**Return To Play Guidance**

This guidance was created after review of the Iowa Department of Education Covid-19 Reopening Guidance for Summer Sports guidelines [found at this link.](https://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Iowa-DE-Guidance-Summer-Sports-5.20.20.pdf) This is to be used as a resource for families, teams, spectators, officials and coaches to determine when and how teams may begin to engage in team play while keeping participants and spectators safe. It must be used in conjunction with all proclamations issued by the governor and guidance provided by the IDPH.

**Practices**

* Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate in practice if they currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
* No dugouts may be used. Players’ items should be lined up against the fence at least six feet apart.
* Parents must remain in their cars or drop off and pick up players after practice.
* Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
* Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing catch, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat. Players should use hand sanitizer after playing catch.
* Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practice. No shared drinking fountains, portable hydration stations, or coolers may be used.
* Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each practice.
* Players and coaches should check their temperatures at home before attending practices.
* Anyone with symptoms of illness is not allowed to practice.
* Coaches should be knowledgeable of their students with pre-existing health conditions and work with school nurses or other health officials to take additional precautions as needed.
* Players should be encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer.
* Coaches must ban the spitting of sunflower seed shells.
* Coaches are responsible for tracking absences for the purpose of noting potential COVID-19 cases.
* Contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

**Game Play**

* Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate in games if they currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
* Use of dugouts is permitted during games only.
* Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
* Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after games. No shared drinking fountains, water stations, or coolers may be used.
* Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
* Players and coaches should check their temperatures at home before attending practices or games.
* Anyone with symptoms of illness is not allowed to participate.
* No use of bleachers for fans. Encourage fans to bring their own chairs or stand. Fans should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.
* Teams must also implement any other reasonable measures under the circumstances of each school to ensure social distancing of staff, students, and community members, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the IDPH.
* Fans must not attend if they have symptoms of illness.
* Only ONE umpire will be used per game. The umpire will be placed behind the pitching mound at least 6 feet from all players. The umpire will not touch any baseballs.
* Each teams is responsible for baseballs used in the field. There is no sharing of baseballs between teams and a member of the coaching staff is responsible for keeping it’s team supplied (foul balls) during game play.
* Contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

This guidance should be viewed as advisory unless it's specifically authorized by state statute, according to Iowa Code section 256.9A. This does not apply to City and State rules, declaratory orders, or materials required by federal law or courts.