



MCPS ATHLETICS

RETURN to R.A.I.S.E.

Update—October 15, 2021

Dear MCPS Community:

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and program. Following are some reminders regarding vaccination requirements and program operations.

Student-Athlete Vaccination Requirements

Beginning with the start of the winter sports season, November 15 for high school, and December 7 for middle school, all high school and eligible middle school student-athletes will be required to submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to participation. This requirement applies to the winter and spring sports seasons, as well as all out-of-season activities conducted through MCPS Athletics.

Student-Athlete Vaccination Exemptions

Only medical exemptions will be permitted. Religious exemptions will not be permitted. Religious exemptions are not being permitted due to the direct threat of COVID-19 transmission to the health and safety of student-athletes and staff in close-contact sporting events and activities.

MCPS Form 560-30A: *COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemption Request for Student-Athletes* must be completed by a licensed health care professional and submitted during the registration process for athletics. The form is available in [English and Spanish](#).

Vaccination FAQs

[Here](#) are answers to FAQs regarding the vaccination requirements for MCPS Athletics.

Winter Sports Registration

Registration for winter sports and out-of-season conditioning will open on Monday, October 18. The first day of the winter sports season is Monday, November 15. Only students who have completed the registration process, which includes submitting verification of vaccination or medical exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

Fall County Championships

On a pilot basis, for the 2021–2022 school year, MCPS will conduct county championship games for the open tournament team sports of field hockey, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, softball, and boys' and girls' lacrosse.

The schedule for the fall county championship contests is as follows:

- Field Hockey – 10/25, at Paint Branch HS, 6:00 p.m.
- Soccer – 10/25, at Seneca Valley HS
 - Boys' – 5:30 p.m.
 - Girls' – 7:15 p.m.
- Cheerleading – 10/30, at Montgomery Blair HS
 - Division III – 10:30 a.m.
 - Division II – 2:00 p.m.
 - Division I – 5:30 p.m.
- Cross Country – 10/30, at Bohrer Park, 10:00 a.m.
- Girls' Volleyball – 11/2, at Quince Orchard HS, 6:00 p.m.

Testing in Schools

Free COVID-19 testing is available for all students in every school. Testing is an important strategy for keeping schools open and students and staff safe. With testing, MCPS can minimize the number of students in quarantine and minimize interruptions to program activities. Parents/guardians must give their consent for testing. Families can [fill out the consent form](#), which is available in [multiple languages online](#), or request paper copies from their school.

There are two types of COVID-19 testing available. Rapid tests are used when a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Results are available within 15-20 minutes. Screening tests are given weekly to a random sample of students with no COVID-19 symptoms. These results are available in a few days. Read [here](#) for more information.

Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan Operations

The Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan will continue to drive program operations in regard to COVID-19 procedures and protocols. The plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. The latest version is always available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage. The [September 17, 2021](#) update includes updated language regarding vaccinations for volunteer coaches and athletic trainers.

Communication and Resources

Our COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics will continue to evaluate and implement the latest safety measures. Updates and guidance from the Task Force will continue to be provided and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#).

We appreciate your continued commitment and support. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator](#) (AC), or coach.

Montgomery County Public Schools