

**William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

October 29, 2021

Dear School District of Philadelphia Parents and Families,

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the health and well-being of students and staff has been our top priority. As an additional layer of safety, starting this upcoming winter sports season, all students who want to participate in interscholastic athletics will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they have an approved medical or religious exemption. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and other sports and medical organizations state that student athletes should be vaccinated due to sustained close contact during sports participation that puts students at an increased risk for getting and spreading COVID-19. For many students, interscholastic athletics are an important aspect of their educational experience. Requiring athletes to get vaccinated will reduce the need to quarantine teams, which will prevent canceled practices, games and potentially entire seasons.

### VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

All interscholastic athletes must provide proof of full vaccination by the deadlines listed below. A student is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after a single dose vaccine. Student athletes will continue to be tested twice weekly until they provide proof of vaccination by the deadlines. **Student athletes who do not provide proof of full vaccination by the deadlines will not be eligible to participate in their sport until they are fully vaccinated.**

Season	Sports	Full Vaccination Deadline	Get The First Dose By	Get The Second Dose By
Winter	Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Indoor Track, Swimming, Wrestling	December 18, 2021	November 13, 2021	December 4, 2021
Spring	Badminton, Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, and Volleyball.	March 1, 2022	January 25, 2022	February 15, 2022

## **SUBMITTING PROOF OF VACCINATION**

In order to remain eligible, student athletes must submit proof of vaccination, in the form of a copy of the complete vaccine card, directly to the school on or before the deadlines listed above. Please feel free to contact your school or Student Health Services at [shs@philasd.org](mailto:shs@philasd.org) with questions.

## **GETTING THE VACCINE**

The District has partnered with several vaccine providers to provide free COVID-19 vaccine events. See a list of upcoming clinics by visiting, <https://www.philasd.org/studenthealth/covid-vax/>. Students can also receive the COVID-19 vaccine at clinics, pharmacies, and other locations throughout Philadelphia which can be found on the City of Philadelphia's website [here](#) or at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

## **EXEMPTIONS**

Medical or religious exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement can be requested by submitting the [Vaccine Exemption Form](#) to your child's school nurse no later than 7 days before the start of the season. The winter season starts on November 19th, 2021 and the spring season starts on March 7th, 2022. Students who are approved for exemptions will continue to test twice weekly for COVID-19.

## **ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION**

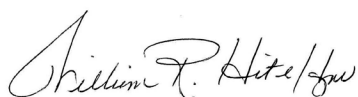
We recognize you may have questions or concerns about this new requirement. You are invited to attend a community forum where you will be able to ask your questions and hear from District leaders. Please use the links below to attend one of the sessions:

- Thursday, November 4, 2021, 5:00pm-6:00pm - Click [HERE](#) to attend.
- Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 5:00pm-6:00pm - Click [HERE](#) to attend.

Visit <https://www.philasd.org/studenthealth/covid-vax/> to view the FAQs and learn more.

Thank you for your partnership in our efforts to keep students healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
The School District of Philadelphia