



**Order of the Missoula City-County Health Officer
Effective September 25, 2020**

Minimum Requirements for School Athletic Events with Spectators in Missoula County

As determined by the governor, local school boards and superintendents, and the Montana High School Association, school-related activities, including school athletics, have resumed with statewide guidance for mitigating COVID-19 spread. The addition of spectators to school athletic activities creates an event subject to requirements of the local health board and health officer promulgated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Missoula County.

This document clarifies that when spectators are admitted in person to school athletics, the spectators must be managed to mitigate COVID-19 spread in the community. **To be clear, if no spectators will be present at school athletics, this document does not apply, and the schools are responsible for determining how the school-related activity will be managed.**

- 1) When school athletic events allow in-person spectators, the host or home school must ensure that the requirements in Appendix A of the Missoula City-County Health Officer's Order issued May 28, 2020 are met as they apply to spectators. In addition to the requirements in Appendix A of the Health Officer order:
 - a. The host/home school or district must have a written plan for how the event will meet the requirements of this order and Appendix A. The plan must be available to the health department upon request.
 - b. All spectators ages five and up must wear a cloth face covering.
 - c. All players and cheer squad members must wear a cloth face covering except when on the field of play, during active competition or performing cheer activities. Coaches and staff must wear a face covering at all times.
 - d. The number of spectators is limited to 500, or a smaller number if the facility cannot accommodate 500 spectators and comply with these and Appendix A requirements. This 500-spectator event limit also applies to cross-town events.
 - e. Tickets or some form of controlling total admittance shall be used.
 - f. The host/home school or district shall determine to whom the tickets will be allocated, including whether or how many away team spectators can attend.
 - g. Home and away school or cross-town spectators shall be separated by grandstand or section, or some other means of physical separation to prevent intermixing during the event.
 - h. No concessions and no half-time activities are allowed.

- 2) The host/ home school or district, located in Missoula County, is responsible for ensuring spectators adhere to these requirements.



- 3) Schools or districts may enact more stringent requirements as determined by their board or school authorities and are encouraged to follow the recommendations below.
- 4) These requirements may be revised by the Missoula City-County Health Officer or Health Board based on epidemiological conditions during the pandemic and observations of compliance.

Recommendations for Schools, Teams, Coaches and Staff

As established by the Centers for Disease Control, the risk of COVID-19 transmission during certain athletic activities, especially full team competitions involving teams from different geographical locations, is high. To mitigate these risks, the following actions are **strongly recommended**:

- 1) Keep the number of people intermixing during practice and competition **to as few as practical and in pods or cohorts of no larger than 50 that remain separate from each other whenever possible**. This limits the number of people who will be exposed if someone has COVID-19 but is not yet diagnosed. It also reduces the number of people who will have to be quarantined if there is a positive case and helps with timely contact tracing.
- 2) Follow CDC youth sports guidelines to evaluate and find ways to mitigate the risk of a particular sport activity. The guidelines can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Leahy", is written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Leahy, RN, MN, MPH
Director & Health Officer

9-24-20

Date

For questions and assistance in planning spectator events associated with school athletics, please contact envhealth@missoulacounty.us or 258-4755.