



This week, the Bexley City Schools Board of Education passed a resolution to require all students, staff, and essential visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear [masks](#) while inside our facilities during school hours effective immediately.

Bexley Athletics will follow the Ohio High School Athletic Association's recommendation to adhere to the Ohio Department of Health's guidance on masking. The Ohio Department of Health's most recent school guidance strongly recommends unvaccinated individuals to wear masks. Student-athletes, coaches, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear a mask and exercise proper distancing. There will be no limits on spectator capacity at this time. We will continue to follow this guidance until further notice.

A federal order mandates staff and students to wear masks on public transportation, including school busses. We continue to allow parents to transport their child(ren) to and from athletic events. Carpooling with other families outside their household or students transporting themselves is still prohibited.

Vaccines

We encourage coaches and student-athletes who are eligible for vaccinations to be vaccinated. [A list of COVID-19 Vaccine providers can be found here](#). Additionally, it is highly recommended that those who are unvaccinated maintain social distance and wear masks in indoor facilities and in outdoor facilities where there are crowded situations.

With proof of vaccination, Franklin County Public Health's quarantine guidelines state individuals can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

- Vaccinated individuals would be required to wear a mask in all public indoor spaces for 14 days after a COVID exposure.
- The mask requirement can be reduced with proof of a negative (PCR/Antigen) test after day 3.
- [Click here for more information from the Centers for Disease Control](#).

Unvaccinated individuals must quarantine for 10 days following a close exposure to a positive COVID-19 Case.

- Close contact identified as part of exposure during sports or athletics, **should quarantine at home** for 10 days from the last exposure to a case.
- Individuals may consider ending quarantine after day 7 by obtaining a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 or later. They should continue to monitor their health for symptoms and through day 14.
- [Click here for more information from Franklin County Public Health](#).

Test kits are free and available through our school nurses.

Return to Sports

Return to sports following quarantine after COVID-19 exposure: Student-athletes who have been quarantined following an exposure to COVID-19 and have remained symptom-free may return to sports immediately upon completion of their quarantine.

Return to sports following symptoms of COVID-19: Student-athletes who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and contact their primary care provider for guidance. Students who test positive for COVID-19 should notify the school nurse and/or athletic trainers and follow isolation guidelines set by Franklin County Public Health. Student-athletes who test negative may return to sports in accordance with BCSD guidelines for returning to school <https://www.bexleyschools.org/WhentoKeepaStudentHome.aspx> or as defined by their medical provider.

Return to sports following COVID-19 positive test: Families are advised to contact their child's primary care provider for guidance on return to sports following a positive test. Student-athletes who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by Bexley's athletic trainers regarding return to sport clearance once notification of the positive test is received by BCSD. Written medical clearance from the student's primary care or other medical provider will be required to return to sport and a gradual return to activity progression under the supervision of a Bexley athletic trainer will be implemented in most cases for the safety of the student-athlete. The return to activity progression cannot begin until the student-athlete has completed their isolation period, has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and 10 days have passed since the date of their positive test.

Athletic Training Room

Because our athletic trainers are medical personnel and our athletic trainers' space is considered health care facilities, per state and federal guidelines, our athletic trainers as well as those student-athletes and other visitors entering our athletic trainers' space must continue wearing masks at all times.

- When our athletic trainers are in the buildings and around others they will also continue to be masked.
- As the athletic trainers move to outside venues they will be allowed to be unmasked, as long as they can maintain a safe social distance from other individuals. If the athletic trainers must be within 6 feet of another individual, they will reapply their mask until a safe social distance can be once again achieved.

Weight Room

Masks are strongly encouraged in the weight room after school hours. Weight room participants should follow distancing, cleaning, and disinfection protocols.

All of the guidelines in this message are subject to change, and we will notify you accordingly should there be a change.