

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SPECTATOR PLAN

Purpose: The COVID-19 pandemic presents state high school associations with a myriad of challenges. The Boone County Schools offers this document as guidance on many components of “opening up” sports and activities in preparation for the fall seasons, and beyond.

Benefits of Sports/Activities: The physical and psychosocial benefits of education-based activity participation are numerous. Students who participate in school activities learn life lessons in an environment that cannot be duplicated. The academic achievements, social and leadership skills, as well as overall mental health, are known to be greatly enhanced in students who participate in a school activity compared to those who do not. The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in Boone County students missing out on these life-shaping educational experiences over the past several months.

Acknowledgment of Infection Risks: **The risk of coronavirus transmission will still be present to some degree as school activities begin in August and possibly through the 2020-2021 school year.** Students and their families, along with school personnel must recognize these risks and implement best practices to reasonably mitigate these risks. Participation in school activities is voluntary, and every individual will need to evaluate the risk versus the benefits of activity participation. Those immunocompromised students and staff, or those who live with family members with elevated health concerns, should evaluate associated risks of participation and may choose not to participate. The primary means of coronavirus transmission is through respiratory droplets and potentially aerosolized. Risk mitigation strategies should be aimed at reducing the likelihood of a person’s respiratory droplets coming into contact with another person. Every school is different, and every activity is different. Certain mitigation strategies may be feasible in one school or for one activity, but not another.

School Point-Person: Superintendent, will be the point person to disseminate the constantly changing information and oversee their school’s risk mitigation strategies. School leaders will need to determine how best to **implement ALL reasonable risk mitigation strategies**. Further, Activities Director, will be responsible for administering the Guidelines for an Activity Comeback. School leaders should remain in consultation with their local health departments and medical personnel to review and evaluate strategies applicable to their unique facilities and activities. In support of preparing member schools for a return to, and hopefully a continuation of, interscholastic activity participation, the following coronavirus related questions are answered.

FAQS:

If schools are closed statewide, how will sports/activities continue going forward?

- If schools statewide are closed due to in-person learning due to the coronavirus pandemic, MSHSAA will be unable to allow for either a regular-season or a postseason series in MSHSAA sports and activities.
- All mass gatherings and events will not be allowed on school grounds.

How will Boone County Schools activities function outside of home events?

- The Boone County school administration in conjunction with the Boone County Health Department will determine the viability of competition.
- Updated activity information can be found through your child’s coach/sponsor, the activity director’s office, and the activities website.

What should I do if my child is sick?

- If your child displays any symptoms, contact your local health department or primary care physician, and stay at home until advised by medical personnel.

Symptoms include:

- fever
 - cough (new or worsening)
 - shortness of breath or trouble breathing
 - sore throat (different from seasonal allergies)
 - new loss of smell or taste
 - vomiting or diarrhea
- Prior to returning the participant must meet local health department expectations.
 - If the participant tests positive for COVID-19, you should follow the expectations and guidelines of your local health department and complete the MSHSAA COVID-19 Return to Play Form.
 - **MSHSAA COVID-19 Return To Play Flow Chart – Steps to determine Return to Play Progression**
[Return to Play Flow Chart](#)
 - **MSHSAA COVID-19 Return To Play Form – Mandatory form completed prior to Return to Play**
[Return to Play Form](#)

What are some ways the Boone County Schools activities department and its staff are helping to protect students, coaches, and the community as a whole?

- Cleaning schedules have been created and implemented for all athletic facilities and music classrooms to mitigate any communicable diseases. We will close restrooms once per hour for cleaning.
- Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces in the attendance and play areas will be sanitized (chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, instrumental equipment, etc.).
- Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in workouts or rehearsals.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be plentiful and available to individuals at all times and locations.
- Weight equipment, musical equipment, etc. will be wiped down thoroughly before and after an individual's use of equipment.
- Participants are encouraged to shower and wash their workout clothing immediately upon returning home.
- While at home, temperature checks are recommended prior to attending school or an activity.
- Masks or face coverings are required for participants and spectators any time they are not doing strenuous activity and are unable to socially distance.
- CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting will be followed. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Protective Measures for Activity/Facilities/Equipment for the Fall and Winter Indoor Season

Screening:

- PRIOR to practices/rehearsals when school is in session - all coaches, managers, officials, & participants will be screened as they enter the building at the beginning of the day or anytime they re-enter the facilities.
- PRIOR to practices/rehearsals when school NOT in session - screen all coaches, managers, officials, & participants before any activity takes place: track body temperatures (100.4 or greater) and other symptoms including cough (new or worsening), shortness of breath or trouble breathing, sore throat (different from seasonal allergies), the new loss of smell or taste, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - If a participant, coach/director, or official has a positive finding on their COVID-19 screen, he/she should be sent home immediately. If the participant's parents are not present, escort the participant to a designated isolation room or an area away from others. He/she must wear a face covering. The individual is to be referred to as a health care provider or a local COVID screening hotline.
- Every coach/director and participant must wear a face-covering until screening is completed, showing no signs or symptoms.

Contest-Day Operations - Locker Rooms

- Locker Rooms will be provided for all boys, girls, and cheerleaders separately. Only those stable groups who have been practicing together will be allowed in the locker rooms.
- Locker Room access may be restricted or prohibited depending on the activity.
- Locker Rooms should be cleaned and sanitized before use of the facility.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles should be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Students and instructors should wear face coverings in locker rooms.
- Locker room access may be restricted to a limited number of occupants at a time.
- Teams will establish a rotating schedule for students in and out of the locker room to avoid potential congestion.
- Enter and exit the locker room in single-file lines to avoid congestion.
- Visitor locker rooms will utilize classrooms in the southeast wing and place chairs 6 feet apart to ensure social distance among athletes and coaches.
- Home locker rooms will utilize the standard locker rooms in the northeast area of the gym and will continue to use their structured placement for athletes socially distance near their lockers.

Contest-Day Operations - Concessions:

- Concession workers must wear face coverings and gloves at all times.
- A maximum of 4 (HS gym) workers are allowed in the concession stand to ensure social distancing.
- Individuals in line for concessions must practice social distancing and wear face coverings while in line. There will be signage near concessions to encourage social distancing. There will be monitoring of concession lines by the adult supervisor on duty as each night there is a sponsor in each concession.
- There will be two concession stands. The visitors's concession stand will be in the southeast corner near the visitors entrance (facility main door). The home concession stand will be across the room on the southwest side. Concession stands will be open right before the game and during the totality of the

game. They will be shut down during the 4th quarter. There will be individually wrapped snacks and beverages sold to spectators

- Self-service stations must be closed at this time. This includes butter, salt, condiments. Etc. Additional condiments can be offered in individual containers/packages that can be requested at the time of purchase.
- Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces within and around the concession area once per hour. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water before disinfecting.
- Only sell pre-packed and sealed items.

Spectator Limits for Harrisburg R-VIII Schools Winter Basketball

- Harrisburg R-VIII School District proposes to play all Junior High and High School home basketball contests in the high school gym. **(WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PLAY GAMES IN THE JH GYM, BUT I DID INCLUDE IN THIS DOCUMENT)** This will allow for more space to appropriately social distance. **It will be required** that all spectators social distance and wear face coverings while inside either gymnasium.
- **Junior High Gym - normal capacity 400** (Social Distance Capacity of 120 - modeling the 4-2-4 / 2-2 cluster as in other gym for spectators) The district is proposing each home athlete be allowed 2 spectators and visiting athletes allowed 2 spectators.(max numbers - not sure how many players will be on each team). Both sides of the bleachers will be utilized, by splitting the gym in halves, with 10' space dividing communities.
 - 15 Home basketball players - 30 Spectators
 - 12 Visiting basketball players - 24 Spectators
 - No cheerleaders in this gym
 - Total Coaches Home and Visitors - 4
 - Total Officials - 2
 - Total Administrators/Supervisors - 2
 - Custodial Support - 1
 - Event Staff - 2
 - NO CONCESSIONS
 - Total estimated Spectators, participants, event staff at our JH gym - 92
- **Junior High gms - played at HS gym - normal capacity 2000 (both sides of bleachers are used out for HS games - home & visiting spectators).** (If we model the 4-2-4 / 2-2 cluster as shown on your visit & on the diagram, the max capacity for the gym is 396, with social distancing on all sides of the clusters). Each section will have a capacity of 66. (6 total sections of bleachers). The home spectators will occupy 4 sections and the visiting spectators will occupy 2 sections. The district is proposing each home athlete be allowed 4 spectators and visiting athletes allowed 3 spectators. (These are max numbers - not sure how many players will be on visiting teams but no more than 25).
 - 25 Home basketball players - 100 Spectators
 - 25 Visiting basketball players - 75 Spectators
 - 4 Home Cheerleaders - 16 Spectators
 - 6 Visiting Cheerleaders - 18 Spectators (many times, they won't come)
 - Total Coaches Home and Visitors - 4
 - Total Officials - 2
 - Total Administrators/Supervisors - 2
 - Custodial Support - 1
 - Event Staff - 4
 - Additional Attendees - 50
 - Total estimated Spectators, participants, event staff at our HS gym - 332

- **High School gms - played at HS gym - normal capacity 2000 (both sides of bleachers are used out for HS games - home & visiting spectators).** (If we model the 4-2-4 / 2-2 cluster as shown on your visit & on the diagram, the max capacity for the gym is 396, with social distancing on all sides of the clusters for spectators). Each section will have a capacity of 66. (6 total sections of bleachers). The home spectators will occupy 4 sections and the visiting spectators will occupy 2 sections. The district is proposing each home athlete be allowed 4 spectators and visiting athletes allowed 3 spectators. (max numbers - not sure how many players will be on each team)
 - 30 Home basketball players - 120 Spectators
 - 30 Visiting basketball players - 90 Spectators
 - 10 Home Cheerleaders - 40 Spectators
 - 10 Visiting Cheerleaders - 30 Spectators
 - Total Coaches Home and Visitors - 4
 - Total Officials - 3
 - Total Administrators/Supervisors - 4
 - Custodial Support - 1
 - Event Staff - 3
 - Additional Attendees - 75
 - Total estimated Spectators, participants, event staff at our HS gym - 450

Additional Info asked for; for both gyms

Spectators for both home and away will have separate entrances.

- Paper tickets will be emailed to the visiting Athletic Director prior to the game, then distributed with athletes. Tickets will have the spectator's name, email, phone # and the athlete's name. Spectators will have a home ticket stand in the northeast area of the gymnasium near the home spectators entrance.
- A gatekeeper will greet spectators and notify them to place tickets in a drop box. Temperatures will be taken and signage will be posted listing Covid-19 Symptoms.
- Spectators will have to have a ticket from a staff member from their school in order to enter the building. Harrisburg will keep all tickets a minimum of 30 days, then recycled.
- Markers will be placed on the ground to ensure social distancing at the ticket stand. Spectators can arrive 1 hour before the game.
- Visitors ticket stand will be in the southeast entrance. Harrisburg will have rosters of every participant, staff member, and coach present at every practice and contest; both for home and away teams.
- Behind both benches will be areas taped off for player sitting for social distancing. No spectators will be allowed in this area.
- All spectators are expected to maintain social distancing expectations. Spectators are expected to remain in their clusters while in attendance. **NOTE - they may choose any cluster of 4 or 2 that they would like in the designated "HOME" or "VISITOR" area, but must remain there throughout the event.*
- **Available Restroom Facilities** - 1 designated male and female restroom for home spectators and a separate designated male and female restroom for visiting spectators in separate locations. Signage will be in place that says no more than 5 in the restroom at a time.

- **Available Locker rooms** - Designated locker rooms for each schools' male and female teams and designated locker rooms for home cheerleaders.
 - Visitor locker rooms will utilize classrooms in the southeast wing and place chairs 6 feet apart to ensure social distance among athletes and coaches.
 - Home locker rooms will utilize the standard locker rooms in the northeast area of the gym and will continue to use their structured placement for athletes socially distance near their lockers.
- **Cheerleader** areas are listed on the graphic for each gym. We have limited it to a max number of 10 cheerleaders that can be on the court at one time (5 distanced on each side of the basket). This will be the same for both home and visitor cheerleaders. (Many times the visiting team will not bring cheerleaders) Each cheerleader will maintain a minimum of 6' distance from one another and players on the court. Visual cues will be placed on court to maintain social distancing between spectators and cheerleaders. Cheerleaders will enter court once all spectators have arrived and are seated. Masks will be worn while cheering at sidelines, masks will be removed for stunting and tumbling. Formation only during quarters, masks removed during these times.
- **Basketball players** will be spaced out along the sideline of the court on their respective benches/chairs/bleachers. They will be 6' apart and can be masked if mandated to do so when they are not playing. Sideline seating will include: 10 basketball players to be seated on the bench or chairs, 1 seat for a manager and 2 seats for assistant coaches with a total of 13 seats needed per team. We will utilize the first row of bleachers behind the bench to ensure social distancing if needed. (visitor team sideline seating, score board, home team sideline seating noted on diagram).
- There will be visible signage to show both home and away spectators entrances, restrooms, concession stands, etc. There will also be many announcements throughout the contests about social distancing and wearing a face covering. Spectators will be reminded to exit properly and we will have staff there to direct them. Announcements will be made to wear face coverings even when they are socially distanced.
- Doors to our gymnasiums are always open to allow the most air possible to circulate.