Athletic Reentry Procedures

In response to questions on when a student or coach can resume activity following an exposure or positive COVID-19 test result, Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) is committed to following guidelines put forth by the CDC, Tulsa Health Department and local municipalities. These guidelines may change as new information comes out and TPS will adapt to meet these guidelines. Currently the guidelines are as follows:

If a person comes in close contact with a person with COVID-19, they must self-quarantine for 14 days and if during that time they do not develop any symptoms, they may return to participation. The person should follow the CDC Quarantine Guidelines. The person who came in close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, may choose to get tested and they can take this test after 5-7 days have passed since exposure. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea. Whether or not to test is a decision that should be made in consultation with a physician.

If a person thinks or knows they have COVID-19 and have had symptoms, they must stay in isolation until they have gone at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and, their symptoms have improved, and it has been at least 14 days since their symptoms first appeared.

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, but is not displaying any symptoms, they must stay home until at least 14 days have passed since their positive test.

Communication with involved parties is imperative to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The term contact tracing is used to describe the method of determining whom the infected person may have come in contact with by which they may have contracted the virus and to whom they may have spread the virus. When a person tests positive for COVID-19, the provider who performed the test informs the Health Department who initiates the contact tracing. The Health Department gives recommendations to those who have had contact with the infected person on testing, quarantining or isolation.

Tulsa Public Schools Athletics, upon notification of a positive test or close contact with a COVID-19 positive person, initiates a contact tracing within the athletic department to prevent transmission or further spread of the virus. If an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 or is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and are awaiting results of a test, the athlete or athlete’s parents should immediately contact the coach of that sport of the situation and circumstances. The coach will then notify the site athletic director and the Coordinator of Sports Medicine (CSM) who will start a report on the athlete’s file in Rank One. The CSM will inform the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities. The coach of the sport, the site athletic director and the CSM will then determine who has had potential contact with the involved person. The coach and the site AD will then notify those students and their parents directly through individual phone calls or texts that their student may have had contact with a COVID-19 patient. Using Group Me or other social media platforms to inform parents and students is not acceptable. In
compliance with HIPAA laws, the name of the COVID-19 patient may not be given to parents or other athletes without the written consent of the COVID-19 patient’s parents or the patient if over the age of 18. This written permission should be uploaded to the patient’s file in Rank One. Parents of athletes who have had close contact with the infected individual should then follow the guidelines above and discuss their course of action with their physician or health department. If multiple schools are involved, the CSM will notify the athletic director at the other schools about the situation and recommendations.

If a coach or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the same procedures are to be followed as an infected student.

The coach, site AD, CSM and the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities will determine if practices or games are to be suspended and for what length of time.