to quarantine themselves and are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distancing through the end of their infectious period, which is about 14 days, in case they become sick. They should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice a day and watch for any other symptoms of COVID-19. Public health staff will check in with these contacts to make sure they are self-monitoring and have not developed symptoms.
- If a close contact develops symptoms, they should isolate themselves and let public health staff know. The close contact will be evaluated to see if they need medical care. A test may be necessary unless the individual is already in a household or long-term care facility with a confirmed case, then the close contact would be considered a probable case without a test.

WHAT TERMS SHOULD I KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO CONTACT TRACING?

- A **case** is a patient who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A case should isolate themselves, meaning they should stay away from other people who are not sick to avoid spreading the illness.
- A **close contact** is an individual who had close contact with a case while the case was infectious. A close contact should quarantine themselves, meaning they should stay at home to limit community exposure and self-monitor for symptoms.
- A **contact of a close contact** is an individual who had or continues to have contact with a close contact. A contact of a close contact should take all regular preventative actions, like washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning surfaces frequently. A contact of a close contact should be alert for symptoms.

RESOURCES:

NFHS: Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities (per update on May 2020)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

“What You Should Know About COVID-19 to Protect Yourself and Others”,

“Schools Decision Tree”

PA Department of Health

Website: [health.pa.gov](https://www.health.pa.gov)

“Coronavirus Symptoms”

“What is Contact Tracing”

“Phased Re-opening Plan by Governor Wolf”

A Guide to Re-Entry to Athletics in Texas Secondary Schools

By Jamie Woodall, MPH, LAT, ATC, CPH and Josh Woodall Med, LAT, ATC