

Slate Valley Union School District

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE-Pandemic-Athletics

FHUHS Protocol and Procedure

Most pandemics are a fluid situation and plans will need to be adjusted as the situation changes and information becomes available.

Protocol

1. Activities Director (AD) will consult with CDC, Vermont Department of Health (VDH), and Agency of Education and the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) regarding planning for safe reopening of extracurricular activities, including sports.
2. Follow all legislative mandates regarding pandemic planning for activities.
3. AD and Administrator will conduct multidisciplinary meetings including coaches, the athletic trainer, facility manager, school nurse, administrative assistant, booster club representative, other representatives deemed appropriate to assess the school environment in achieving the recommended plan of action.
4. Communicate with the Superintendent and School Board.
5. Plan for training needed for all coaches on the new plan and their responsibilities.
6. Plan for increase in custodial and police presences.
7. FHUHS encourages any students or coaches considered at increased risk for severe illness and those who need extra precautions to speak with their primary care providers about the risks associated with participation in athletics. Please reference current CDC definitions at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

8. All schools will begin in Step III.

Conduct of Training Sessions and Contests: Steps are in accordance with guidelines published by Vermont's Agency of Education and Department of Health entitled A Strong and Healthy Start: Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020. Movement from one step to another will be dependent upon information provided by these agencies and steps may change periodically in both content and timing.

Step I: Schools are closed for in-person instruction. Remote learning opportunities should be provided for all students. Support provision of student services such as school meal programs, as feasible. **No school sponsored athletic activity is permitted.**

Step II: Schools are open for in-person instruction with enhanced physical distancing measures and for children who live in the local geographic area only. **Athletic teams approved by the State Administration may conduct conditioning activities that follow social distancing norms with a recommended minimum of 6 feet between individuals.**

Step III: Schools are open for in-person instruction with distancing measures. Restrict attendance to those from limited transmission areas (other Step III areas) only. **Athletic teams approved by the State Administration may conduct normal training and interscholastic contests.**

Procedure

1. FHUHS will offer extracurricular activities, including the following winter sports, with limitations, this year: basketball, bowling, competition cheer.
2. Cheer squads may hold practices and competitions, but sideline cheer and vocal routines in practices or competitions for the Winter 2020-21 season will not be permitted.
3. Indoor track and wrestling will not be offered for the 2020-21 season.
4. Alternative physical activities are being explored for FHUHS student-athletes this winter.
5. Registration through FormReleaf for winter sports participation is required prior to the first practice on November 30th.
6. Interscholastic games and scrimmages between schools will not be permitted until after January 11th as long as both schools are operating under Stage III.
7. Indoor sports teams engaged in interscholastic competition in sports that involve close proximity or moderate contact are limited to no more than two games in any seven-day period and allow a minimum of at least three days between competitions.
8. Updated physicals are necessary every (14) months and must be on file with the school nurse prior to participation in extracurricular activities.
9. The VPA requires (10) practices prior to athlete participation in competitions and games.
10. Regardless if a student was in school that day or not (alternating schedules do not require students to be present every day in school), screenings will take place upon the first point of entry.
11. When a student arrives to the bus or the facilities, they need to be wearing a mask. If they are not, give them one to put on.
12. Have them sanitize their hands.
13. If another student arrives before screening the first student is complete, they need to stay 6 feet behind.
14. Ask screening questions, take temperature with touchless thermometer and record on card:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fCmvBJD1EHWuB-VAeWWcKMvkVIvYaaWFJZh9cgf5b8E/edit?usp=sharing>
15. At point of contact, if the answer to any of them is yes or they have a temperature of 100.4 or above, they need to be sent home immediately to the parent. If answers become yes during the day, students will be sent home immediately by following the usual dismissal procedures and keeping them physically distanced until their ride arrives.
16. All coaches will be trained in COVID-19 screening.
17. Coaches will be supplied with a thermometer, gloves, face shield, and hand sanitizer in their first aid bags at the beginning of the season by the Athletic Trainer.
18. The documentation will be turned into the Activities Director at the building for record keeping.
19. Strict attendance for the room needs to be recorded for contact tracing purposes.
- 20. No spectators will be admitted for practices, scrimmages, or games.**
- 21. Media will not be allowed admission to FHUHS home events.**

22. Meets and competitions may not exceed a maximum of (75) people in any indoor space.
23. Tournaments and out of state games are not permitted.
24. Live Streaming of home games will be offered when available.
25. Key personnel (coaches, athletes, officials, game staff) will evacuate the premises immediately following all games, practices, and scrimmages. Arrive, play, and leave mentality will be enforced.
26. Volunteer coaches are not permitted.
27. Any athlete, coach, team personnel, game staff, etc. that travels to a restricted area will not be allowed to partake in practices or games and needs to quarantine for 14 days upon return to VT or have a test on day 7 and upon receiving a negative result, may return to participation.
28. Anyone who travels to a restricted area must follow ACCD and Department of Health guidance around quarantine before returning to school; the same quarantine requirements also apply to participating in any school-based activity, including sports.
29. Face Masks are required to be worn by all athletes, staff, coaches, officials, and any person on school grounds. **Single ply gaiters, plastic face shields, and bandanas are not permitted.**
30. Athletes will be responsible for supplying their own personal gear such as: water bottles, towels, clothing, masks, and shoes. These items should not be shared between students under any circumstance. If their mask gets ripped or won't stay up, coaches will provide them with a new one.
31. Students and coaches must wash their hands at the end of training sessions and contests.
32. Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, coolers, etc.) must be cleaned daily.
33. Equipment and other supplies touched by participants must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected regularly by the coaching staff. Limit sharing equipment as much as possible.
34. Hand sanitizer must be used prior to handling/dispensing from water coolers.
35. Post game handshakes and line ups will not be allowed.
36. Locker Room usage will not be permitted.
37. Open gyms are not permitted.
38. Event staff and opposing teams are expected to arrive ready to play and already screened.
39. If event staff or opposing teams have not been screened, FHU administration will screen them upon arrival.
40. All participants will use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
41. Transportation will be provided for all extracurricular activities.
42. If a parent or guardian wants to transport their own child to or from an away game, that will be allowed as long as they have prior approval in written form (note, email) to the main office or AD the day before an away game.
43. There shall be no eating or drinking on buses.
44. Practices are to be held immediately after school at 2:30 PM through 8 PM.
45. There will be a late bus at 4:20 PM daily for athletes who have practice directly after school.
46. After school supervision will be held in the cafeteria from 2:10 PM until 4:20 PM when the late bus arrives.
47. Proper cleaning time and air flow time will be provided between practices.
48. Practices are not permitted on the weekends or on holidays for the time being.

49. Practices will alternate day to day between teams. Up to 3 sports practices a day may be held in the gym.
50. Once a student leaves the building, they will not be allowed to re-enter.
51. Concessions will not be available at home games for the 20-21 season.
52. During times when athletes are not actively participating in practice or competition, 6 feet physical distancing shall be maintained.
53. Teams should meet virtually when possible. Game day meetings can happen, but must be structured to limit congregation and ensure physical distancing of 6 feet between players on the sidelines or benches.
54. No spitting or expulsion of bodily fluids of any sort on the playing surface or anywhere in or around the playing surface or in the facility.
55. Teams should not practice without a member of the school's coaching staff present. Captain's practices are not allowed.
56. If an opposing team is not following guidelines set forth by the state of Vermont, FHU administration reserves the right to cancel or postpone games.
57. Whenever possible, an athletic trainer (or other approved medical professional) will be available at practices and games.
58. These guidelines will be reviewed on January 1st, 2021, and guidelines for school-based spring sports programs will be published by March 1st, 2021.
59. Coaches are responsible for enforcing these guidelines. At any time it is observed the guidelines are not being followed, the remainder of the season may be cancelled.
60. If the school district has a positive Covid-19 student, faculty, staff, etc., practices and games will be canceled immediately upon Department of Health recommendation and only resume when recommended by the Department of Health when contact tracing is complete.