



October 1, 2021

Sports and Activities Recommendations to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission

Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) recognizes that sports and activities are important to the social, emotional, and physical health of our students, and are an important contributor to our community recovery process. However, they also have the potential to increase risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools and the community. Due to the increase in cases and outbreaks associated with team sports and extracurricular activities in Benton and Franklin counties, BFHD is issuing additional recommendations for school-associated and community sports and activities. BFHD recommends implementation of additional testing protocols within school-associated and community sports and activities.

Testing is recommended when an entire team or activity group when three or more confirmed positive cases are identified within a 14-day period, and transmission or exposure is suspected within the team or group. Additional testing is advised if multiple teammates or group members test positive, and on the day of competitions or performances involving other teams/groups. All students should receive a negative test result prior to participating in competitions, performances, practices, meetings, or rehearsals. Students who choose not to test should be excluded from participation for a minimum of 10 days after last contact with the team or activity group.

These recommendations apply to all sports and athletic teams, music and performing arts groups, and other activities with high transmission risk. Schools and youth organizations can contact BFHD for additional guidance and mitigation strategies as needed.

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