

# **NEKL Recommendations (COVID -19) Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheer, Band**

## **KSHSAA Recommendations (Covid-19) Main points of Reference**

### **Communication for Schools and Between Schools**

Establish communication plan within your school to address necessary information updates for coaches, staff and students.

Establish a communication plan in which you contact opposing schools one week in advance of competition to share health concerns and geographically proximate restrictions and expectations. This communication should be initiated by the host school and may be facilitated by use of KSHSAA Form D.

### **Screening and Exposure Protocol**

All students and or student athletes will be screened for and or daily temperature check for Covid-19.

A daily record should be kept of all team members present including adult personnel; documented and retained on file.

Screening documentation should be maintained in a confidential manner and not shared with all staff, parents or teammates unless necessary due to a confirmed exposure.

Any person reporting or exhibiting Covid-19 signs or symptoms without other obvious explanations should not be allowed to take part in any school activity and should be immediately sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must be isolated until they meet the criteria for release set by the KDHE or the local health department. They must also obtain written clearance by a medical provider before returning to participation.

Any individual who has had close contact exposure (defined by the KDHE as less than 6' of physical distance for 10 minutes or longer, or if there was exposure to respiratory secretions such as being coughed or sneezed on) with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should immediately self-quarantine and contact their primary care physician or local public health officials for guidance. While in self-quarantine, the person should be alert for symptoms

including chills, fever (over 100.4), cough or shortness of breath, weakness, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell and contact their healthcare provider if these symptoms appear. An exposure is considered close contact with a COVID-19 positive person up to two days before their symptom onset (or if asymptomatic, up to two days before their specimen collection) until the time they are no longer required to self-isolate.

Those not identified as a close contact may continue to participate. Contacts of a close contact do not need to be excluded from activities unless they are also considered a close contact.

## **Activity Protocol**

Practice and workout groups should remain static throughout a season insofar as possible.

Masks should be worn at all times by all personnel, including students, except while students are directly participating in practices and or maintain a 6' distance.

## **Competitions**

Coaches and players will do a temperature check before leaving for activities and or games.

## **Sportsmanship**

Prior to competition: demonstrate respect to officials and opposing team/coach with appropriate gestures other than physical contact.

Conclusion of competition: in lieu of handshakes, develop and utilize an appropriate sign of respect and sportsmanship that does not include handshake or other physical contact.

## **Officials**

Provide clean locker room with space for them to spread out; provide hand sanitizer and/or appropriate personal hygiene items. Provide space for officials to meet outside of the locker room away from the teams/crowds for pregame, halftime, and postgame discussions. Provide appropriate security while in "open" areas. Provide "sign-in" and/or payment with minimal invasion of personal space yet providing protection of confidential information.

## **Contracts for Officials**

Leagues should adopt policies concerning games which are not played due to impact of COVID-19 on scheduled activities. Considerations may include timing of cancelation, possible loyalty “fees”, and ability to reschedule officials who lost a contracted game.

## **Event Staff**

Initiate efficient protocols with essential staff only; should wear face covering whenever possible.

## **Admission Personnel**

Masks/face covering, latex gloves, and hand-sanitizer should be provided. You may consider cashless admission utilizing digital tickets or home-site season passes. If possible, provide plexiglas or other barriers for ticket staff.

## **Concessions**

....provide limited menu with pre-packaged foods and bottled drinks. Limit cash sales if possible.

## **Transportation**

Clean vehicles before and after each usage; suggestions include single individual per bus seat; staggered bus seating as available; parent support for transporting own child (if within BOE policy).

Masks should be worn during transport to and from events if social distancing cannot be maintained.

## **Fans Attendance**

**Policies should be made in consultation with your local health authorities. It is recommended that NEKL schools limit crowd size to ensure family groups 6 feet of social distancing. If crowd size is limited, consideration should allow for appropriate representation of fans from both/all schools participating. Ensure crowds do not have access to competition area or competitors before/during/following competition. It is recommended that all fans attending an event wear a mask and have temperature check/survey when entering a school facility and or stadium.**

## **END of KSHSAA Recommendations (Covid-19)**

### **Main points of Reference** **NEKL Recommendations**

**KSDE has published “Gating” criteria for schools. These recommendations are assuming all schools are in “Green” in the “Kansas Schools Gating Criteria.**

**If schools were to move to “Yellow” on the “Kansas Schools Gating Criteria”, High Risk Activities will be cancelled according to KSDE, while low risk activities will continue. Total audience numbers may be limited.**

**If schools were to move to “Orange” or “Red” on the “Kansas Schools Gating Criteria”, all activities will be cancelled.**

### **Communication between Schools**

**NEKL schools will communicate with opposing schools one week in advance of the competition to share health concerns and county/school restrictions and expectations. The host school will initiate the communication.**

**NEKL Schools will keep a living document continually updated with each schools standing in regard to COVID-19 and current school restrictions.**

### **Live Streaming**

**Host schools will live stream varsity events and make the live stream available to the opposing school. Live stream information will be given to the opposing school one week in advance of the competition by the host school. Live streaming will only be provided for the varsity games.**

### **Crowd Capacity**

**Because of social distancing restrictions and crowd capacity restrictions by counties, the crowd capacity at games may be restricted.**

**If Tickets Are Required:**

- 1. An equal number of tickets will be provided to the home team and the visiting team at each game.**
- 2. Fans will only be allowed to enter if they present a ticket to the gate keeper.**

3. Each school will decide how they would like to distribute tickets to their patrons. It is suggested that each athlete be allowed to choose who they would like to give a ticket to.

## **Football**

1. NEKL schools will create a common document that is shared with all schools. All schools will decide what their restrictions are in regards to crowd limitations based on their policy. This will be published one week before the first competition and will be updated by each school as soon as changes occur.
2. If crowd limitations are required, the home team will send tickets to the visiting team 1 week prior to the game. The tickets will be equally distributed between home and visiting teams. The tickets will be identified by the date and location of the game.
3. If tickets are required:
  - a. Tickets should be printed in color to help reduce copying.
  - b. Only fans with an official ticket will be allowed into a game.
  - c. Tickets will be collected by the ticket taker.
  - d. Fans will still need to pay for admission.

## **Volleyball**

1. If crowd limitations are required, the home team will send tickets to the visiting team 1 week prior to the game. The tickets will be equally distributed between home and visiting teams. The tickets will be identified by the date and location of the game.
2. If tickets are required:
  - a. the tickets will be equally distributed by the host team between all teams competing.
  - b. The tickets will be sent to the visiting teams by the home team 1 week prior to the game.
  - c. The tickets will be identified by the date and location of the game.
  - d. Tickets should be printed in color to help reduce copying.
  - e. Only fans with an official ticket will be allowed into a game.
  - f. Tickets will be collected by the gate keeper.
  - g. Fans will still need to pay for admission.

## **NEKL Football**

1. Masks will be worn during transport to and from events if social distancing cannot be maintained.
2. Parents can transport their student athlete to an athletic event if their school has BOE approval. Athletes driven by parents to an event will still need to have their temperature checked/survey completed.

3. All coaches, players, and sideline personnel will wear masks during games and practices if 6' social distancing cannot be maintained. Masks are not required for students participating on the field.
4. Visiting teams will come dressed. The visitor's locker room will be only used as a restroom or first aid room for the visiting team. Host schools will have an inclement weather plan for pregame and half-time meetings. Teams will have their pregame and half-time meetings in opposite end-zones.
5. Each team will provide at least two game balls to be used in a rotation manor by officials. Teams should have designated personnel to wipe down used balls during rotation.
6. Prior to a scheduled game if a coach or athlete shows signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the coach or athlete will be quarantined awaiting testing. The school will communicate with the upcoming opponent to advise of the situation. If a school has to cancel due to suspected Covid-19 symptoms and or exposure and the **officiating crew cannot find another game** the school that had to cancel, has the responsibility for paying the officials.

## NEKL Volleyball

1. Parents can transport their student athlete to an athletic event if their school has BOE approval. Athletes driven by parents to an event will still need to have their temperature checked/survey completed.
2. All coaches and players on the bench and sideline personnel will wear masks during warm ups and games and social distance if possible. **Any player on the court of play will not be required to wear a mask.**
3. Visiting teams will come dressed and will be provided separate locker rooms to be used as restrooms or first aid facilities only, if available. The host school should find a team area for visiting teams allowing 6' distancing, if possible. (i.e. classroom, multipurpose area).
4. Prior to a scheduled game if a coach or student athlete shows signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the coach or athlete will be quarantined awaiting testing. The school will communicate with the upcoming opponent to advise of the situation.
5. Visiting teams will bring their own warmup volleyballs. Volleyball racks should be provided if possible by host school.

6. The host school will need at least 3 game volleyballs per court to be rotated and sanitized before they are rotated back into game. Host schools will need to provide personnel to clean the volleyballs.
7. Bench areas need to be sanitized if teams rotate sides during a match. If there is no advantage between sides of the court, teams could choose not to rotate. Coaches will make that decision in the pre-game meeting with officials. Officials will make the final decision.
8. Score Keepers, Libero trackers and scoreboard operators should social distance when possible and wear masks.
9. Line judges should wear masks. They will not retrieve balls. Only players will retrieve balls.

### **NEKL Cross Country**

1. Coaches will wear masks at all events.
2. Student athletes will wear masks and or maintain a 6' distance during warm-up.
3. Mask are not required during competition.
4. Parents can transport their student athlete to an athletic event if their school has BOE approval. Athletes driven by parents to an event will still need to have their temperature checked/survey completed.
5. Prior to a scheduled game if a coach or student athlete shows signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the coach or athlete will be quarantined awaiting testing. The school will communicate with the upcoming meet site to advise of the situation.

### **Cheer / Dance Squads**

1. Parents may transport their student athlete to an athletic event if their school has BOE approval. Athletes driven by parents to an event will still need to have their temperature checked/survey completed.
2. All cheer coaches will wear masks while on the sideline of football games. Cheer leaders may remove masks while cheering if maintaining a 6' distance.
3. Cheer teams can only participate at outside events.
4. Cheer teams will not stunt during performances.

5. Dance teams can perform during half times if they maintain 6' spacing.
6. Each NEKL school will decide whether they take the cheerleading squad to away games.