



Montana High School Association

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**TO: PARENTS OF MHSA SPORTS PARTICIPANTS
LICENSED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: NEW MHSA PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAM FORM

Article II, Section (3) of the MHSA Handbook requires that a physical exam must be performed for each student in order for that student to be considered eligible for participation in an Association Contest. Physical exams must be completed prior to the first practice. This examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. This certification is valid for a period of one school year. A physical examination conducted before May 1st is not valid for participation for the following school year.

The MHSA Executive Board approved some important additions to this form several years ago. Specifically, questions concerning the cardiac history and cardiac health of the student have been added (questions 6-15). The MHSA Medical Advisory Committee strongly recommends that if any of those questions are answered affirmatively the student be referred to the appropriate medical professional for further screening. **Also new this year is a section on vaccinations to be completed the medical professional. This was recommended from the State of Montana Health Department.**

The MHSA pre-participation form is the only form that will be allowed for the student's exam (no other forms will be accepted). The following process should be followed:

- Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) and each student should fill out the questionnaire and history portion of the form together, which is the front page of the MHSA pre-participation physical examination form.
- The form goes to the medical provider for use during the examination.
- The medical provider reviews the form with the student and parent/guardian, performs the exam and makes the decision on whether to clear the student for participation. A signature from the medical provider is required.
- The student must sign this form confirming that he/she was involved in the completion process. **This signature was moved to the last page with other signatures.**
- The physical exam form is given to the parent/guardian. He/she must sign the permission and release section of the form for final clearance.
- The completed pre-participation physical exam form is given to the appropriate school administrator.

The MHSA is committed to the safety and health of our student activity participants and believes this new form will facilitate that objective.

If you have any questions regarding the new pre-participation examination form please contact me or Brian Michelotti, MHSA Assistant Director.