MEMO

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Director, and Coaches

FROM: Steve Savarese, Executive Director AHSAA

DATE: August 21, 2020

REF: URGENT- Please Read!
What to do with Covid-19 cases!

Because of inconsistencies across the state on what schools are doing regarding positive Covid-19 cases and quarantining, the AHSAA sought guidance from Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama Department of Public Health. As a result, Dr. Harris and his team answered some frequently asked questions and put together an easy to read chart that should assist our schools when they are faced with Covid-19. You will be receiving a separate MEMO from our office regarding attendance at athletic events and being compliant with the current State Health Order. Our student-athletes, fans and communities are counting on you; I am counting on you to do your part! We have to do a better job following the guidelines if we want to continue having high school athletics this fall.

FAQ’s
1. Due to contact tracing what is considered “close contact”?

   Athletes who are exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19 only need to be quarantined if they fulfill the criteria for being a "close contact," that is, if they were within six feet of the infected person for a total of fifteen minutes or more, over a 24-hour period.

   If athletes are exposed to a suspected case (such as someone who shows signs of illness but has not yet been tested), whether to quarantine close contacts will depend on the symptoms of the suspected case, since not all illnesses will turn out to be Covid-19. The list of symptoms that will require quarantining of close contacts can be found on the attached chart.

2. Who determines if an athlete has been in “close contact” and should be quarantined?

   While the ADPH has prioritized the investigation of school-related cases and will ultimately be responsible for quarantining, the sheer number of cases of Covid-19 in our state means that we must rely on coaches, administrators, teachers and school nurses to help us in determining who are close contacts.

3. Regardless of the team size, if an athlete on a team tests positive, should the entire team be quarantined or just those who have been in close contact (6 feet/15 minutes)?

   Only close contacts should be quarantined. It is very unlikely that an entire team would ever meet the criteria for being close contacts. Since it is impossible to ever completely measure the exact amount of exposure time that occurs in a practice or game setting, some degree of reasonable judgement will need to be exercised, and we have advised coaches and staff to think of actual exposure time that can be documented. Additionally, coaches and staff are encouraged to think about ways to minimize contact and exposure times in those situations that allow it, such as team meetings, individual warm-ups, or time in weight rooms or locker rooms.
WHEN TO REPORT POTENTIAL COVID-19 CASES TO ADPH

COVID-19 Major Symptoms
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
New cough
New loss of smell or taste

COVID-19 Minor Symptoms
Fever (measured or subjective)
Headache
Diarrhea
Chills or rigors
Sore throat
Fatigue
Myalgia
Nausea or vomiting
Congestion or runny nose

Does the individual have...

At least 1 COVID-19 major symptom?
At least 2 COVID-19 minor symptoms?
A laboratory-confirmed or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19?

Yes
No
Yes
No
No
Yes

• Send ill individual home to be medically assessed by their healthcare provider
• Send ill individual home to be medically assessed by their healthcare provider
• For all other illnesses, refer to the exclusion criteria found at: https://go.usa.gov/xFkU

• Enter ill individual into the COVID-19 REPORT Card (https://redcap.link/87xjzmu) and upload list of close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more)
• Send close contacts home
• Provide parent/guardian of the ill individual and their close contacts with COVID-19 Parent Checklist and Provisional Quarantine/Isolation Order

Updated: 8/18/2020