



TRAVEL AND MASKING CLARIFICATIONS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

Date: May 19, 2021

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other:

Key Points or Updates:

- (1) While the NJ Travel Advisory is no longer in effect individuals should follow CDC guidance regarding [domestic](#) and [international travel](#). Schools should have a policy for exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff who are recommended to quarantine as per the [NJDOH Recommended Minimum Quarantine Timeframes](#) and CDC guidelines.
- (2) [NJDOH Guidance for Sports Activities](#) does not apply to sports-related activities during school hours, such as physical education classes, and outdoor recess, which continue to be guided by [Executive Order No. 175](#).
- (3) Regardless of vaccination status, social distancing should be followed by all athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators, in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- (4) Minimum masking and social distancing standards for outdoor extracurricular activities and outdoor events on school property (including [outdoor graduation ceremonies and other end of year school events held outdoors](#)) are governed by [Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 241](#). Schools may implement more restrictive precautions if they desire to do so.

Action Items:

- (1) NJDOH recommends that schools have a policy for exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff who are recommended quarantine per [CDC travel guidelines](#).
 - a. Unvaccinated students and staff should continue to follow CDC recommendations for quarantine and testing after travel. If they test positive they should isolate and follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria outlined in the [NJDOH Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#).
 - b. Students and staff currently quarantining under the now-rescinded travel advisory should be permitted to continue doing so.
 - c. Vaccinated students and staff returning from prearranged domestic travel on or after May 17, 2021, should no longer be asked to quarantine but should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate and get tested if symptoms develop.
- (2) [NJDOH Guidance for Sports Activities \(updated 5/18/2021\)](#) does not apply to sports-related activities during school hours, such as physical education classes, which continue to be guided by [Executive Order No. 175](#) and related guidance from the [NJDOE](#) and [NJDOH Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#).
 - a. This sports document including the revised policy on outdoor masking, applies to extracurricular sports activities, even where they are performed on school property.

- b. Existing requirements and recommendations for masking in K-12 settings (i.e. classroom, gym class, activities during school hours) remain in effect.
- (3) High school sports activities under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association ([NJSIAA](#)) must abide by NJSIAA protocols, which shall consider NJDOH guidance.
 - a. Social distancing should be followed by all athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators, in both indoor and outdoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.
 - b. Athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators are required to wear masks in indoor settings.
- (4) Minimum masking and social distancing standards for outdoor extracurricular activities and outdoor events on school property ([including outdoor graduation ceremonies and other end of year school events](#)) are governed by [Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 241](#) . Schools may implement more restrictive precautions if they desire to do so.

Contact Information:

- The Communicable Disease Service at (609) 826-5964 during business hours.

References and Resources:

- [NJDOH COVID-19 Guidance for Sports Activities](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#)
- [NJ Executive Orders](#)
- [CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)