

Auburn Enlarged City School District
Plan for High Risk Sports for K-12
January 31, 2021



Governor Cuomo recently announced that effective February 1, 2021, participants in higher-risk sports may participate if permitted by local health authorities. The Cayuga County Health Department has decided to allow higher-risk school sports to resume if Districts meet sport-specific minimum requirements and communities meet COVID-19 metrics for higher risk sports to proceed and continue.

The AECSD believes, ultimately, the decision falls on parents/guardians to decide whether they will allow their children to participate in higher-risk interscholastic athletics.

In order offer participation opportunities in higher-risk sports to Auburn Students, the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD) submits this Preparedness Plan as per the Cayuga County Health Department guidance. This plan is specific to the Winter 2020-2021 higher risk school sports of ice hockey, basketball and cheerleading.

AECSD understands that failure to comply with all Cayuga County Health Department requirements will result in approval for the Auburn teams to participate in higher risk sports to be rescinded.

AECSD agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, its directors, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all claims, actions or liabilities of any nature that may be asserted against them by third parties in connection with participation in higher-risk school sports.

Board of Education approval: The AECSD Board of Education approved higher-risk sport participation for the Winter 2020-2021 season sports of basketball, cheerleading and ice hockey.

District Preparedness Plan (DPP): Auburn Superintendent Jeffrey Pirozzolo has directed Dr. Tamela Ray, AECSD Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, to serve as the Preparedness Plan Administrator (PPA). In this role she will create and oversee a District Preparedness Plan that meets the requirements specified by the Cayuga County Health Department.

NYS Department of Health Guidance: AECSD will continue to follow the requirements outlined in the NYS Department of Health Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

METRICS: In order for participation in high risk sports to begin and continue, AECSD understands that the community COVID 19 metrics listed below must be met. AECSD accepts responsibility to review this data daily, and to review the positivity rate in counties outside of the CNY Region to make informed decisions related to the health and safety of our students.

- The 7-day rolling average percent positivity in the Central New York (specifically Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties) county, as calculated by NYSDOH, <https://forward.ny.gov/early-warning-monitoring-dashboard> must be at or below 5%.
- If the 7-day rolling average percent positivity is above 5% but less than 8%, then activities must be restricted to individual or distanced group training or organized no/low-contact group training.

- If the 7-day rolling average percent positivity is above 8% regionally or individually within Cayuga County, high risks sports will be suspended.
- Cayuga County and the CNY Region's rate of hospital admissions must not be unacceptably high as determined by the public health and hospital administration officials of those sites or New York State Department of Health.
- A more transmissible COVID-19 variant has not yet been determined to be dominant in the area. AECSD will rely on the Cayuga County Health Department and NYSDOH to monitor and evaluate COVID-19 data daily. AECSD understands the approval for higher risk sports may be withdrawn based on an increase in the positivity rate and/or the presence of more transmissible variants of the COVID-19 virus.
- If AECSD is closed for in-person education due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, school sponsored sports will be suspended until in-person education is resumed. However, this restriction does not apply to schools that are conducting only remote instruction.

Preparedness Plan Administrator responsibilities include the following:

- Communicate the plan to student-athletes, coaches, parents, trainers, game officials, and all community stakeholders. This will be done by sharing the plan with coaches and parents electronically and posting the plan on the AECSD website.
- Serve as a point of contact, should any COVID-19 cases be identified which are related to Interscholastic Athletics.
- Facilitate and assist with COVID-19 case investigation and contact elicitation and notification.
- Oversee and implement a daily system to ensure that no one associated with AECSD practices or competes when ill, including game officials. To ensure this, the AECSD screening plan will be shared with coaches and the PPA will monitor compliance with the established procedures. Those procedures are:
 - Coaches will take student-athlete temperatures prior to all practices, team meetings, and contests.
 - Coaches will use electronic or paper record keeping systems to log attendance for all individuals associated with the practice or competition, including game officials.
 - The recording system will capture names, phone numbers and email addresses.
 - The message that individuals should not play through an illness, but rather stay home to protect others, will be emphasized.
- Provide the NYS complaint hotline phone number 1-833-789-0470 and website <https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/coronavirus-complaints.shtm> to all community members via the District website and on COVID-19 Informed Consent Forms distributed to parents and athletes. This allows to report alleged failures to adhere to the obligations reflected in these requirements and/or those in NYS' Interim Guidance For Sports And Recreation During The Covid-19 Public Health Emergency.
- Keep a log of all complaints received. The AECSD Plan Administrator will investigate all complaints of non-compliance and report findings to the school district's Board of Education and the Cayuga County Health Department, via the School Superintendent.

Athletic Director responsibilities include the following:

- To the greatest extent possible, practice and game times will be scheduled so they are staggered to avoid crowding and congestion when participants and game officials are arriving, playing, and leaving.

- Explain to Coaches how pods can be created to limit the potential for transmission in the event of an exposure. The explanation of pods will include the following information:
 - A pod is a group of student-athletes who only practice or play with members of their own pod.
 - Pods should either practice in physically separate rooms, facilities or areas and/or include steps to ensure that pods are appropriately distanced.
 - Teams should avoid reassigning athletes to different pods to the maximum extent possible.
 - The smaller the pod size, the more the team can minimize potential transmission.
 - How sharing of objects and equipment (e.g., water bottles, towels, snacks) should be avoided and the use of dedicated personal equipment encouraged.
 - When not avoidable, how shared objects and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Explain to Coaches how frequently touched surfaces on the field, court, or play surface need to be cleaned and disinfected at least daily, or between uses as much as possible, and arrange with the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds to facilitate the cleaning process.
- Explain to Coaches that the use of Locker Rooms and shower facilities are not allowed in the AECSD without prior permission. When permission is granted for a team to utilize a Locker Room facility, the facility will be cleaned/disinfected as per NYSDOH guidance.
- Explain to Coaches:
 - Carpooling is discouraged to the extent possible.
 - Travel by school buses will conform to NYS requirements.
 - Congregate dining will be avoided, but when necessary, NYS regulations related to dining and gatherings will be met.
 - Methods of preventing COVID-19 (e.g., hand washing) will be emphasized.
 - Unnecessary physical contact among individuals (e.g., handshakes, high-fives) will be avoided.
 - Overnight travel will not occur.
- Secure from each parent/guardian, student-athlete, coach, manager, game official a signed agreement that a condition of ongoing participation includes full cooperation with case investigations and contact elicitation and adherence to isolation and quarantine orders.
- Ensure that each student-athlete has a medical clearance from their healthcare provider to participate in Interscholastic Athletics as per NYS regulations.
- Ensure attendance at District athletic events is limited to only personnel who are essential for the sporting event to occur. Essential personnel include: athletes, coaches, game officials, athletic trainers or medical personnel, administrative or supervisory personnel, limited media personnel, table personnel such as scorekeepers, score clock operators and announcers.
- Ensure that NO SPECTATORS are allowed at indoor sporting events. Outdoor sporting event spectators must comply with proper mask wearing, social distancing, and NYS DOH restrictions.
- Ensure that tournaments do not occur.
- Ensure that teams do not travel for practice or contests outside of the Central New York region and contiguous regions.
- Ensure when traveling to an opposing school that no one associated with an Auburn team is known to be ill or currently infected with COVID-19 prior to the team traveling to the host school to participate in a practice or competition.

COVID-19 informed consent: Each parent/guardian must sign an AECSD COVID-19 informed consent form. The informed consent includes the considerations below as determined by the Cayuga County Health Department, and was provided to AECSD by legal counsel. The AECSD COVID Consent form is in Appendix A.

- Participation in the sport may expose the student-athlete to COVID-19.
- Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus.
- Masking, distancing, and other mitigation measures reduce, but do not eliminate risk.

- At present, it cannot be predicted who will become severely ill if infected.
- COVID-19 can lead to serious medical conditions and death for people of all ages.
- The long-term effects of COVID-19 are, at present, unknown; even people with mild cases may experience long-term complications.
- There is a significant risk of transmission to those in the home of infected persons. o Older people and people with underlying health conditions are at higher risk of serious disease.

Cloth face coverings/masks: must conform to recommendations from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) and must be worn at all times by all student-athletes, coaches, managers, game officials, individuals dropping off or picking up student-athletes, etc. except as mentioned below.

- It is important that the cloth face covering/mask fits the individual well and is worn over the nose and below the chin at all times when in use.
- If the cloth face covering/mask is removed for a break, the individual should remain at least 6 feet away from all other individuals.
- Cloth face coverings must be washed daily in hot water and not reused until cleaned.
- Coaches, managers, and other school employees must monitor proper use of cloth face coverings/masks and correct improper use.
- Have additional cloth face coverings/masks on hand in case a student-athlete player forgets or needs to replace one.
- If a face cover becomes displaced, activity should be paused to properly reposition the face covering.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has indicated that cloth face coverings have been shown to be well tolerated by the majority of individuals who wear them for exercise but acknowledges that the coverings may need to be removed under certain circumstances.
 - o AECSD reviewed AAP guidance and other scientific literature for recommendations regarding specific sports where a cloth face covering/mask could pose a hazard and has considered and addressed those in this preparedness plan.
 - o In AECSD interscholastic athletic events face coverings will be worn as tolerated and those unable to tolerate due to a medical condition.
 - o Individuals with a medical condition that would be complicated by wearing a cloth face covering/mask will apply to the District Medical Director for an exemption by providing appropriate documentation that the condition will be present throughout the length of the sports season.

Vaccination Status: Vaccination status does not alter any requirements.

COVID TESTING: AECSD, when and where feasible, will consider weekly COVID-19 testing for student-athletes, coaches, managers, and other individuals associated with higher risk sports, unless the individual has documentation of a positive COVID-19 test within the previous 90 days. If testing occurs it will be arranged and conducted by the district. The district will report patient-specific results (positive or negative) to the local health department where the individual resides, and follow any other required reporting documentation.

Auburn Enlarged City School District Personnel Contact Information

Jeffery Pirozzolo	Superintendent of Schools JefferyPirozzolo@aecsd.education	(315) 255-8853
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Dr. Tamela Ray Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

District COVID Athletic Preparedness Plan Administrator
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Caren Radell Nursing Supervisor
District COVID Director
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Daniel Gabriel, MD District Medical Director
East Hill Medical
Auburn, NY 13021

Appendix A
AECS D COVID Consent Form

INFORMED CONSENT AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY



In consideration of being allowed to participate in a high risk sport at the Auburn Enlarged City School District, the undersigned acknowledge(s) that:

1. Participation in a sport may expose my child to COVID-19;
2. COVID-19 can lead to serious medical conditions and possibly death for people of all ages;
3. Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus;
4. Masking, distancing, and other mitigation measures reduce, but do not eliminate risk;
5. At present, it cannot be predicted who will become severely ill if infected;
6. The long-term effects of COVID-19 are, at present, unknown; even people with mild cases may experience long-term complications;
7. There is a significant risk of transmission to those in the home of infected persons; and
8. As a condition to my/my child's participation in a high risk sport, I will fully cooperate and participate in any COVID-19 contact tracing, case investigation and will adhere to any isolation or quarantine order;
9. I/my child will comply with all health and safety rules imposed by the Auburn School District; and
10. Older people and people with underlying health conditions are at a higher risk of serious disease.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I/my child may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while participating in a high risk sport and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.

I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in a high-risk sport may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Auburn School District, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers and others, and program participants and their families.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any COVID-19 related infection or injury to myself or my minor child (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I/my child may experience or incur in connection with my/my child's participation in the practices, activities and competitions of a high risk sport.

I understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the School District, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers and others, and program participants and their families.

I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Auburn School District, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers and others, and program participants and their families, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to any COVID-19 infection or injury due to my or my child's participation in a high risk sport.

Student-Athlete's Signature If 18 or Older

Printed Name

Date

Parent Signature (Required)

Printed Name

Date

Complaints regarding COVID-19 may be made to:

(833) 789-0470

or

<https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/coronavirus-complaints.sh>