



UPDATED TRAVEL AND MASKING CLARIFICATIONS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

Updated Date: May 20, 2021

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other:

Key Points or Updates:

- (1) While the NJ Travel Advisory is no longer in effect individuals should follow CDC guidance regarding [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel. **For the purpose of this guidance, domestic travel is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware).** Schools should have a policy for exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff who are recommended to quarantine as per the [NJDOH Recommended Minimum Quarantine Timeframes](#) and CDC guidelines.
- (2) [NJDOH Guidance for Sports Activities](#) does not apply to sports-related activities during school hours, such as physical education classes, and outdoor recess, which continue to be guided by [Executive Order No. 175](#).
- (3) Regardless of vaccination status, social distancing should be followed by all athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators, in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- (4) Minimum masking and social distancing standards for outdoor extracurricular activities and outdoor events on school property (including [outdoor graduation ceremonies and other end of year school events held outdoors](#)) are governed by page six (6) [Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 241](#) . Schools may implement more restrictive precautions if they desire to do so.

Action Items:

- (1) NJDOH recommends that schools have a policy for exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff who are recommended quarantine per [CDC travel guidelines](#).
 - a. Unvaccinated students and staff should continue to follow CDC recommendations for quarantine and testing after travel. If they test positive they should isolate and follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria outlined in the [NJDOH Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#).
 - b. Students and staff currently quarantining under the now-rescinded travel advisory should be permitted to continue doing so.
 - c. Vaccinated students and staff returning from prearranged domestic travel on or after May 17, 2021, should no longer be asked to quarantine but should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate and get tested if symptoms develop.
- (2) [NJDOH Guidance for Sports Activities \(updated 5/18/2021\)](#) does not apply to sports-related activities during school hours, such as physical education classes, which continue to be

guided by [Executive Order No. 175](#) and related guidance from the [NJDOE](#) and [NJDOH Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#).

- a. This sports document including the revised policy on outdoor masking, applies to extracurricular sports activities, even where they are performed on school property.
 - b. Existing requirements and recommendations for masking in K-12 settings (i.e. classroom, gym class, activities during school hours) remain in effect.
- (3) High school sports activities under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association ([NJSIAA](#)) must abide by NJSIAA protocols, which shall consider NJDOH guidance.
- a. Social distancing should be followed by all athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators, in both indoor and outdoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.
 - b. Athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators are required to wear masks in indoor settings.
- (4) Minimum masking and social distancing standards for outdoor extracurricular activities and outdoor events on school property ([including outdoor graduation ceremonies and other end of year school events](#)) are governed by page six (6) [Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 241](#) . Schools may implement more restrictive precautions if they desire to do so.

Contact Information:

- The Communicable Disease Service at (609) 826-5964 during business hours.

References and Resources:

- [NJDOH COVID-19 Guidance for Sports Activities](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#)
- [NJ Executive Orders](#)
- [CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)
- [NJ COVID-19 Information Hub](#)