



MEMO

TO: NYSPHSAA Section Executive Directors
FR: Dr. Robert J. Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director
RE: NYSDOH Mask Mandate - Student-Athletes
DATE: December 16, 2021

Re: 3-

As we complete the first month of the 2021-2022 Winter season, the purpose of this memo is to remind members of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) mask mandate.

On September 2, 2021, the NYSDOH released the Interim NYSDOH Guidance For Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic Year. The full guidance document is linked below:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/school-guidance.pdf>

The above referenced NYSDOH guidance mandates all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors must wear masks at all times indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

The September 2nd NYSDOH guidance included the following:

“9. Sports and extracurricular activities – Schools must consider the range of mitigation measures available to them and described in the “Sports and Other Extracurricular Activities” section of the CDC guidance to maximize the safety of all people (players, coaches, spectators), including vaccination, screening testing, and, if necessary, canceling all sports and extracurricular activities in counties with high transmission. The Commissioner’s determination for masking in schools issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60 applies to indoor settings, including for sports and extracurricular activities. For indoor sports and extracurricular activities in which masking is not possible (e.g., swimming), a minimum distance of 6 feet must be maintained to deviate from the above referenced Commissioner’s determination.”

It is the responsibility of NYSPHSAA member schools to comply with the NYSDOH mask mandate as it is written. Any questions or concerns related to the enforcement and/or compliance with the NYSDOH mask mandate should be directed to local departments of health.