



The Fort Wayne Community Schools Return to Play Plan is based on and co-exists with Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Allen County Department of Health Department, Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) guidance, in addition to best practices from entities specific to individual sports and fine arts programs. *All guidance and this plan are subject to change as new information emerges.*

FWCS Training: All student-athletes, student-musicians, coaches, music directors and anyone who engages with student athletics or performing arts programs (hereinafter participants) will be trained on COVID-19 by watching a video created by the FWCS Health and Wellness Department prior to participation.

Vulnerable Participants: Participants 65 years of age and older and those in high-risk categories should consult with their health provider prior to participation in any practice, workout, event, performance or athletic activity (hereinafter activity) and should remain a distance greater than 6 feet from others to the greatest extent possible.

Fans in the Stands:

Members of the Summit Athletic Conference agreed to the following guidelines for spectators at events.

Through Aug. 31: No fans in attendance for all sports. Essential personnel only.

Sept. 1-13 (If groups larger than 250 are allowed):

- Each school receives a ticket allowance based on participating levels (9, JV, V) at a given event and facility.
- Those in attendance will wear face coverings and maintain social distance.

Sept. 14-beyond: TBD

FWCS Screening Procedure:

- 1) All participants must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to activity.
- 2) Participants must answer the following two questions:
 - a. Do you have any of the following CDC-identified symptoms of COVID-19 (this list of symptoms may be updated as CDC guidance changes):
 - i. fever over 100.4 degrees
 - ii. chills
 - iii. cough
 - iv. shortness of breath
 - v. unexplained fatigue, muscle or body aches
 - vi. unexplained headache
 - vii. new loss of taste or smell
 - viii. sore throat, congestion/runny nose
 - ix. diarrhea
 - x. nausea or vomiting
 - b. Have you had close contact* or cared for someone who
 - i. has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19

- ii. tested positive or
- iii. been declared presumptively positive by a healthcare provider for COVID-19

If a participant answers “yes” to either of the questions, he/she will be restricted from participating in the activity until authorized to return. Participants who exhibit symptoms during an activity must leave immediately (go home and stay home).

*A close contact is anyone you’ve been within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes within the past 14 days.

Returning to Participation: Participants who are excluded from an activity through the screening process outlined above should consult with a school nurse from the FWCS Health and Wellness Department about the time it is safe to return. No student or adult may return to play without approval from an FWCS nurse.

The FWCS Health and Wellness Department will determine the amount of time participants need to be removed from athletics based on CDC and Health Department guidance, which currently requires exclusion of a participant for a minimum of 10 days. Nurses may shorten the amount of time participants are excluded from activities with appropriate medical documentation.

Cohorts: Cohorts of 5-15 students will be established for all activities prior to participation to minimize social contact. Students will remain in the same cohort throughout the summer. Participants should expect that if another participant in their cohort is excluded from participation, the entire cohort may be excluded where the activity involved close contact between participants.

Testing: Participants are encouraged to get testing if they have any of the symptoms identified above or close contact with anyone who has the symptoms or has tested or is presumed COVID-19 positive. Participants may find a list of free Indiana State Department of Health/Optum testing sites at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>.

Expectations:

- 1) Face coverings: All participants must wear face coverings to the greatest extent possible, except as otherwise stated in IDOE and IHSAA guidance. Exceptions include
 - a. participation in strenuous activity
 - b. participation in activity requiring the use of the mouth, such as singing or playing an instrument
 - c. while swimming or diving
 - d. pre-existing condition preventing the wearing of a mask (any such pre-existing condition(s) must be reported to the coach/athletic director/principal)

Face coverings must fully cover both nose and mouth. Student-athletes and staff are expected to provide their own face coverings. Those unable to purchase a face covering must use FWCS-provided disposable facemasks.

- 2) Social distancing: All participants are expected to
 - a. stay at least 6 feet (about two arms’ length) from other people
 - b. not gather in groups

- c. stay out of crowded places to the greatest extent possible, except as otherwise stated in IDOE and IHSAA guidance. *Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing.*
- 3) Spitting is forbidden.
- 4) No high-fives, hugging or other close-contact celebrations.
- 5) All summer activities are voluntary.
- 6) While using athletic equipment, participants must sanitize hands and follow established cleaning measures.
- 7) Participants should wash hands frequently. While inside FWCS facilities, avoid frequently touched surfaces. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before beginning an activity and at the end of the activity. (Clean hands in; clean hands out.)

Student Participant Expectations:

- 1) Prior to participation, all student participants are required to turn in:
 - a. 2020-21 IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire and Consent & Release Certificate (if applicable)
 - b. Parkview Sports Medicine Release/Authorization (if applicable)
 - c. FWCS Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release
- 2) Student apparel (uniforms, costumes, etc.) and equipment must be clean and/or sanitized.
- 3) Students must not share personal equipment (helmets, gloves, swimsuits, musical instrument mouthpieces and reeds, etc.), clothing, towels, water bottles and other individually used items.
- 4) Students must provide their own water, Gatorade or other beverages.

Coach/Director Expectations

- 1) Coaches and directors must track student screening and attendance and report any irregularities to their athletic director or principal, who will notify the FWCS Athletics and/or Health and Wellness departments. This information could be used for contact tracing.
- 2) Coaches and directors must establish and administer a routine for hand sanitation and cleaning measures for student and adult participants, before, during and after an activity.
- 3) Coaches and directors will not blow whistles within 10 feet of students.
- 4) Coaches and directors will prohibit sharing of equipment, clothing, towels, water bottles, etc.
- 5) In the case of inclement weather, team sports and marching bands will not be permitted to move into buildings to continue practice, unless the team/band was previously scheduled to practice inside a facility. If not scheduled, practice must be canceled for the day.
- 6) Coaches and music directors must schedule all activities 10 days in advance with approval of their athletic director or appropriate school administrator.

Sanitation and Mandatory Guidelines

- Sanitation hubs and locations will be identified with signage at all indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Signage will be posted in all open restrooms showing proper hand-washing procedures and other measures to prevent the spread of disease, such as covering coughs and sneezes and avoiding touching the face.
- Athletic and music directors will work with the custodial staff and Facilities Department to establish a schedule of when facilities, including weight rooms, band and choir rooms, related offices and restrooms, will be cleaned to ensure all areas of use are deep cleaned.
 - Deep cleaning will be provided prior to or after all activities (depending on location, school and activity schedule)
 - Identified entry and exiting procedures will be created to establish a clear line of direction for traffic flow to reduce cross contamination. Barricades and signage may be used to ensure procedures are followed.
 - When leaving a weight room, band room or choir room the coach or director must spray down all equipment used and doorknobs and allow for the solution to sit for at least 10 minutes. The next group in will then wipe down the equipment before using.
- Shared equipment, such as sports balls, bags, large sporting equipment, music stands, percussion mallets and large musical equipment, will be cleaned and sanitized by students and/or coaches/directors before, during and after being used by a cohort or team.
- Water fountains are off limits, with the exception of fountains that can be used to fill individual bottles.
- To control the removal of moisture (spit) from inside the wind musical instruments, students should use a small cloth towel and a gallon-size resealable plastic bag. Moisture (spit) will be emptied from the instrument into the towel and the towel put into the resealable bag, taken home and laundered. If student does not have a towel and resealable bag, moisture can be put into multiple layers of paper towels and disposed in a lined trash container.
- Instrument mouthpieces and reeds should be cleaned and sanitized before and after each rehearsal/practice.
- There will be limited locker and storage available. Students will go from their car to practice and back to the car. Smaller instruments should go home with students following every practice. Large musical instruments will require social distance storage with controlled student access to the storage area.

Transportation Guidelines: Refer to FWCS Return to Learn plan.

Athletic Travel: FWCS football teams will not travel outside of Allen County and will limit schedules to regular conference games. Competitions against East Allen County Schools are exempted, if already scheduled. Travel may be restricted for other fall sports, as well, on a case-by-case basis. This decision was made to minimize distant contact tracing, if an outbreak occurs.

Additional Guidelines

July 20–Aug. 14, 2020

- Only essential student participants, coaches, instructors, medical staff, related supervisors and security should be in attendance.
- Locker rooms, meeting rooms, band rooms, choir rooms, auditoriums and dance studios can be used at 50% capacity. Students will need to enter and exit these facilities in shifts to adhere to capacity restrictions.
- Protective athletic equipment may be worn.
- Operate in cohort groups when able. (5-15 students per cohort)
- Contact is allowed per IHSAA.
- No competition among schools (except golf).
- Each activity must register activity days with Athletics Department or appropriate school administrator 10 days in advance.
- Face coverings are required as described under the Expectations section of this document.
- Additional guidance for fine arts programs:
 - All rehearsals and practices should continue to take place outdoors, when possible.
 - Morning and afternoon sessions should be scheduled with different groups of students.
 - Music learning should be standing still and students should be spaced at 6-foot minimum intervals.
 - Marching band students should be at a minimum of a 3-step interval (22.5" per step) for all drill and field formations.
- Location Guidelines
 - Weight Room -
 - Capacity at 50%; same as Phase I
 - Spotters can be used but must wear a face covering
 - Clean hands in; clean hands out. Hand sanitizer should be used when students enter and leave weight room.
 - A disinfectant should be used after each session following established cleaning processes.
 - Gymnasium (CDC [Guidelines](#))
 - May conduct regular team drills and return to social distancing guidelines after the drill is completed
 - Inter-squad scrimmaging is permitted
 - May conduct game-like competition and return to social distancing guidelines after competition is over
 - Minimize face-to-face drills
 - Band Room
 - 50% capacity and following social distancing guidelines
 - North Side (2596 sf) 100% - 129 participants, 50% - 65 participants
 - Northrop (2337 sf) 100% - 116 participants, 50% - 58 participants
 - Snider (2077 sf) 100% - 103 participants, 50% - 52 participants

- South Side (2143 sf) 100% - 107 participants, 50% - 54 participants
- Wayne (2375 sf) 100% - 118 participants, 50% - 59 participants
- Choir Room
 - 50% capacity and following social distancing guidelines
 - North Side (1369sf) 100% - 68 participants, 50% - 34 participants
 - Northrop (2536 sf) 100% - 126 participants, 50% - 63 participants
 - Snider (1128 sf) 100% - 56 participants, 50% - 28 participants
 - South Side (1400 sf) 100% - 70 participants, 50% - 35 participants
 - Wayne (1543 sf) 100% - 77 participants, 50% - 39 participants
- Dance Studio
 - 50% capacity and following social distancing guidelines
 - North Side K202 (1658 sf) 100% - 33 participants, 50% - 17 participants
 - North Side K209 (1661sf) 100%- 33 participants, 50% - 17 participants
 - Northrop (1805 sf) 100% - 36 participants, 50% - 18 participants
 - Snider “Chicken Gym” (3048 sf) 100% - 60 participants, 50% - 30 participants
 - South Side (1178sf) 100% - 29 participants, 50% - 15 participants
 - Wayne (2398 sf) 100% - 47 participants, 50% - 24 participants
- Auditorium Stage
 - 50% capacity and following social distancing guidelines
 - North Side (2339 sf) 100% - 155 participants, 50% - 78 participants
 - Northrop (1670 sf) 100% - 111 participants, 50% - 56 participants
 - Snider (1760sf) 100% - 117 participants, 50% - 59 participants
 - South Side (2228 sf) 100% - 148 participants, 50% - 74 participants
 - Wayne (1670 sf) 100% - 111 participants, 50% - 56 participants
- Stadium/Outside Spaces
 - Maximize space to adhere to social distancing guidelines
 - May conduct regular team drills and return to social distancing guidelines after the drill is completed
 - May conduct game-like competition and return to social distancing guidelines after competition is over

Aug. 15, 2020 (Phase III)

- Competition among schools is permitted.
- Locker rooms, meeting rooms, band rooms, choir rooms, auditoriums and dance studios can be used at 50% capacity. Students will need to enter and exit these facilities in shifts to adhere to capacity restrictions.
- Visitor locker rooms should not be used, if possible.
- Additional guidance for fine arts programs:
 - All rehearsals and practices should continue to take place outdoors, when possible.
 - Morning and afternoon sessions should be scheduled with different groups of students.

- Instructors must register after-school rehearsals and practices with school administration.
- Marching band students should be at a minimum of a 3-step interval (22.5” per step) for all drill and field formations.
- Location Guidelines
 - Weight Room (before and after school)
 - Capacity remains at 50%
 - Spotters can be used but must wear a face covering
 - Clean hands in; clean hands out. Hand sanitizer should be used when students enter and leave weight room.
 - A disinfectant should be used after each session following established cleaning processes.
 - Gymnasium (CDC [Guidelines](#))
 - May conduct regular team drills and return to social distancing guidelines after the drill is completed
 - Inter-squad scrimmaging is permitted
 - May conduct game-like competition and return to social distancing guidelines after competition is over
 - Minimize face-to-face drills
 - Band Room, Choir Room, Dance Studio, Auditorium
 - Capacity remains at 50%; see Phase II
 - Stadium/Outside Spaces
 - Maximize space to adhere to social distancing guidelines
 - May conduct regular team drills and return to social distancing guidelines after the drill is completed
 - May conduct game-like competition and return to social distancing guidelines after competition is over

Facility Use Guidance

Each school will create a master schedule for practice times and facility usage, along with a map and signage designating specific guidelines for enter/exit procedures and restroom usage. Priority of facility usage is determined by team sport season, and master schedules will be arranged by availability and priority from each sport.

- Priority #1 – Fall Sports, Performing Arts, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Groups
- Priority #2 – Winter Sports, Performing Arts, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Groups
- Priority #3 – Spring Sports, Performing Arts, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Groups

Athletic Training Facilities

- May only be used if athletic trainer is present and following guidelines
- Closed if athletic trainer is not present; coaches are only allowed to get ice for student-athletes
- No student-athletes in training facility, unless being treated by the athletic trainer

Gymnasium & Weight Room

- Athletic Directors will have a master schedule for gym and weight room usage; if a team is not on the master calendar, that team will not be able to practice in those spaces
- Enter/exit procedures used to limit contact or cross-contamination of groups
- Isolate the gyms so they can be treated as separate facilities
- Maximize space and use stations to adhere to social distancing guidelines

Band & Choir Rooms, Dance Studio, Auditorium

- Only open if director or authorized instructor is present and following guidelines
- Enter/exit procedures used to limit contact or cross-contamination of groups
- Director will have a master schedule for space usage; if a group is not on the master calendar, that group will be able to practice in those spaces