



J. Howard Beard Health Services Building
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone: 410-222-7095 Fax: 410-222-7294
Maryland Relay (TTY): 711
www.aahealth.org

Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP
Health Officer

September 17, 2021

Dear Club and Recreation Sports Leaders,

Anne Arundel County and the state of Maryland have seen an increase in cases of COVID-19 in the community with the rise of the delta variant. When community rates of COVID-19 are high, there is an increased likelihood that COVID-19 will be introduced to, and potentially transmitted within, a school or sports setting. With schools reopening fully, young people, especially those who are unvaccinated, are at an increased risk for exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health (AACDOH) is committed to protecting the health of our county's children. We need your help to ensure that our contact tracing procedures are as effective as possible so that young people can be safe and remain in schools and sports. Once you become aware of a positive player, coach or team staff on your team or in your organization, please reach out to the AACDOH as soon as possible by calling 410-222-7256 so that we can appropriately contact trace the positive individual. You may also receive a call from the AACDOH when an individual on your team or in your organization has tested positive for COVID-19. We ask that you cooperate and do the following:

- 1. Encourage all unvaccinated players, coaches, team staff, spectators and parents to get vaccinated against COVID-19.** Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Any vaccinated players, coaches or team staff who are identified as close contacts of a positive case, do not need to quarantine and can continue to play, as long as they are asymptomatic.
- 2. Provide a complete roster, including names and phone numbers, to the Department of Health when requested.** This will allow us to identify the close contacts of the positive case and determine if they need to quarantine. This is key to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and preventing an outbreak.

3. **Encourage mask wearing regardless of vaccination status, in crowded outdoors settings like bleachers, outdoor settings where multiple households are mixing for extended periods of time and all indoor settings.**
4. **Maintain physical distance as much as possible in various settings (i.e., fields, benches/team areas, locker rooms, spectator viewing areas, spectator facilities/restrooms, etc.).**
5. **Encourage all players, coaches and team staff to stay home if they are sick.**

When a player is positive for COVID-19, they must immediately isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status. This means they are unable to go to school or play any sports. Any unvaccinated close contacts are required to quarantine (a) for 10 days or (b) quarantine for 7 days with a negative Covid test done between day 5-7. Vaccinated close contact do not need to be quarantined as long as they do not have symptoms.

We know that students benefit from in-person learning and we know that sports and extracurricular activities provide students with enrichment opportunities that can help them learn and achieve, and support their social, emotional, and mental health. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation strategies and your cooperation, we can decrease infection rates within your teams and organizations and keep the players safe and on the field.

As always, thank you for all you do to keep young people in Anne Arundel County healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niles Kalayanaraman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Niles Kalayanaraman, MD, FACP
Health Officer