

Northwestern Local Schools

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Written Venue Operations Plan: Football/Soccer Stadium

Compliance: Northwestern Local Schools will comply with all requirements for a safe return to sports as mandated by Larry Himes, Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health. Herein are stated the venue operation plans to outline compliance with local and state safety requirements.

Enforcement: Northwestern Local Schools recognizes the importance of complying with the safe return to sports mandate and the importance of designating a compliance officer for each venue and each sporting event. To ensure the continuity of communication between the local health department, sheriff's department, German Township Police Department, and the local Emergency Medical Squad, the compliance officer for Northwestern Local Schools will be Superintendent, Jesse Steiner. A compliance officer designee may be used when more than one sporting venue is in use at one time. The compliance officer designee will continue to communicate with Superintendent Steiner to ensure all safety protocols are followed. Additionally, law enforcement officers or ushers may be employed to assist the compliance officer or designee during sporting events.

Social Distancing Requirements: Northwestern Local Schools will educate sports participants, coaches and spectators about the venue social distancing policies and will actively enforce those social distancing policy. Signage or markers designating six-foot distances will be posted so that sports participants can maintain appropriate distances. Guidance for spectator safety will be published online prior to the event. Hand sanitizer will be provided at various locations around the venue.

Spectators: Northwestern Local Schools understands the importance of following safety protocols and the role spectators play in keeping a safe return to sports environment. Spectators must comply with all COVID - 19 safety protocols as well as venue operation plan guidelines. The most important thing a spectator can do if they are experiencing any COVID related symptoms is to stay home. Spectators must complete a symptom self-assessment before coming to the venue. Spectators with a temperature of 100° must stay home. Family and household members should sit together and socially distance from other groups. At the venue, there is to be **NO** congregating of groups before, during or after the event. All spectators must wear a face covering at all times while on school property (only state mandated exceptions allowed).

To allow for proper spectator social distancing, a spectator attendance limit has been set at 15% of the fixed seating capacity. Due to the limited number of spectators allowed at each sporting event, parents/caregivers will have the first opportunity to buy tickets. Each family or household will have the opportunity to purchase 4 tickets and must sit together as a group. If the event does not sell out, families or households will have an opportunity to purchase more tickets and those additional tickets will be grouped with the original 4 tickets sold. A complete guide of tickets purchasing options will be posted online.

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Know Before You Go: Communications with the Northwestern community as well as the visiting community will be regular and ongoing. Northwestern Local Schools will use multiple communication formats to educate the community about venue safety protocols before they arrive at the stadium. Being prepared and understanding the safety protocols will make the spectator experience better for all in attendance. Make sure you “Know Before You Go” to your sporting event. Additionally, the PA will be used to repeatedly remind spectators of venue safety guidelines during the event. Signage will be used to direct spectators and hand sanitizer will be stationed throughout the venue.

Flexibility and Accountability: Northwestern Local Schools are required to have a venue operation plan in place prior to holding a sporting event. Northwestern Local Schools will be held responsible for enforcing the written venue operations plans. Events may be monitored by outside organizations to ensure compliance of all safety protocols. Failure to follow the written venue operation plan could result in the venue being shut down. Failure to follow return to sports safety mandates could result in a forfeit of sporting contests and or the elimination team sports that do not comply.

Special Considerations: As COVID-19 is a repertory disease, Northwestern Local Schools have implemented the following precautions in the event of an emergency. All coaches hired by the school are CPR and AED trained before they are allowed to coach. An AED is located inside the entrance of the Athletic Complex. All staff members have completed training on how to use the AED. An Athletic Trainer is on-site for home events and has an AED as part of his/her first aid equipment. The Athletic Trainer is CPR certified. At larger events, like varsity football games, at least one Emergency Medical Squad is present from one of the local Fire and EMS departments.

Some student athletes may be at an enhanced risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19. Asthma, diabetes, or other health problems are risk factors that both coaches and players should be aware of as athletes participate in sports. Extra precautions should be adopted for the protect of students who are at an enhanced risk. Extra training for coaches and staff will be provided for those who are working with a student who has an enhanced risk of COVID-19 complications. Special locker room areas will be provided to ensure social distancing. Limited exposure to other students during practice and contests will be implemented. Every effort will be made to ensure that students with an enhanced risk of serious complications due to COVID-19 will be socially distanced 6 feet from other people, masks will be worn in the presence of these students, and cleaning to keep practice and playing area as germ free as possible will occur. The decision for a student who is at an enhanced risk to play a sport is a decision that should be made by the student, parent, and in consultation of a physician. The student and parents must be made aware of the additional risk their student is taking by playing a sport. That being said, Northwestern Local Schools will do everything we can do to keep every student safe.

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Compliance Officer:

Jesse Steiner, Superintendent - 419-889-5183

Compliance Officer Designees:

Jeff Hobby, Athletic Director - 937-206-8170

Brad Beals, Jr/Sr High Asst. Principal - 937-408-0187

Meredith Grieser, teacher

Entering the Venue

Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Home Athletes, Coaches, Student Participants, and Officials	<p>Participants will enter the venue using the Athletic Complex gate.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask while entering and continue to wear a mask at the venue.</p> <p>Participants will report to their designated locker room, office, or rally point.</p> <p>Participants will not congregate but will maintain social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Participants will notify their coach that they have performed their self-health check and are safe to play in the event. If not healthy, the participant will stay home.</p>
Visiting Athletes, Coaches, and Student Participants	<p>Participants will enter the venue using the Athletic Complex gate.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask while entering and continue to wear a mask at the venue.</p> <p>Participants will report to their designated locker room, office, or rally point.</p> <p>Participants will not congregate but will maintain social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Before getting on the bus, participants will notify their coach that they have performed their self-health check and are safe to play in the event. If not healthy, the participant will stay home.</p>

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Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Staff, Volunteers, Workers, Ushers, and Law Enforcement Officers	<p>Before coming to the venue, all staff, volunteers, workers, and ushers will have performed their self-health check and have determined that they are safe to come to the venue. If not healthy, the spectator will stay home.</p> <p>All staff, volunteers, workers, and ushers must wear a mask at all times and enter the venue using the Athletic Complex gate.</p> <p>Ushers and law enforcement officers will help regulate the flow of spectators into the venue and assist spectators with finding appropriate seating.</p>
Spectators	<p>Before coming to the venue, spectators will have performed their self-health check and have determined that they are safe to come to the venue. If not healthy, the spectator will stay home.</p> <p>Spectators will park in designated parking lots. Visiting spectators will use the south parking lot and home spectators will use the north parking lot.</p> <p>Spectators will follow signs to the Athletic Complex entrance gate.</p> <p>Spectators will keep 6 feet in-between their family group and other groups as the wait to enter the venue.</p>

During the Event at the Venue

Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Home Athletes, Coaches, Student Participants, and Officials	<p>Participants will not congregate and will maintain social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Designated areas will be marked to help participants recognize appropriate distances.</p> <p>Sideline volunteers will help participants maintain social distancing, hold face masks when participants are in play, and regulate personal participant water bottles.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask at all times unless they are on the field of play and are actively engaged in the competition.</p>

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Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Visiting Athletes, Coaches, and Student Participants	<p>** Visiting Teams are responsible for policing their own team to ensure they are following the Venue Operation Plan!**</p> <p>Participants will not congregate but will maintain social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Designated areas will be marked to help participants recognize appropriate distances.</p> <p>Visiting Team will be responsible for helping their participants maintain social distancing, holding face masks when participants are in play, and regulating personal participant water bottles.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask at all times unless they are on the field of play and are actively engaged in the competition.</p>
Staff, Volunteers, Workers, Ushers, and Law Enforcement Officers	<p>All staff, volunteers, workers, and ushers must wear a mask at all times.</p> <p>Plastic dividers will be placed between timers and announcers.</p> <p>Ushers and law enforcement officers will patrol spectator areas to ensure that spectators do not congregate with groups other than their family/household group.</p>
Spectators	<p>Spectators should move directly to the seating area after entering the venue.</p> <p>Spectators will be seated in groups of up to 4 family members or household members. Exceptions to the number of people in a group will be permitted only if the spectator attendance threshold has not been met and seating space is available.</p> <p>Spectators will keep 6 feet between their family group and other groups.</p> <p>Spectators are permitted to use the restrooms and visit the concession stand. However, spectators are not permitted to intermingle with other groups and must maintain 6 feet of social distance between themselves and other spectators while moving through the venue.</p> <p>Spectators must wear masks at all times. The only exception is when a spectator is actively eating or drinking.</p>

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Exiting the Venue

Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Home Athletes, Coaches, Student Participants, and Officials	<p>Participants will not congregate after the contest. Postgame comments must be done while socially distancing. Teams must not congregate after the competition</p> <p>Participants will return to their designated locker room, office, or rally point after the contest.</p> <p>Participants will move from their designated postgame area directly to their car and and leave the property. Participants should use the northwest maintenance gate to exit the venue.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask while exiting the venue.</p>
Visiting Athletes, Coaches, and Student Participants	<p>Participants will not congregate after the contest. Postgame comments must be done while socially distancing. Teams must not congregate after the competition</p> <p>Participants will return to their designated locker room, office, or rally point after the contest.</p> <p>Participants will move from their designated postgame area directly to their bus and and leave the property. Participants should use the northwest maintenance gate to exit the venue.</p> <p>Participants will wear a mask while exiting the venue.</p>
Staff, Volunteers, Workers, Ushers, and Law Enforcement Officers	<p>All staff, volunteers, workers, and ushers must wear a mask at all times.</p> <p>Ushers and law enforcement will patrol the spectator areas to ensure that spectators leave the contest immediately after the conclusion of the event and do not congregate.</p> <p>Staff, volunteers, and workers will move directly to their cars and and leave the property after they have finished their work responsibilities. All staff, volunteers, and workers should use the northwest maintenance gate to exit the venue.</p> <p>All staff, volunteers, and workers will wear a mask while exiting the venue.</p>

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Sports Participants	Safety Protocol
Spectators	<p>Home spectators will move directly to their cars and and leave the property after the contest. Home spectators will should use the northwest maintenance gate to exit the venue.</p> <p>Home spectators will not congregate after the contest.</p> <p>Visiting spectators will move directly to their cars and and leave the property after the contest. Visiting spectators should use the southwest maintenance gate to exit the venue.</p> <p>Visiting spectators will not congregate after the contest.</p> <p>All spectators will keep 6 feet in-between their family group and other groups as the wait to exit the venue.</p>