



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



August 4, 2021

To: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors
From: Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director
Subject: COVID-19 Face Coverings Update and Testing Resources

This OSAA update provides information regarding face coverings and testing resources for interested schools. Note that this information may change based upon changes to national or state directives.

Face Coverings

On August 2, 2021, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) adopted its new statewide rule ([OAR 333-019-1015](#)) requiring face coverings during school hours in all indoor school settings, both public and private, for all individuals two years and older, including all students, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors.

Per OHA guidance, face coverings are recommended but are not required for indoor sports. That is a local school decision. Communication with your own school community, opposing schools, and officials' associations regarding your school's policy regarding face coverings for indoor sports will be critical. Schools are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel and/or PACE with any questions regarding liability.

Face coverings are not required outdoors. Face coverings remain required on school buses as part of the federal CDC mandate.

Testing Resources

The OSAA has received questions from member schools regarding availability of testing for students and staff. This document, [COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's K-12 Schools](#), outlines testing options available for K-12 schools. Schools may want to consider using screening testing for those who are not fully vaccinated to facilitate participation and reduce risk of transmission.

- Diagnostic Testing – For students or staff who are symptomatic or have been exposed to COVID-19. More than 90% of K-12 schools have registered since January 2021. This testing may be used to shorten the length of quarantine for exposed individuals who test negative when recommended by the local public health authority.
- Screening Testing for Staff and Volunteers – Designed for individuals without symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19. Seeks to reach unvaccinated staff, but enrollment is open and vaccination status is not verified. This program offers free at-home weekly screening testing by mail and participants enroll themselves.
- Screening Testing for Students – Designed for students without symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19. Schools may choose to verify vaccination status, but this is not required, and all interested K-12 schools are welcome to enroll. Participating schools will have the option to offer students weekly screening for classroom cohorts, extracurricular cohorts, or both. Participation will be voluntary, and schools and families can opt-out at any time. The program will be administered by regional laboratory partners and details will vary by region.