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November 8, 2021

Re: COVID mitigation and face mask use for school athletics

Questions and concerns have been raised about the safety and effectiveness of wearing face masks for the prevention of COVID during high intensity and other sports. For Madera County school athletics, we recommend the following use of face masks or COVID testing to minimize the risk of COVID transmission from athletics:

Minimum Mitigation Recommendations: Athletics

To commence once close contact drills and/or scrimmaging begins.

Outdoor Sports:

- No testing recommendations

Indoor Sports:

- For sports with a choking hazard including competitive cheer, gymnastics while on an apparatus, swimming, diving, water polo and wrestling when scrimmaging and during competition season, options include:
 - Conduct these activities outdoors
 - Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated
- For high intensity indoor sports specifically basketball and volleyball, when scrimmaging and during competition season, options include:
 - Wear a mask at all times, with no testing requirements
 - Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated

All other indoor and outdoor, moderate, and high contact sports:

- No testing recommendations

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