



2020-2021 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Mask/Face Covering FAQs

This list of Frequently Asked Questions is provided to assist MSHSL Member Schools in implementing the Mask/Face Covering requirements of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Who can provide a mask exemption for a student-athlete?

A licensed medical provider, working within the scope of their license, certification, and training and is qualified to diagnose the individual's condition, can provide a mask exemption.

What is the member school's responsibility?

Each member school is responsible for ensuring that all team members, including student-athletes, managers, coaches, etc., are following all applicable laws, rules and bylaws. This includes state mandates, Governor's Executive Orders, and public health requirements.

What is the Activities Director's responsibility around mask exemptions?

The Activities Director must provide a list of student-athletes with mask exemptions to each head coach. Any questions or concerns about mask exemptions or an individual student's mask exemption should be directed to the Activities Director.

What is the Head Coach's responsibility around mask exemptions?

The Head Coach of a team must have a list of the team's student-athletes with mask exemptions. The list must only contain names and must not list reasons for the exemption. The head coach is responsible for all members of their team.

Can a school's list of students with mask exemptions be shared with personnel or teams from an opposing school?

Schools may share the list of exemptions with opposing school personnel; however, providing such information must be done in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Schools must not share protected information.

What is the process if a coach or Activities Director believes the mask exemption requirements are not being followed by an opposing team?

The Activities Director should contact the sport-specific Director at the League to share concerns for League follow up.

What happens when a team or individual chooses not to compete because of opponents' mask exemptions?

- In cases where a team chooses not to participate, the outcome will be determined to be a no-contest.
- An individual's decision to participate in a contest is at the individual's discretion.

Are there mask exemptions for coaches and other team personnel?

Mask exemptions for coaches and other team personnel should be determined by the school's/district's policies for mask usage in alignment with the Governor's Executive Orders and requirements of Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Are there mask exemptions for officials?

Officials must follow Executive Order 20-81 which requires that Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings. Face covering exemptions are highly dependent on the specific condition and symptoms of each person, so the determination of whether a person is exempt from the face covering requirement should involve consultation with a licensed medical provider who is qualified to diagnose the condition at hand.

To be exempt from the face covering requirement, an official would need to provide to the relevant school administrator(s) prior to the start of the contest a signed medical exemption. This exemption must come from a licensed medical practitioner, working within the scope of their certification, training and practice, stating that the official has a medical or other health condition that requires an exemption to the face covering requirement.