



Student Athlete Vaccination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q. Why are vaccines being required for district student athletes participating in interscholastic sports?

A. Positive COVID-19 cases in athletes participating in interscholastic sports programs result in large numbers of students paused from athletic participation and, more importantly, classroom instruction. The decision to require all student athletes participating in interscholastic sports to be vaccinated was made with the health and safety of our schools at the forefront and in consideration of the unique student interactions sports entails, including close and regular contact during practices and competitions, group travel, and interactions with students from other institutions in high touch, competitive environments. As a result, student athletes who want to participate in interscholastic athletic programming for the remainder of the 2021-2022 academic year are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Q. When do I need to receive a COVID-19 vaccination by in order to be ready for winter and spring sports seasons?

A. Student athletes participating in winter sports will be required to be fully vaccinated by January 5th, 2022. First dose should be received by December 1st, 2021 and the second dose by December 22nd, 2021. Since the deadline is after the start of the season, student athletes who miss the deadline will be removed from the team until they provide proof of full vaccination. Student athletes participating in spring sports will need to be fully vaccinated by March 1st, 2022.

Q. Where can I get vaccinated if I haven't received one or both vaccine doses?

A. Vaccines are available at many locations across Philadelphia. Please visit www.vaccine.gov to find a location near you.

Q. How do I show proof of vaccination?

A. Athletes must submit a copy of their vaccine card to their school.

Q. What if I miss the January 5th deadline to be fully vaccinated?

A. Students who do not provide proof of full vaccination by the January 5th deadline will not be eligible to play until they provide proof of full vaccination to the school.

Q. Do Mastery Schools permit exceptions to the requirement for a vaccine for student athletes?

A. Yes. Exceptions to the COVID-19 vaccine requirement may be granted for verifiable medical or religious-based reasons and can be requested by completion of the Vaccination Exemption Form. Exemption forms must be submitted directly to the school nurse. A request for exemption must be completed 7 days prior to the season start. The winter season starts on November 19th, 2021 and the spring season starts on March 7th, 2022.

Q. What will happen if I don't have proof of my vaccination when my sports season begins?

A. For the winter sports season, the vaccination deadline is after the start of the season. Student athletes who are not vaccinated or do not submit proper proof of vaccination by the required deadline (January 5th), or have not submitted an Immunization Exemption, will be removed from their team's roster and lose access to all privileges afforded to student-athletes, including team or individual practice, competition and any sports facility until they can provide full proof of vaccination. Student athletes who want to play spring sports who are not vaccinated by the spring deadline (March 1st) will not be able to join the team until they provide full proof of vaccination.

Q. How much does the COVID-19 Vaccination cost?

A. The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all at no cost, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

Q. Will the vaccination requirement change weekly testing requirements?

A. Student-athletes who are fully vaccinated will not be required to test two times weekly for COVID-19. Students-athletes will have to continue to test weekly until 2 weeks after the second dose of the vaccine and before the vaccine deadline. Students who submit an exemption form will be tested twice weekly for COVID-19. Even if vaccinated, anyone who experiences symptoms suggestive of a COVID-19 infection will require COVID-19 testing and require isolation if positive.

Q. Do I need to carry my vaccine card with me at all times?

A. No. Students should provide proof of vaccination to their school. Once proof is received students are not required to carry their vaccine card.

Q. Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

A. Please reach out to Matt George at matthew.george@masterycharter.org