

COVID-SAFE PRACTICES: INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

The following COVID-Safe Practices apply to all intercollegiate sports and collegiate sport participants, including athletes, coaches, trainers and other staff members. Universities, colleges and sports programs must also follow all applicable COVID-Safe Practices outlined in "All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers."

Higher education institutions and New Mexico special schools must send an email to the New Mexico Higher Education Department stating an intent to resume full practices of spring season sports or sports that were postponed during the fall season. The email shall include language stating that the higher education institution or New Mexico special school will comply with the COVID-Safe Practices for Intercollegiate Sports, a list of sports that will resume full practices, and a testing plan. Please email nmhed.covid@state.nm.us with the requested information.

Requirements

- Testing
 - ◆ Colleges and universities shall regularly test athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members.
 - ▶ Athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members shall be tested no less than three (3) times per week through a PCR test and a testing plan must be sent and reviewed by the Office of the Governor and the New Mexico Higher Education Department.
 - ▶ Athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members must test no more than 24 hours prior to a game, competition or scrimmage and quarantine until they receive negative test results and must be tested by a PCR test. Individuals who receive positive test results shall not participate in contest and must isolate for at least 10 days and return when a licensed medical professional advises it is safe to do so.
 - ▶ Testing and Travel
 - » Athletes and staff members must test within 48 hours and quarantine until they receive results prior to traveling out of state to play. Athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members who receive a positive result or fail to test shall not be permitted to travel.
 - » Athletes and staff members must test within 48 hours upon returning to New Mexico and must quarantine until they test and receive test results.



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- ▶ Positive and negative test results are required to be reported to the appropriate State agencies weekly.
 - » All positive and negative test results must be reported to the New Mexico Department of Health.
 - » Positive cases surrounding employees and contractors associated with the college, university or New Mexico special schools must be reported to the New Mexico Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OSHA) and the New Mexico Higher Education Department.
 - » All positive and negative cases surrounding all staff and students must be reported to the New Mexico Higher Education Department.
- Practices, Trainings and Games
 - ◆ Practices, games, competitions, or scrimmages in outdoor or indoor venues may occur without spectators in any county regardless of the county's status under the state's [Red to Green Framework](#) so long as all applicable CSPs are complied with.
 - ◆ Masks
 - ▶ Masks shall be worn at all times (over the nose, mouth and chin) by all parties including, but not limited to, players, coaches, trainers, other relevant staff members, and visiting teams on the sidelines. Referees shall wear a mask at all times. The only exception is for players on the field of play.
 - ▶ Only athletes and relevant staff members shall be allowed to participate in practices, trainings, games, competitions, scrimmages and recovery sessions. All persons must wear a mask, indoors and outdoors, and all individuals on the sidelines, including athletes and staff, must adhere to six feet of social distancing at all times.
 - ◆ Gyms, weight rooms and recovery rooms may operate at no greater than the allowable maximum capacity of an enclosed space as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department as outlined in the State of New Mexico's [Red to Green Framework](#).
- Spectators
 - ◆ Spectators may be permitted at practices, games, competitions or scrimmages only if allowable for "Large Entertainment Venues" under the State's [Red to Green Framework](#). Allowances and capacity restrictions vary by the color-coded status of the county and between outdoor and indoor venues. All venues hosting spectators must adhere to COVID-Safe Practices for Entertainment Venues.



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□ Visiting Teams

- ◆ Any team visiting New Mexico to play a game or scrimmage must immediately travel to the place of lodging upon arrival and remain there until it is time to travel to the field, arena or stadium to play.
 - ▶ All visiting team members and staff shall have meals delivered to their rooms or place of lodging.
- ◆ All visiting team members and staff shall receive a negative COVID-19 test result prior to arrival. This must be completed through a PCR test and must be completed with 72 hours prior to arrival or immediately upon arrival in New Mexico.
- ◆ The New Mexico college or university must ensure that the visiting team follows all rules and protocols to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the public.

□ COVID-Safe Practices

- ◆ All athletic departments, teams, athletes, coaches, trainers, staff members and visiting teams shall follow all COVID-safe practices. This includes wearing a mask and maintaining six feet of social distancing at all times including in gyms, weight rooms, locker rooms, recovery rooms, etc.
- ◆ Athletes and staff members may only leave a residence or place of lodging to receive medical care, participate in training, practices, games, competitions, scrimmages and other team functions, or attend educational programming as required by the college, university or New Mexico special school.
- ◆ Athletes and staff members shall not participate in mass gatherings outside of practice and competitive play. This includes any and all social gatherings.
- ◆ When traveling for away games and competitions, athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members must immediately travel to the place lodging and remain there at all times until it is time to travel to the field, arena or stadium to play.
 - ▶ All visiting team members and staff shall have meals delivered to their rooms or place of lodging.
- ◆ All requirements herein must be adhered to when traveling out of state for away games and competitions.



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- Outbreak Policies and Procedures
 - ◆ If an outbreak occurs, the athletic program must cease operations and test all athletes, coaches, trainers, staff members and other points of contacts, as determined by contact tracing, immediately. All individuals must quarantine until they receive the test results. If an individual is COVID-19 positive, he or she must isolate per the guidance of the New Mexico Department of Health. Proper accommodations, such as housing and meals, must be provided by the athletic program to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to other team members, roommates, coaches, trainers, staff members and the community at large.
 - ◆ An outbreak will be determined by the New Mexico Department of Health.
- Code of Conduct
 - ◆ Disciplinary action shall be established within a code of conduct and enforced if it is violated. A violation may result in, but is not limited to, a suspension for the entirety of the season which also includes training, practices and other team functions.
 - ◆ The code of conduct shall be observed at all times in both on-campus and off-campus settings.
 - ◆ Coaches, trainers and staff members shall also adhere to a code of conduct.
- Regents and Governing Boards
 - ◆ Regents and Governing Boards shall review and approve all plans to ensure athletic programs, administrators, athletes, coaches, trainers and staff members fully comply with the State of New Mexico's COVID-Safe Practices for Intercollegiate Sports. Additionally, Regents and Governing Boards shall ensure compliance by all athletic departments and sports programs at the higher education institution or New Mexico special school.

