



## Guidelines for School Athletics with Spectators in Missoula County

August 27, 2020

As determined by the governor, local school boards and superintendents, and the Montana High School Association, K-12 schools in Missoula County are reopening and school-related activities, including school athletics, are resuming with guidance for mitigating COVID-19 spread. The addition of spectators to school athletics, however, turns a school-related activity into an event subject to requirements of the local health board and health officer promulgated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Missoula County.

This document clarifies how, when spectators are admitted in person to school athletics, the event must be managed to mitigate COVID-19 risk for the students and staff, the school, and the public. **To be clear, if no spectators will be present at school athletics, this document does not apply.**

- 1) School athletic events that will **not** exceed 50 non-distanced people (including both teams' players, coaches, staff, and volunteers) may allow in-person spectators if the following requirements are met:
  - a. The host or home school must ensure that all spectators in attendance follow the requirements in "Events and Gatherings with More than 50 People" which is [Appendix A](#) of the Missoula City-County Health Officer's Order issued May 28, 2020.
  - b. All spectators ages five and up must wear a cloth face covering.
  - c. All players and cheer squad must wear a cloth face covering except when in play on the field or, performing cheer activities, respectively. Coaches and staff must wear a mask at all times.

- 2) Football, which is usually not able to be limited to 50 non-distanced people (including both teams' players, coaches, staff, and volunteers), may allow spectators if the following requirements are met:
- a. Class AA football is limited to 60 people per team or side (including players, coaches, staff, and volunteers) or 120 total counting both home and away sides.
  - b. Class A, B, and C football are limited to 45 people per team or side (including players, coaches, staff, and volunteers) or 90 total counting both home and away sides.
  - c. Players must wear a cloth face covering except when in play on the field; coaches and staff must wear a mask at all times.
  - d. Six-foot distancing shall be maintained on the bench and sidelines except during necessary interaction by coaches and staff.
  - e. No concessions and no half-time activities including marching band are allowed.
  - f. Cheer squad members must remain at a six-foot distance and wear a cloth face covering except when performing cheer activities.
  - g. Home team players and home cheer squad members may receive two spectator tickets each and only spectators with a ticket may attend the event. In crosstown athletic events where the schools of both teams are within Missoula County, both teams' players and cheer squads' members may receive two spectator tickets.
  - h. For this section (2) concerning football, schools will not be allowed to host away team spectators.
  - i. Spectators must be managed in accordance with [Appendix A](#) "Events and Gatherings with More Than 50 People" of the Missoula City-County Health Officer's Order issued May 28, 2020.
  - j. Spectators ages five and older and all event managers must wear a cloth face covering at all times.

**For questions and assistance in planning spectator events associated with school athletics, please contact [envhealth@missoulacounty.us](mailto:envhealth@missoulacounty.us) or 406-258-4755.**