

Friday, February 5, 2021

Hi Everyone,

For the most recent update please see the following return to school information “Hybrid” along with information regarding return to play. Assuming we can return to play soccer will begin on March 1.

THS Coaching Staff

Return to School, From: Dr. Torrez

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are doing well and staying warm. I wanted to clarify a few items regarding options the school board will be considering at our next board meeting on Wednesday, February 10, at 6:00pm. You are welcome to join us to give your feedback. You can find the invitation to get on the zoom meeting on our website (www.taossschools.org) and click on ‘school board’ to access the board agenda. On the top of the agenda, you will find the zoom invite to join us!

The NM Public Education Department and the NM Department of Health has strict rules for what we are allowed to do with the hybrid model which is the following:

1. Students are only allowed to attend school two times per week and no more, according to PED.
2. Students must wear masks (except when eating) at all times and must be sent home if they refuse. If a student forgets their mask, we will have extra masks.
3. Students must be escorted to their classrooms and stay with their same small groups every day and always stay 6 ft. in social distancing.
4. Students are not allowed to socialize outside of their small group.
5. In order not to spread COVID since students do not wear masks while they eat, breakfast/lunch must be in the classrooms with their same small group.
6. Students must be escorted to the outside of the building when they leave the school building.
7. Students must be escorted to the bathroom, which is the only reason they would leave the classroom. There will be a nurse on duty if needed.
8. Students must follow strict safety protocols and are not allowed to roam the halls or come in contact with other students.
9. If there is a positive COVID case in one of the buildings, the Rapid Response Team immediately starts contact tracing (determine who this individual has had close contact with) and reporting to the Department of Health within 4 hours of the time we were notified. The room, wing, or entire building will be closed for 24 hours, then deep cleaned and reopened.
10. If a student is positive for COVID, there will be contract tracing and other parents will be notified to take their child to be COVID tested if they were exposed. The parents of students and staff who have been in close contact with the positive COVID case are notified of the contact by end of day and told to quarantine for 14 days. Staff will test after 7 to 10 days, and it is highly recommended that any students who had close contact test after 7 to 10 days.
11. If a student is positive for COVID, they will be required to quarantine for 10 days before returning back to their same small group. For a student who has tested positive and has symptoms will not be able to return to school until all three are met: 1) 10 days after the onset of symptoms, 2) 24 hours fever free without the use of a fever reducing medicine, and 3) symptoms are getting better.
12. If there are 4 COVID cases in a building in a 14 day period, the state epidemiology department will determine if the building needs to be closed and for how long. They are notified within 4 hours of every confirmed case.
13. Wednesdays will be remote for all students so that fogging and deep cleaning can take place on everything in the buildings. There will be small group instruction for students who need additional tutoring.
14. We will be put onto the DOH “Watch LIST” if we get 4 COVID positives in a two week period.

The watch list if a business, or in our case a building has 2 to 4 Rapid Responses in a 14 day period

The following is for the remote model that we have been doing this school year:

1. Nothing would change from what we are doing.
2. We would add after school activities outside under tents, etc.

I hope this helps make your decision on what you choose for your child/children. YOU will decide what model you want for your child/children and will be allowed to stay remote, if that is what you feel you need to do for your own child/children. You may want to do hybrid if the school board reopens the schools.

Thank you for helping us decide what is best for your family!

Dr. Torrez

Return to Play, From: Dr. Mae A. LaBella, Ed.D and NMAA

Good evening once again,

I wanted to make sure that I am clear on the update and found that #2 needs more clarification. So here is a better explanation, I hope. In addition, I need to point out that a student can choose to stay remote and still be eligible to participate in sports as long as the school is in hybrid mode and meets those requirements. If a school opts to stay remote for the rest of the year, the school is not eligible to participate in sports.

As far as #2:

Clarification of the last line of number (2) means that all practices for fall sports will officially begin on Feb 22nd full blown (no pod limitations, drills can be done, etc). So, for football, their official back to season practice date is Feb. 22nd. Volleyball and Cross-Country officially start back to in season practice Feb. 27th. The official start date for soccer is March 1st. All other sports can begin off season practice on the 22nd based on the full-blown practice opening as long as they follow the 7.5-hour rule.

Currently there is a 2-week acclimation period that states that a school can practice but cannot play their first game until the school has been in hybrid mode for 2 weeks. So, if the school is on target with hybrid mode by Feb. 16th then football could play their first game as scheduled on the calendar. Now if the school didn't go hybrid until March 1st (they can still practice) then that would mean that the first game could not take place until the school has been in hybrid mode for 2 weeks after going hybrid on March 1st.

So, a student athlete could request to stay on remote learning and still be eligible to participate in sports and activities as long the school is in hybrid mode meeting those requirements.

I just wanted to clear that up. Have a great evening.

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NMAA Updates

Good Afternoon Coaches,

I wanted to give you an update from the AD meeting with NMAA yesterday. Sorry it has taken me so long to share with you.

- 1) NMAA Board met on Monday, February 1, 2021
- 2) The current definition of hybrid is: When any student that wants in person learning is in school at least (2) times per week. (They must be given the opportunity). According to Sally, this is based on the district. We are working with understanding the definition more and getting clarification via Dr. Torrez' help and through NMAA. I will keep you updated on that as we gather more information. A student can opt to do remote and still participate as long as the school is in hybrid mode. Schools staying remote all year will not be allowed to participate in sports.
- 3) This may also change, but as of now, a school has to be in hybrid (2) weeks before the first game can be played. Practices can start on the 22nd, but no games until the 2-week criteria have been met.
- 4) Off season practice can happen with the 7.5-hour rule still in place.
- 5) Until February 22nd, current rules with pods will stay in place.
- 6) Locker Rooms are off limits period even for PE classes at this time until NMAA gives us clearance.
- 7) Attached is the link to view the most updated calendar. https://www.nmact.org/file/2020-2021_Sports_Calendar.pdf
- 8) Helmets and Shells were approved for football by the NMAA board following the progression rules. No contact only for acclimation purposes only.
- 9) Managers on team were discussed, but the suggestion was to limit the amount of people in the venues.
- 10) As of right now, there will be no expectations of fans in the stands. If there are no fans in the stands, there will be no spirit teams allowed at games. Still waiting for clarification and final decision on this.
- 11) Physicals: Getting clarification but as of right now, if an athlete had Covid and they had mild symptoms, we will need a Doctor's release to attach to the physical. If they have had more severe symptoms with covid, then they will need a whole new physical. Be prepared to for more paperwork.
- 12) The district will have to decide if we will continue with mid school sports or not. In our regional AD meeting, we discussed what each school might be doing. Dependent on budget, Transportation, and practice/game space might prevent us from moving forward with middle school sports unless we do intramural and see if that would work for us. Coaches would host these.

- 13) Still talking about how many football players can stand on the sidelines for games. Discussing the option of going from the (15) yard line to (15) yard line or (10) yard line to (10) yard line. Still working on that.
- 14) Coaches should think about practicing everyone together once practice opens up fully. In other words, think about keeping JV and Varsity separate in case JV has to move up to replace an athlete that might have covid.
- 15) The Football schedule is being put together by NMAA and they will send that out once they have it figured out. They are working on a possible (5) game season with either only (4) games and a championship game.
- 16) No try outs yet until your sport comes into season.
- 17) Extra Curricular Activities will also be able to begin on February 22nd. No wind instruments or singing allowed.
- 18) Board voted down eligibility at 6 weeks unless your school operates on 6 week terms. We will stay with a review of eligibility at (9) wks with NO "F's" and 2.0. Currently, these are the options for eligibility.
- 19) 2.0 GPA no "F's"
- 20) Cumulative GPA of 2.0 with one "F"
- 21) Petition NMAA for eligibility by coaches writing a short statement vouching for a student who has been impacted by covid academically. If a student has 4 "F's" because they didn't turn in work, then I would not expect an approval. If you have student who has 2 "F's" but has been impacted because they are expected to watch their siblings while parents work but under normal circumstances, they usually meet the academic requirements, then we can send those forwards.
- 22) We can opt out of any sport without being penalized. I will need to let NMAA know by February 15th.
- 23) Practices can occur on Saturdays, but before going that route talk with me as I have to talk with Robert and CJ about sanitizing and custodial coverage.
- 24) As of now, No permission to go out of state. If athletes play in a league and go out of state, they will have to quarantine for (14) days therefore impacting the team and missing a shortened season.
- 25) Game limitations: We only have to play our district games once in order to be eligible for post season. (The only exception might be football). Football will play (5) games, Soccer is 10 games max, Volleyball will play (12), Cross Country will have (3) meets (1 of which is a district meet) Middle school volleyball is 10 games: Middle School Cross Country is (3) meets: Middle School Soccer is (8) games:
- 26) All sports must practice with masks and play with masks. Yes, even football while still wearing their mouth pieces. Start thinking about what kinds of masks you want players to use. My recommendation is that you research a disposable mask that will be the best fit for your athletes and send that information to me and Fatima to see if we can order them. Some masks work better under helmets or are better for athletes who are running and don't fall off. Possibility that if masks comedown penalties will be called.
- 27) Working with Tony Struck at Town to discuss use of reopening of TYFC Pool and Eco Park.
- 28) I am looking into an electrostatic sprayer or another form of spray to be able to spray equipment and let dry.
- 29) Those who want to open up their activities must get approval from CJ and then complete a covid safety plan. Notify us when it is complete so it can be reviewed, adjustments made and approval given.

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