

Bishop McDevitt High School – Athletic Department

Acknowledgement Form for Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families.

Bishop McDevitt High School has reviewed and will continue to review recommendations from the federal, state and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. Bishop McDevitt realizes that knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, and students.

These Recommendations include but may not be limited to:

1. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (including a questionnaire and temperature check).
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, cough in your elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, no gum chewing, no handshakes or celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging).
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing of groups during practice sessions.
5. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols.
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home.
7. Follow established protocols when staff or students exhibit symptoms of illness.
8. Regularly communicate with staff and families with updates as warranted.
9. Athletes and Coaches MUST provide their own water bottle for hydration; water bottles must not be shared.
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used by coaches and staff as needed and situations warrant (face coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing).

I understand that participating in athletic programs, events, and activities may include a possible exposure to a communicable disease including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. I am aware of the risks associated with COVID-19 and that certain vulnerable individuals may have greater health risks associated with the exposure to COVID-19, including individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as, but not limited to: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised by chemotherapy.

I willingly agree to comply with the stated recommendations put forth by Bishop McDevitt and CDC/DOH guidance to limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The student athlete identified below is in good physical condition and has my permission to participate in athletic programs.

Sport: _____ Student Athlete Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete: _____ Date: _____