



## COVID POLICIES

This document serves as an update to the CSAC Return to Play Plan developed to create a safe return to practice and play environment during the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2021-22 academic year, and addresses infection control considerations for COVID-19.

### **NCAA CONSIDERATIONS**

Identified through [Infection Control in Sport](#) (released April 13, 2022), the NCAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group has acknowledged certain practices that should be highlighted for more focused consideration by member schools. While the materials encourage consideration of various factors and actions, they do not speak to every possible scenario, and in no event should members fall below national or public health standards set by their local communities. These materials are intended as a resource to provide guidance for member schools to use in coordination with applicable government and related institutional policies and guidelines, and they remain subject to revision as available data and information in this space continue to emerge and evolve.

Emerging strategies have considerably neutralized the impact of SARS-CoV-2 and subsequent COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. These strategies include [vaccination](#), [testing](#), [medication management](#), [masking](#) when appropriate, and general management based on COVID-19 community levels. Importantly, if the [COVID-19 community level](#) is low or medium and there is not a high risk for severe illness, the CDC recommends staying [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines and getting tested if COVID-19 symptoms develop. Masking and surveillance testing are not recommended in these scenarios. When the COVID-19 community level is high, the CDC additionally recommends wearing a mask indoors in public. [Quarantine and isolation recommendations](#) should be guided by the CDC or local public health authorities. Additionally, [vaccination recommendations](#) should be consistent with CDC guidance.

Given the shifting dynamics of COVID-19 spread, population immunity and community level surveillance, member schools should consider shifting to standard precautions for purposes of infectious disease management. Shifting to standard precautions means that resocializing strategies are no longer grounded in surveillance testing or other testing strategies.



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### **CSAC CONSIDERATIONS**

All CSAC institutions shall adhere to local, state and federal rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities as well as recommendations from the NCAA and the Sport Science Institute.

### **Communication**

Athletics directors at CSAC institutions shall be responsible for staying current on CDC, local, and state guidelines and mandates concerning restrictions, and shall communicate these restrictions with conference and non-conference opponents, and gameday officials, as appropriate. Officials must adhere to institutional visitor and entry policies prior to arrival to campus.

### **COVID-19 Screening Protocol – Student-Athletes and Staff**

CSAC student-athletes and staff will follow procedures that are consistent with each institution's COVID-19 screening protocol and procedures.

In the event of a positive test on any participating team within 24 hours of the scheduled day of a contest, the medical team and administrators of the participating institutions must determine the status of the upcoming event. The decision to cancel a contest or not must be clearly communicated to the visiting team/s, their athletic administration and the conference office.

### **Student-Athletes with Suspected COVID-19 or Confirmed Positive Case**

1. The student-athlete is to be prohibited from participation in any athletics activity for a minimum of 5 days from the first reported symptom or positive test. (CDC Isolation Guidelines).
2. Clearance per institutional policy required prior to the student-athlete returning to full participation.
3. If a team member, coach, support staff member, official, and/or any other member of the travel party from any participating team develops symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19 within two (2) days of the conclusion of a competition, it is the institution's responsibility to inform the other team's institution of this information so appropriate contact tracing can be done with resulting screening of potentially infected individuals.

### **Student-Athlete with a Defined Close Contact**

Local public health authorities determine and establish the exposure precautions for their jurisdictions. Regardless of vaccination status, the CDC currently recommends that individuals who were exposed to COVID-19:

- watch for symptoms and wear a high-quality mask or respirator (e.g., N95) any time you are around others inside your home or indoors in public for 10 days.
- Testing should occur on day 6, if possible, and on symptomatic individuals.