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Fall Activities Schedule/COVID-19 Protocols

Dear Apollo Families:

The Minnesota State High School League released the fall plan for activities last week. As we make plans for the upcoming fall activities season, our top priority is keeping our students and staff healthy and safe. Our safety plans follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines as well as federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19. We will be working with our coaches and students to insure they follow these guidelines:

- Screening and tracking protocols
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Social distancing practices
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Prompt identification and isolation of sick persons
- Coaches supervision to ensure the effective implementation of our plans

We are working on detailed plans for each activity and much of it will be very similar to our summer program protocols. We have kept our coaches up to date on the information we have received from the MSHSL and the MDE/MDH/CDC. We plan to be very detailed and careful when it comes to our COVID-19 procedures. Our first goal was to ensure we made a competition schedule that provides for team competition, but also restricts the exposure to our kids. A CLC Conference-only schedule that includes Bemidji and Moorhead in our competition pod was approved and there will be an 11-game, round-robin schedule that allows a chance to play each school one time. If for some reason we need to play a school twice, we will do those games in the same week to limit the exposure to another group that week.

Questions and Answers:

Will there be screening before practices? Yes – we will be screening all coaches and participants before practices. A wrist band will be given to all students who are screened.

Students will be required to self-screen for symptoms prior to arriving at school through Skyward whether they are scheduled to be in school that day or not. Temperatures will be taken prior to every practice.

How will practices look? Tennis, B/G Soccer, and Cross Country – All outside activities Tennis, B/G Soccer, and Cross Country (all outside activities) will use the same model utilized during summer programming. Masks will be worn by all coaches. Students will be required to wear a mask and social distance during discussion and breaks; masks do not need to be worn during times of high



exertion. Students will be placed in pods up to 25 students including the coach. Students are asked to bring their own water bottle.

How will practice look for Swimming and Diving? We are currently limited to 25 people in the pool area based on CDC guidelines and the size of our pool deck. This would limit the number of people on the pool deck to 25, and chairs placed 6 feet apart.

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 being spread to humans using a pool, in part due to the Chlorine and Bromine in the water.

There will be a limit of 4 kids in each lane to ensure social distancing while working out. Each lane will have the same students in their pods to limit exposure.

Will we be able to use locker rooms? Until school starts, the Swim and Dive team will be the only team allowed in the school locker room. Protocols for usage: Required 6 feet of social distancing; masks are worn while in the locker room; cleaning, disinfecting, and decontamination after every day of usage.

Will there be spectators allowed at events? For outside events, we will be following the governor-mandated guidelines of no more than 250 spectators in one area. This would include the players, coaches, and officials. Our goal as a CLC conference is to maintain consistency so when you attend an event at another school you will know what to expect. We will be pre-selling tickets to all home events and giving 2 tickets to each player so they can ensure their parents or family can attend. Each ticket will be numbered to safeguard going over the mandated 250-spectator guideline.

There will be no spectators allowed in-doors for events this fall. All Swim and Dive events will be restricted to the 2 teams and officials. We are working to set up live streaming for those events that families cannot attend.

By keeping our activities within the CLC conference and limiting the number of spectators or no spectators, we hope to limit exposure to any one group.

How will transportation look? For all scheduled fall sporting events we will have transportation, but it is limited to 50% capacity of the bus. This is typically around 25 to 30 students depending on bus size. Everyone will be required to wear a mask, and we will screen those students who were not at school that day before entering the bus.

During practices, and if a student is not at school because it is not their scheduled day, we are asking that you find a way to transport your student to the school. There will be no other transportation provided by the District for those students. We will have a Junior High activity bus that leaves from North, South, or Kennedy after school to ensure that the kids who are at school,



and are in one of the 7 – 12 programs, will get to the high school. If your student isn't at school that day, it will be up to the parents to transport the student to practice.

Transportation Waiver: If you filled out the transportation waiver, you will be allowed to transport your student to and from practices or events. You can also indicate if you approve a rideshare, but you must be specific on who your student will ride with and they cannot ride with anyone else.

What happens if someone on the team gets COVID? In the case that someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 – we will check our records of all people that could have possibly been exposed and follow MDH guidelines.

This is the difficulty with trying to plan and schedule events. Things can change very quickly with one positive diagnosis. Regardless, the team or individuals exposed would be required to quarantine for 14 days and bring back a negative test to return to play.

Currently, we are doing the following:

1. Registration this week 8/10 – 8/14
2. Schedules approved and practice schedules made by coaches
3. Finishing up details on COVID protocols
4. Implement screener for all participants and coaches starting the 17th – each coach and student will be given a wrist band indicating they have been tested
5. Like our summer programming – we will have pods of no more than 25 – coaches will be wearing masks, and all will wear masks if they are not doing physical exercise
6. Working with Junior High administrators on 6-8th grade programming

In a short period of time we have accomplished much! We are very aware that things could change quickly, and we will need to adapt. The goal is to make sure that we do everything we can to keep our students, families, and community safe – WHILE having opportunities for our kids to enjoy activities.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and support during this difficult time. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!!!

Sincerely,

Peter Hamerlinck

Apollo High School Activities Director