



Friday, March 26, 2021

Parents, Student-Athletes and Coaches of Winter and Spring Sports:

The health and safety of our school communities remain our top priority. Over the past few weeks, the state of Michigan and Washtenaw County have seen a significant surge in COVID-19 cases. Yesterday, the Washtenaw County Health Department communicated to all county school districts that, "Cases are going up. Sports-related cases are going up significantly." Here in the AAPS, we have also seen a surge of cases involving student-athletes, including 18 just this week. The AAPS student-athlete cases currently involve multiple winter and spring sports teams and have resulted in over 150 athletes in quarantine or paused from participation.

In consultation with the Washtenaw County Health Department, **we have made the difficult decision to pause spring sports practices and competitions, beginning on Saturday, March 27.** By doing so, we aim to stabilize the impact of the local case surge on our athletic teams. *Note: This pause will not impact our winter sports teams who are competing in the state tournaments.*

To support a safe restart of the spring sports season, we ask that all of our student-athletes, families and coaches consistently follow all COVID-19 mitigation strategies. These include consistent use of face coverings, maintaining social distance and hand sanitization, among others.

This is also an important time to remind families of the importance of limiting socializing outside of your household unit. While COVID-19 protocols have been followed carefully on school campuses, we are aware that off-campus socializing has contributed to some student-athlete cases. Social outbreaks (from team and social gatherings) amongst athletes impact multiple teams. With Spring Break just days away, we want to stress the importance of social distancing and limiting socialization outside of your family. We also want to emphasize the [CDC recommendations](#) on travel, and we strongly urge families to follow the self-quarantine and PCR testing guidance. This [Quarantine and Isolation FAQ for Parents](#) information sheet is a useful reference.

We strongly urge all student-athletes, especially those traveling for spring break, to have a PCR test completed (with results) by April 5. The Washtenaw County Health Department is offering drive-thru PCR testing for COVID-19. Tests are contactless and saliva-based (no nasal swabs required). Testing is available with or without insurance or symptoms. Pre-registration is required lynxdx.health/register. For additional information on testing, please click [HERE](#).

Beginning Monday and Tuesday, April 5-6, all student-athletes will participate in a rapid antigen test as required by the MDHHS and the MHSAA for all high school athletes. Results of this testing will inform our decision on next steps with spring sports competitions. This testing is a screening tool that will occur weekly throughout the season. Details of the weekly testing program, times and locations, and forms will be sent to parents and student-athletes next week. More information about PCR and antigen tests can be found [here](#).

It is important to remind parents that student-athletes who are symptomatic or have been exposed to a case of COVID-19 **should not come to campus for an antigen test.** Please follow the pre-screening protocol to notify us of symptoms and/or exposure and seek a PCR test. It is also important to remind parents that when positive tests occur, we expect immediate and full cooperation with district nurses and county contact tracers. Individual student-athletes or teams may be required to quarantine based on Washtenaw County Health Department orders.

We know that this is a challenging time, yet we all have an important part to play in the successful completion of the spring sports season. Please wear a mask when interacting with others, especially when social distance cannot be maintained. Please limit socialization that may expose you to COVID-19. Please be cautious during travel/vacation, follow CDC recommendations and, if traveling, have a PCR test completed before returning to team activities.

Sincerely,

Paul DeAngelis
Executive Director for High School Education