



March 23, 2021

MNMYF Return to Play Guidelines & COVID-19 Preparedness

	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<p>Known Exposures/illness/positive test:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who have had close contact to someone who tests positive are required to self-isolate for 14 days beginning from the date of exposure and immediately contact Neil Kaus AND the designated individual within their assigned team who will serve as the contact person for COVID-19 issues. The identity and contact information of that individual will be provided on day one. Mr. Kaus' contact information is included in this document. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 infection shall immediately contact Neil Kaus AND the designated individual within their assigned team who will serve as the contact person for COVID-19 issues. The identity and contact information of that individual will be provided on day one. Mr. Kaus' contact information is included in this document. <u>Individuals in this category will be required to self-isolate and avoid sports participation for a variable duration of time. Prior to returning to or attending any football activities they need to provide a note from their health care provider releasing them to full participation. THIS INCLUDES ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIALS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FANS AND SPECTATORS.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
<p>Arriving and Leaving the Venue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review What to do if you're waiting for COVID-19 test results. See Appendix C for Definition of Close Contact and Exposure. All participants must maintain six feet distance from any other person. Whenever possible, everyone should enter and exit through designated areas that are different from each other. Prohibit gathering and congregating on and around fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should enter and leave the field in a timely fashion and not congregate. Team meetings should occur virtually or over the phone, rather than a team huddle. Hand washing or hand sanitizing, when soap and water is not available, is strongly recommended when arriving to and leaving the venue. Ridesharing should be avoided or kept at a minimum.

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	• Mandatory	• Recommended Best Practices
<p>Practices Beginning August 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNMYF will adhere to USA Football Return to Youth Football 2021 guidelines consistent with Football Phase 3 guidance. • Pre-Activity self-screening Per USA Football Return to Youth Football 2021 guidelines. • All athletes shall bring their own water bottle that is labeled with their name. Water Bottles MUST NOT be shared. • Footballs to be sanitized periodically throughout the practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team should sanitize equipment before, during, and after each practice. • Hand sanitizing is strongly recommended during practices. • Football gloves are recommended • Masks are recommended
<p>Practices Beginning September 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Activity self-screening Per USA Football Return to Youth Football 2021 guidelines. • Return to “regular” practice activities with contact as defined within the 2019-2020 MSHSL OFFICIAL HANDBOOK ByLaw 508.00: Football for Contact Practice (Pages 90-91) • Footballs to be sanitized periodically throughout the practices. • Teams may not practice together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team should sanitize equipment before, during, and after each practice. • Hand sanitizing is strongly recommended during practices.
<p>Games Beginning September 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Activity self-screening Per USA Football Return to Youth Football 2021 guidelines. • Return to game activities as scheduled with consideration to USA Football Return to Youth Football 2021 guidelines consistent with section 11. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS as applicable. • All athletes on sidelines must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person. • Balls will be sanitized before each offensive possession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team should sanitize equipment before, during, and after each game. • Hand sanitizing is strongly recommended during games.

Athletes

• Mandatory	• Recommended Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must conduct (with parent/guardian aid) a daily Pre-Activity self-screen and stay home and away from all football activities if they are experiencing symptoms.• Athletes (with parent/guardian aid) will be required to affirm that they have conducted the Pre-Activity self-screen at the start of each practice or game.• Clearly label water bottle, towels, and other personal equipment to eliminate sharing.• Must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person.• No spitting, chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds.• No sharing of food or drinks.• No touch rule – players must refrain from high fives, handshake line, and any other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep Helmet, pads, gloves, uniforms, etc. in a plastic bag during the ride home from any venue and until such equipment can be cleaned and/or sanitized per instructions. Recommend immediately wash all items upon returning home and to use sanitizing products and wipe down any equipment that cannot be washed in a washing machine.• Full finger gloves should be considered and worn by all players.• Hand sanitizing is strongly recommended during practices and games.• Wearing a face covering, when not actively participating in the field of play, is recommended. Players may have the option of wearing a cloth face covering/mask during activities as preferred and indicated by their parents/guardians.

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Coaches

Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must conduct a daily Pre-Activity self-screen and stay home and away from all football activities if they are experiencing symptoms. • Coaches will be required to affirm that they have conducted the Pre-Activity self-screen at the start of each practice or game. • Coaches shall wear a face covering /mask during football activities where social distancing (i.e. maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals) cannot be maintained. Coaches may temporarily remove their mask when they can maintain 6 feet physical distance from any athlete. • Coaches must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person. • Repeatedly remind players not to touch their faces and discourage them from removing and re-inserting mouthguards. • No spitting, chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds. • No sharing of food or drinks. • No touch rule – coaches must refrain from high fives, handshake line, and any other physical contact with fellow coaches, opposing coaches, players, umpires, and spectators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider calling plays from the sidelines rather than in a team huddle • Coaches should remind players of social distancing sidelines and other seating areas and encourage wearing face coverings while not actively participating on the field of play. • Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, is strongly recommended during the games. • Try to limit close contact of the entire team to less than 15 minutes of practice by splitting into smaller PODs within the team for practices.

MNMYF Return to Play Guidelines & COVID-19 Preparedness

	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Officials & Sideline Personnel ('chain gang' for example)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must conduct Pre-Activity self-screen prior to attending any football related activities and stay home and away from all football activities if they are experiencing symptoms. • Must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person. • Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with any other person. • No touch rule – umpires must refrain from physical contact with coaches, players, and spectators. • Sideline Personnel ('chain gang' for example) shall wear a face covering /mask during football activities where social distancing (i.e. maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals) cannot be maintained. Individuals may temporarily remove their mask when they can maintain 6 feet physical distance from any athlete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings are strongly recommended. • The CDC currently recommends that coaches, officials, on-field/sideline staff and other similar individuals wear cloth face coverings/masks during activities.
Parents/Guardians, Fans and Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must conduct Pre-Activity self-screen prior to attending any football related activities (including practice drop off or pick-up) and stay home and away from all football activities if they are experiencing symptoms. • Review USA Football "PREP KIT CHECKLIST – FOR PARENTS" • Must maintain six feet distance from any other person not living in the same household and stay in the designated spectator area outlined by the venue. • No parents/guardians, fans or spectators allowed at practices except for as outlined for "Arriving and Leaving the Venue" above. • Parents/Guardians must ensure their athlete(s) have a well-fitting mouth guard and discourage their athletes from removal and re-insertion during football activities. • No spitting, chewing gum or eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings are strongly recommended for all parents/guardians, fans and spectators. • Keep Helmet, pads, gloves, uniforms, etc. in a plastic bag during the ride home from any venue and until such equipment can be cleaned and/or sanitized per instructions. Recommend immediately wash all items upon returning home and to use sanitizing products and wipe down any equipment that cannot be washed in a washing machine. • Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, is strongly recommended during the games.

MNMYF Return to Play Guidelines & COVID-19 Preparedness

MNMYF BOARD

Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adhere to all mandatory items listed under “Coaches” above.• Must conduct Pre-Activity self-screen prior to attending any football related activities and stay home and away from all football activities if they are experiencing symptoms.• Must enforce all Mandatory guidelines.• Must encourage all Recommended Best Practices• Must ensure all gatherings are in accordance with State, Local, and municipal regulations and as dictated by facilities agreements• Must communicate the guidelines for to all organizations, coaches, officials, and parents.• In the case of a positive COVID-19 test affecting any athlete, coach, official and/or other category of individual the designated MNMYF BOARD MEMBER shall immediately contact the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to allow them to begin the process of contact tracing and other possible actions/steps.• Administrators shall immediately notify those on the contact list across the league of any individual COVID-19 positive test, respecting Personal Health Information so as not to publicize any individual’s name.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post these guidelines at all MNMYF facilities.• Encourage venue operators to post signage to promote physical distancing including foot traffic and spectator areas.• Regularly communicate to coaches, officials, players, parents/guardians, fans and spectators that they should stay home should they be experiencing any symptoms.

List of sources, links and resources:

- [USA Football Return to Play 2020](#)
- [Prescreen Self-Check Questionnaire](#)
- [PREP KIT CHECKLIST – FOR PARENTS](#)
- [Link to MDH COVID testing locations](#)
- <https://www.usafootball.com/resources-tools/return-to-youth-football/for-parents/>
- **COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults (MDH) -**
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf>
- **Frequently Asked Questions(MDH) -** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguidefaq.pdf>
- Reviewed and endorsed by [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and Commissioner for Youth Sports
- Document input from [Minnesota Youth Athletic Services](#)



MNMYF COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Contact:

- Neil Kaus nkaus@northmankato.com

Definitions & Clarifications:

- **Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection** – Individuals with COVID-19 can exhibit symptoms ranging from the following:
 - Most common symptoms:
 - Fever (equal or greater than 100.4 degrees F)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Less common symptoms:
 - Sore Throat
 - Congestion
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Headache
 - Muscle/Joint pain
 - Sudden loss of taste or smell
 - Chills
 - *Note: Some people do not have symptoms or have very mild symptoms. Persons with COVID-19 may be infectious two days prior to symptom onset.*
 - **What to do if you're waiting for COVID-19 test results -** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf>
- **Close Contact and Exposure** – See Appendix A
- **“Regular” practice activities** - a practice during which drills and/or team work includes “Thud” or “Live Action,” as described below. There are no restrictions on “Air;” “Bags;” “Control;” and “Restricted Contact.” The Contact portion of this practice may not exceed 30 minutes.
 - **AIR:** Players run a drill unopposed without contact.
 - **BAGS:** Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface.
 - **CONTROL:** Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact; one player is predetermined the 'winner' by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
 - **RESTRICTED CONTACT:** Teaching safe & proper techniques (block, shed, tackle) involving shoulder pads, and wearing helmets for protection. Contact above the hips only with hands, shoulders and chest. Keep the head out! Use quick whistle; no gang-tackling or cut blocking/tackling. Players stay on their feet when involved in contact.
 - **THUD:** Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill.
 - **LIVE ACTION:** Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.

Appendix A – Close Contact and Exposure to a Suspected or Diagnosed Case of COVID-19

These recommendations are intended to provide an outline for decision-making as it relates to protocols for navigating a possible exposure to a suspected or diagnosed case of COVID-19.

Any player or staff who has been exposed to a COVID-19 case shall self-quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the case.

In this case, **close contact and/or exposure** means any one of the following:

- Caring for a sick person with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
OR
- Living in the same household as an individual with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection
OR
- Individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet) for greater than or equal to 15 cumulative minutes with known or suspected COVID-19 or possible COVID-19 infection.*

In the cases of the first two bullets above, MNMYF considers these quarantine criteria “automatic”. In the case of the third bullet above, this determination of close contact can either be made by MNMYF or by contact tracers at MDH.

* If you are absolutely sure an individual had 15+ minutes of close (< 6 feet) contact with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, please ensure that individual self isolates for 14 days from last contact with the aforementioned case.

If you have questions about whether an individual needs to self-isolate, follow the below steps:

1. Have that individual self-isolate (No on-site/in-person team activities)
2. Email health.Sports.Covid19@state.mn.us and explain your exposure story. It’s ok to reach out to your local health officials instead, if you prefer.
3. Don’t allow that individual return to team activities until you’ve received a recommendation from a state or local health official.
4. Follow their recommendation.

CDC Public Health Guidance for Community-Related Exposure (Definition Above):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

Appendix B – MNMYF COVID 19 Positive Test Reporting Form

NOTE: Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 infection shall immediately contact the designated individual within their team & Neil Kaus and will be required to self-isolate and avoid sports participation for a variable duration of time. Prior to returning to or attending any football activities they need to provide a note from their health care provider releasing them to full participation. THIS INCLUDES ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIALS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FANS AND SPECTATORS (see list of contact below).

Association Name: Grade Level:

Tackle or Flag: Team Name:

Name of Athlete or Coach (Names will be held private from any team, association, or league communications and will only be used for contact tracing):

First Date of Symptoms: Date of Test:

Date of Positive Test Result:

Name and Phone # of Person Filling out this form:

MNMYF Contact:

- Neil Kaus – nkaus@northmankato.com

Appendix C - MNMYF COVID 19 “Close Contact and/or Exposure” Reporting Form

Note: This form only needs to be submitted if an athlete or coach has had close contact with an individual outside of any MNMYF football activities (i.e. practices or games).

Definition of “Close Contact”: someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.

- Example: A player or coach that has been in close contact with an individual that tests positive for COVID 19 AND that individual is not affiliated with MNMYF youth football. That player (or Parent/Guardian on behalf of the player) or coach must report the close contact to their home association within 24 hours of learning of their exposure.

Individuals who have had close contact to someone who tests positive are required to self-isolate for 14 days beginning from the date of exposure or until they are able to produce a Negative COVID 19 test result to MNMYF OR THEIR TEAM’S designated individual (see list of contacts below)(Team individuals will be provided on day one).

Association Name: Grade Level:

Tackle or Flag: Team Name:

Name of Athlete or Coach (Names will be held private from any team, association, or league communications and will only be used for contact tracing):

Date of Close Contact Exposure:

Name and Phone # for person filling out this form:

MNMYF Contact:

- Neil Kaus – nkaus@northmankato.com