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*Jose A. Hernandez, Ed.D. Superintendent • Marti Kochevar, Assistant Superintendent*

## **Dinuba Unified School District Student Athletes for Indoor Sports**

**The following guidance is for student athletes, grades 7-12 participating in basketball and wrestling. As per current guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Tulare County Health and Human Services:**

### **Guidelines:**

1. All individuals are required to wear a mask when indoors at a K-12 school setting regardless of vaccination status. This includes student athletes.
  - a. Unless wearing a mask during play poses a health hazard as determined by a health authority.
2. CDPH advises that these sporting events where wearing a mask may pose a health hazard for student athletes be Covid-19 tested on a weekly basis. Including those who are fully vaccinated.
3. Both DHS and WIS student athletes will be participating without wearing a mask during practices and games. Therefore to comply with the guidance, student athletes participating in basketball and wrestling will undergo weekly Covid-19 testing.
  - a. Testing will occur weekly on campus' at DHS and WIS.
  - b. There will be no cost for testing.
4. In the result of a student athlete test positive for Covid-19, the student will follow current DUSD Covid-19 protocols and procedures and be quarantined at home.



RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

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While the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance requires that face coverings are to be worn when playing all indoor sports unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (currently those sports include competitive cheer, gymnastics, wrestling, indoor aquatics), the CIF has confirmed with the CDPH that if a local health jurisdiction or well-recognized health authority deems wearing a mask while participating in any other indoor sport to pose a choking hazard, then one of the following must be strictly adhered to:

- 1.) Conduct these activities outdoors; or
- 2.) Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

Given the limited options above from the CDPH, the CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee supports the position that all CIF member schools should have the option to adhere to one of those two alternatives in place of wearing a mask in all indoor sports other than those specifically mentioned by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The CIF continues to recognize the authority of the local county health departments to be more restrictive. If there is no separate local county health department guidance for youth sports (including education-based sports), schools should confer with their local county health department if they are considering the above options for any indoor sports other than those specifically mentioned by the American Academy of Pediatrics and for any other specific requirements or recommendations related to youth sports (including education-based sports). CIF member schools must comply with the guidance of the county in which they are located and the county in which the contest is played if the guidance of that county is more restrictive. Prior to a scheduled contest, the host school and visiting school should discuss any COVID-19 requirements/guidelines that a visiting team must adhere to while competing at the host school site.

*Q. A contest is played between two schools from different counties. County A permits testing in lieu of mask wearing, but County B requires mask wearing. What is the correct protocol?*

A. Game is played in County A, local school is not required to wear masks, but it is the responsibility of the County B school to comply with their County B requirement of mask wearing.

*Q. A contest is played in County B that is more restrictive and requires masks to be always worn, and a school from County A that allows testing in lieu of mask wearing. What is the correct protocol?*

A. The school from County A would be required to follow County B guidance and compete while wearing a mask.



**TULARE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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**Interim Considerations for K-12 Extracurricular Indoor Sports**

Given the sustained high levels of COVID-19 transmission in Tulare County, the following are interim operational considerations to support schools in infection prevention planning and application of state guidance during the evolving pandemic. Tulare County follows California Department of Public Health guidance. Any additional CDPH guidance after this date, particularly if specific or stricter than is stated here, supersedes the following recommendations.

As per current CDPH guidance, all individuals are required to wear a mask when indoors at a K-12 school setting regardless of vaccination status.<sup>1,2</sup> This includes participants and visitors for school-sponsored extracurricular activities, sports, and other on-campus events. For indoor sports specifically: *Masks are required for all persons while playing indoor sports unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.*<sup>1</sup> Indoor sports previously identified were wrestling, gymnastics, competitive cheer, and water sports. Given concerns with mask sweat saturation and physical contact during intensive play, indoor basketball and volleyball may also be considered for this allowance.

CDPH advises that these activities where wearing a mask may pose a health hazard either be conducted outdoors and/or that at least once-weekly screening testing be performed with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.<sup>1</sup> Given frequent proximity to student participants, schools are encouraged to include coaches and adjunct team support persons such as referees in screening testing programs. CDC advises areas of substantial-to-high community transmission test twice per week for participation in high-risk sports (defined as those that cannot be done outdoors or with masks).<sup>3</sup> Currently, Tulare County falls within the "high" level of community transmission.<sup>3</sup>

Appropriate contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation procedures should be followed for any positive test results. Schools are reminded that unmasked exposures to COVID-19 that may occur during play will disqualify students from modified quarantine as per current CDPH guidance.

Indoor sports participants should remain masked at all times, except when actively in play, as mask use may only pose a temporary health hazard while actively in play. Active play includes "on-court" or "playing" time and excludes "bench" time or time between matches. Active players should wear a mask when entering/exiting the building, while on the sidelines, during shared transit, and in locker rooms. All other individuals (coaches, employees, referees, volunteers, non-employee contractors, spectators, visitors, other students or participants not in active play, etc.) are still required to wear a mask per current CDPH guidance. While inclusion in a screening testing program is strongly recommended to gain full benefit of screenings, screening testing should not preclude this masking requirement for those not in active play. Schools are



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encouraged to implement as many layers of protection as possible to protect students and staff; deviations from masking guidance requirements may risk transmission of COVID-19 in the school community.

1. California Department of Public Health. COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

2. California Department of Public Health. Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

3. Centers for Disease Control. Testing Strategies for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor\\_1625662107144](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor_1625662107144)