



NIPISSING DISTRICT COVID PROTOCOL FOR REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS

November 2021

INTRODUCTION

The four local school boards (Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Ontarien, Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est, Near North District School Board and Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board) and the North Bay and Parry Sound District Health Unit recognize the importance of extracurricular activities, interregional and provincial events in supporting students' mental health, well-being, and academic development.

After a long absence due to the precarious health situation in Ontario, the Nipissing and Parry Sound region is happy to be able to host teams from other areas of the province to participate in secondary school events following all health and safety protocols.

To ensure the safety of all, the four school boards and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, have adopted this protocol to guide the planning of all regional and provincial sporting events in the Nipissing and Parry Sound District. This protocol contains public health guidelines and measures that must be followed. It should be noted that all school events in the region and/or the participation of teams attending from identified regions are subject to cancellation or may be suspended in order to comply with any local public health recommendations and/or Ontario government directives or at the discretion of the school boards and the Health Unit.

All decisions of the school boards and local public health officials are based on the health and safety of students, staff, supervisors, and service providers.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

The public health guidelines announced by the Government of Ontario and those announced by the Public Health Unit must be followed at all times, regardless of the activity.

Facial Coverings

Staff and students must wear masks throughout the duration of the exercise when indoors except in instances indicated in government guidelines. Masks must be worn during activities except when it is unsafe to do so. Staff and students are not required to wear masks outdoors unless they cannot maintain physical distance.

Staff and other activity leaders must wear medical grade masks whenever a mask is required. Coaches, team officials, and activity leaders will wear eye protection if they are within 2m of an unmasked participant. Masks and eye protection will be provided by the school.

When outdoors, coaches, team officials and activity leaders are obligated to wear a medical mask if they are within 2m of their student participants. Masks can easily be put on as they move in/out of a person's 2m bubble. Note: While risk of transmission is lower outdoors, the risk is not eliminated and wearing a mask reduces chances of being a high-risk contact.

Physical Distancing

It is important to always promote the greatest possible distancing between students, between students and staff, and between staff members. Indeed, a physical distancing of two meters (2m) must be maintained between students and staff inside and outside the school whenever possible. Physical distancing must be maintained indoors when students are required to remove their masks to complete the activity. For example, during a physical activity where wearing a mask is not safe or when delivering dialogue in a play.

When entering and exiting activity areas and while performing the activity:

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Verification of selfscreening

All participants and activity leaders, including Board personnel and community/parent volunteers must successfully complete the COVID selfassessment and be symptom free prior to attending regional and provincial events being held in school or community facilities. Screening will be confirmed upon arrival and will be noted on the attendance log by the activity leader. Proof of vaccination will not be required for 12+ participants at school site venues. However, if a community space is being used for any games, the regulations of that space must be followed.

All game officials and student volunteers (score keepers, gatekeepers...) will successfully complete the COVID selfassessment and be symptom free prior to attending any inter school athletic events. Screening will be confirmed upon arrival and documented. Adults supporting regional or provincial events are required by their respective boards to provide proof of vaccine or rapid antigen test 3x a week and report to their board/school.

All student participants, team officials, club leaders, game officials and student volunteers must follow direction provided after completing the COVID selfassessment.

Student participants and activity leaders will immediately notify the Head Coach or the lead teacher responsible for the activity/team/club if COVID symptoms arise during activity.

Any student or staff participant who does not comply (c)-4.93 (c)- Tc 0eT(n)2.3 (p)2.3 0.7 (5 ()10.6 ((685 -

Please see the following OPHEA document for examples of how to apply these elements in an analysis: [Considerations when Selecting Interschool Athletic Activities](#)

In all cases, the hosting of all regional and/or provincial events must be approved by the hosting school board before the start of any planning.

EQUIPMENT

The use of common equipment is allowed. The risk associated with transmission through shared items is low. Regular hand hygiene and respirator

All teams participating in the event can only be present in the facility when scheduled to play or just prior to their scheduled game. An area must be designated for teams waiting to access the change room.

It is important that change rooms that have been used are cleaned and disinfected, including high contact surfaces, after each use.

Gymnasium

When more than one game is being played in the same day at one site, each school site or facility (e.g., Turf Field) will develop entrance and exit plans for their facilities to minimize contact between the outgoing and incoming teams.

HIGH CONTACT SURFACES

High-touch surfaces are surfaces that are touched by many people throughout the day (e.g., benches, gym mats, light switches, etc.).

- Emphasis should be placed on regular hand hygiene to reduce the risk of infection from high touch surfaces.
- When high touch surfaces are used, it is suggested that they be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day, but more frequent cleaning may be necessary depending on the frequency of use and the extent of soiling.

VISITING TEAMS OR CLUBS

All visiting teams or clubs must comply with local and provincial public health guidelines. Participants with COVID-19 symptoms may not enter any school or municipal facilities being used for the event. All participants will be required to register before attending the event.

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Indoors

Theater programs are permitted. Participants must wear their masks and maintain a physical distance of 2M between them. When performers are on stage delivering dialogue they can remove their mask, unless physical distancing cannot be maintained.

MANAGEMENT OF POSITIVE CASES

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will manage the reporting of a positive case in a