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# West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

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April 23, 2021

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

The WVSSAC is partnering with the Governor's Joint Interagency Task Force in a campaign to educate and encourage student athletes and their families to be vaccinated. WV is experiencing an increase in the number of COVID cases within the 10–19-year-old age range. Additionally, medical experts are warning that the COVID variants are affecting younger people with more serious side effects. The "UK" variant is now the most common form of COVID in the United States.

Many of your schools and teams have been impacted by COVID, whether through actual positive cases, exposure, quarantine, contact tracing, etc. Teams have been forced to cancel/forfeit contests and even eliminated from post season competition.

We want to encourage all student athletes (ages 16 and up) and their families to get vaccinated so that their participation in extracurricular activities will not be interrupted. If a student who is fully vaccinated is exposed to COVID, a period of quarantine is not required. This should serve as a huge incentive for your student athletes, especially as coaches begin to make plans for the summer three-week period.

Over the next several weeks, we will be working with members of the Governor's Task Force to schedule vaccination clinics for your student athletes and their families. We need your help to promote the clinics and to encourage your students and their family members to sign up for the vaccine. As an example, if a spring sport athlete were to receive the first vaccine next week, he/she would have time to receive both vaccines prior to the state tournament.

As a first step, we need to know how many of your students and family members would be interested in receiving the vaccine. Vaccine clinics will be set up at or near your schools within a matter of days after receiving your numbers.

**Please send the total number of student athletes and family members who are interested in receiving the vaccine to Cindy Daniel at [cindy.daniel@wvssac.org](mailto:cindy.daniel@wvssac.org) by Wednesday, April 28, 2021.** Once we have your numbers, we will contact you to schedule a date and time for the vaccination clinic.

We appreciate your help with this most important matter. Thanks.

Bernie Dolan, Executive Director