
MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: SCHOOL SPORT TOURNAMENTS
DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2022
CC: BCSS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT ADMIN, ZONE PRESIDENTS

Yesterday evening, the Ministry of Education informed BCSS that it would be rolling out new guidelines today, Friday February 4th, that would allow schools to participate in multi-team school sport events. I want to thank the Ministry for engaging with us multiple times this week to understand the impacts and significance around these decisions.

These guidelines have just been published and are included in this document for your viewing. Please take a few minutes to review, and be sure to communicate and educate your coaches, and other school sport participants to ensure all understand the requirements.

Much of what our schools have been doing around school sport remains the same, with special attention to daily health checks, separate entrance and exits during school hours, ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting etc.

During tournaments, where there may be more than two teams present, be sure there is designated space for each team, whether that be in the bleachers, cafeteria or other designated space that is separate from event volunteers. Teams should not be socializing off the field of play.

At this time, there are no external spectators permitted. Only those participating in the event, such as officials, minor officials/volunteers, student-athletes, coaches, camera operators etc. may be in the gym. Schools are encouraged to provide virtual viewing (streaming) when possible. BCSS can provide guidance to schools interested.

Masking is required for everyone in the building, except when on the Field of Play and engaged in high intensity exercise or when eating/drinking. This is a public health order.

Should there be any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us in the BCSS office. Thank you for your patience this week, and best of luck to all the teams and student-athletes competing in the coming weeks. Compete hard and be safe.



Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings: Sports Tournaments

February 4, 2022



School sports tournaments are required to implement the K-12 school communicable disease prevention measures as outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) and the [Addendum – Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). The prevention measures and implementation examples are outlined below.

Prevention Measures		Implementation Examples
Communicable Disease Plans	Ensure the school (or venue/event) communicable disease plan is posted for attendees to review.	Post the plan at venue/school entrances.
Daily Health Check	Ensure all players, coaches and students complete a daily health check.	Send reminders to coaches and athletic directors before the tournament. Place reminders at entrances and exits.
Entrance and Exits	Implement strategies that prevent crowding.	If teams enter during a normal school day, designate separate entrances/exits from the general school areas. Build in transition times within playing areas, and entrances/exits.
Ventilation	Ensure that heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of workers. Ensure that HVAC systems are regularly maintained for proper operation.	If using a community venue, ensure the same guidelines are met.



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Prevention Measures		Implementation Examples
Space Arrangement	Maximize space between people.	<p>Off the field of play:</p> <p>Designate seating areas in bleachers/cafeterias for individual team use, separate from other attendees (e.g., volunteers).</p> <p>Ensure teams don't socialize with other teams and individuals have personal space.</p>
Cleaning and Disinfecting	General cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least once in a 24-hour period, and when dirty.	General cleaning should include dressing rooms and other spaces attendees are present in (e.g., bleachers, classrooms if used, etc.).
Staff/Volunteer Only Spaces	Implement strategies that prevent crowding.	Utilize floor markings and signage to direct traffic flow that enable personal space.
Capacity	Minimize the number of people in attendance as much as possible, do not exceed 50% capacity, and do not allow external spectators.	<p>Respect room occupancy limits.</p> <p>For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity event if prevention measures weren't in place.</p>
Visitor Access (Spectators)	Do not allow external spectators indoors (i.e., persons who are attending to observe, but not participate in or support the operations of the tournament).	Provide virtual viewing opportunities whenever possible.
Masks	Everyone must wear a mask indoors, except for exceptions as noted in the PHO Face Coverings Order (e.g., while engaged in high-intensity physical activity, when eating or drinking, etc.).	Reminders all attendees that wearing masks at school and school events is required under a public health order



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Hand Hygiene	Facilitate regular opportunities for attendees to practice hand hygiene.	Have portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol, where sinks are not available
Travel	If using buses or carpooling, follow guidelines for student transportation.	Spreading passengers out if empty seats are available and open windows if the weather permits.
Symptoms Develop at Tournament	<p>Tournament organizers and teams should ensure plans are in place for anyone who develops symptoms of illness to not enter, or to leave the tournament facility as soon as possible.</p> <p>Tournament organizers should ensure there is space available for those experiencing symptoms of illness to be separated from others.</p>	Teams should develop plans for if a team member becomes ill, including how they can be separated from others and if/how travel can occur.