



December 17, 2021

Dear South Kitsap families and staff,

The Washington State Department of Health published updated K-12 COVID-19 Requirements on Friday, December 17. The implementation of increased testing for high-risk indoor sports and activities and is now required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

K-12 Guidelines Summary: the full K-12 Guidelines document using the link [HERE](#).

- Schools are required to institute screening testing protocols for all athletes, coaches, trainers, and other personnel who work with athletes in high-risk indoor sports and activities (basketball, wrestling, water polo, and indoor cheer), regardless of vaccination status.
- Screening testing of participants must be performed at least 3 times per week using a PCR or antigen test.
- One of the three weekly tests must be performed on all athletes, coaches, trainers, and support personnel no sooner than the day before the competition. Ideally and whenever possible, pre-competition testing should be performed the day of the event.
- The other tests should be performed on a designated schedule, e.g., M/W/F, determined by the school, in coordination with local public health, to maximize assurance of safer practice and competitions.

If a PCR test is performed, the athlete does not need to quarantine while awaiting screening test results, unless they are exhibiting symptoms then they must isolate.

This guidance is to help maintain the health and safety of our student-athletes and to support them with the best chance to continue to compete this winter season. The SKSD Athletics Department will continue to offer free rapid antigen testing to our student-athletes.

Positive COVID tests

Anyone who tests positive will be sent home immediately to isolate. If the student-athlete can produce a negative PCR test after a positive antigen test and remain symptom-free, they can return to practice. Any athlete who has symptoms or is a known close-contact to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home and not attend school (unless the close contact qualifies for Test to Stay modified quarantine), practice, or contest. Students in Test to Stay modified quarantine may attend school, but not sports or extracurricular activities.

The health and safety of our student-athletes, their families, and our entire school community is important to us.

Thank you for your partnership and support!

South Kitsap School District Athletics