

Franklin College Athletics COVID-19
Return to Athletics Policy 2021-22
(As of August 19, 2021)

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, the Franklin College Athletics Department is dedicated to the safety and welfare of our student-athletes, coaches, staff, officials, spectators and all those involved with intercollegiate athletics. As we continue with our return to intercollegiate athletics, we must do everything we can to try to mitigate the risk of transmission and the further spread of COVID-19.

This policy serves as a supplement to the Franklin College #FortifyFranklin Plan. The plan may be updated at any time and is developed with guidance by the following:

- Community-level immunity status;
- Community-level transmission;
- State law; and
- Local public health authorities

Additional resources include: the Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine (NATA ICSM).

1. Pre-Return to Campus

- a. Student-athletes will need to complete a new medical history form indicating any exposure or symptoms related to COVID-19.
- b. Student-athletes will be sent educational information and will sign the Expectations and Commitment Pledge via online medical forms detailing information about COVID-19, including proper hygiene, signs and symptoms and procedures for reporting illnesses once they are on campus.
- c. Incoming freshman and transfer student-athletes will be required to complete a pre-participation physical performed by a physician or nurse practitioner.
- d. All athletes must provide the College proof of full vaccination via the Vaccination Status Form (<https://franklincollege.forms-db.com/view.php?id=27460>) or provide a negative COVID-19 test completed within 5 days of reporting to campus.

2. Return to Campus

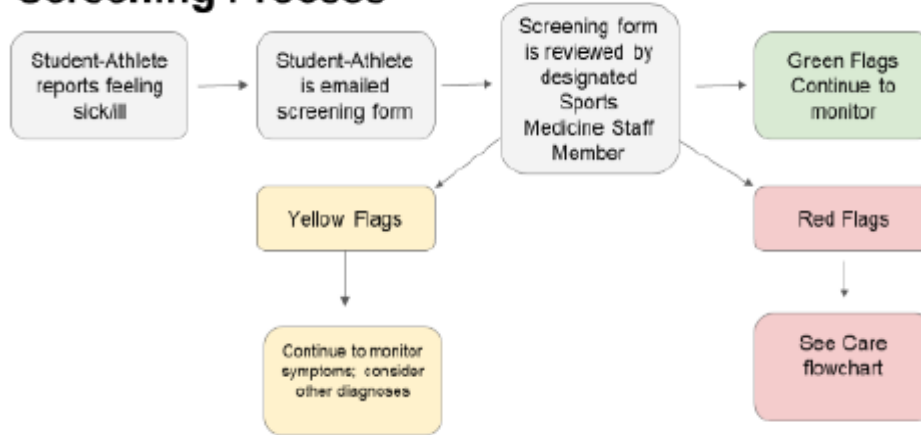
- a. Student-athlete returning to campus will need to complete a pre-participation screening process that will include the following:
 - i. Medical screening
 1. Personal and family history of COVID-19
 2. Has the Student-Athlete experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste)
 - ii. Review of current medical history and orthopedic screening
 - iii. ImPACT and Sway concussion baseline testing
- b. Student-Athletes will be presented with additional educational information concerning COVID-19 during pre-scheduled team meeting. This meeting may be presented in a virtual manner if warranted. This educational information will detail the following:
 - i. Proper hygiene
 - ii. Appropriate social distancing policy

- iii. Proper use of a protective mask, including how to properly wear and when/where the use of a mask will be required when on campus.
- iv. Proper sneeze/cough etiquette
- v. Avoid touching face
- vi. Process of disinfecting personal equipment
- vii. Review of appropriate reporting process if feeling ill
- c. Team Meetings
 - i. Current campus policy will dictate masking and social distancing for team meetings and indoor events.
- d. Locker Room Facilities
 - i. Locker Rooms will be utilized; however the following guidelines will be instituted:
 - 1. Masking will follow current campus policy.
 - 2. Student-athletes will be required to disinfect their own personal area and equipment prior to leaving the locker room using supplied EPA List N spray (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner)
 - 3. Student-athlete laundry will be cleaned nightly.
 - 4. The locker room facility will be cleaned and disinfected nightly.

3. Start of Athletic Activity

- a. Once student-athletes have been cleared to begin athletic activity, the following procedures will be implemented during the season:
 - i. Any student who prefers to wear a face covering for activities should be allowed, if doing so will not cause a health risk
 - ii. Appropriate social distancing guidelines
 - iii. Appropriate hand washing/use of hand sanitizers during physical activity
 - iv. Water bottles will not be provided, and each student-athlete will be responsible for providing their own. There will be water stations to refill during practices/games.
 - v. Coaches and staff who are unvaccinated will be required to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.
- b. If a student-athlete feels sick or has concern about COVID-19 exposure, the following protocol will be used:
 - i. Report via phone call or text. Do not come to an athletic facility until the student-athlete has had a chance to communicate directly with appropriate staff member. Those staff members could be:
 - 1. Staff Athletic Trainer
 - 2. Student Health Center
 - ii. Student-Athletes plan of action will be determined based on the following flag system:
 - 1. **Green flag** – no concern and cleared to resume normal activity
 - 2. **Yellow flag** – possible early onset of symptoms – continue to monitor symptoms and referral to student health center
 - 3. **Red flag** – symptomatic, possible contact with positive person, travel concern, and/or underlying medical condition

Screening Process



iii. If it has been determined that the student-athlete is possibly exhibiting the signs/symptoms of COVID-19, the student-athlete will be referred to Johnson Memorial Hospital or to another testing facility (Indiana State Department of Health Optum site) - www.coronavirus.in.gov

1. The Johnson County Health Department will conduct Contact Tracing of this individual's latest activity and determine quarantine guidance for other individuals.

c. Return from Quarantine / Isolation – Return to Play

1. Once a student-athlete has been cleared to resume normal campus activity and a possible return to play with their sport, they will need to complete the following:

i. Normal pulse oximeter or peak flow meter testing

ii. Normal EKG testing if warranted by treating physician

iii. Graduated return to sport program including increased cardiovascular training to eventual return to participation. This will be determined under the guidance of the treating physician/team physician.

4. Travel Considerations

a. With the understanding that student-athletes will be traveling to away competitions for intercollegiate activity, the following protocols will be utilized to ensure the safety of our student-athletes:

1. Identify COVID-19 risk area or “hot spots” that a team may have scheduled competitions scheduled to travel to and determine if travel is appropriate.

2. No matter the means of transportation, use of a masks for all individuals should be used, regardless of vaccination level.

3. Overnight travel will be allowed at this time, however appropriate room accommodations must be implemented.

a. Room assignments for vaccinated individuals may be requested and honored.

b. Overnight travel is not guaranteed as a participating member of a team. The safety of personnel and incremental costs associated with unvaccinated individuals may restrict travel opportunity in some cases.

c. Social distancing is required in each hotel room.

5. Specific Protocols for Participants Receiving Medical Treatment (Non-COVID-19 Related)

a. Social distancing standards shall be consistent with the #FortifyFranklin Plan.

b. All unvaccinated student-athletes must wear a face covering at all times while in the training clinic.

c. Proper cleaning procedures, as outlined in Section 7, Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols, must be followed. The Head Athletic Trainer is responsible for ensuring these protocols are followed.

6. Specific Protocols for Participants During Athletic Strength and Conditioning Workouts

- a. The Franklin College weight room will be closed off to members of the community. The weight room facility will only be accessible by Franklin College students, faculty, and staff. A daily schedule will be posted outside of the weight room indicating closed practice sessions and general open hours.
- b. The maximum number of Participants may be limited in a given space if appropriate distancing is not possible for those Participants. The Strength and Conditioning Coach or Head Sport Coach responsible for the workout is responsible for ensuring these protocols are followed.
- c. Proper cleaning procedures, as outlined in Section 7, Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols, must be followed in workout facilities. The Strength and Conditioning Coach or Sport Coach in each space is responsible for ensuring these protocols are followed.
- d. Training session warmups/cooldowns will take place outside Spurlock (weather permitting) in parking lot or in gymnasium with ample distancing.

7. Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols: In order to promote the health and safety of the student-athletes and staff, the following cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be adopted.

- a. Cleaning stations
 - i. Multiple hand sanitizing stations are available across campus throughout each building
 - ii. EPA List N disinfectant mixing stations are available in every building on campus (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner).
- b. Athletic Training Room Specific Cleaning Protocols
 - i. Nightly – custodial staff
 1. Empty all trash and recyclables.
 2. Dust surfaces.
 3. Use an EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner) on door knobs/handles, push plates, door surfaces, key card swipes, light switches, telephones, computers, monitors, mouse, keyboards, sinks, soap/sanitizer dispensers.
 4. Clean floors and use EPA List N spray (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner) and let it set until dry in order to sanitize the floor.
 - ii. Daily, Athletic Trainers and Sports Medicine Staff will perform the following tasks:
 1. Disinfect any table that a student-athlete receives treatment on prior to its use by another student-athlete with an EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Maxi-wipe disinfectant wipe).
 2. Disinfect any equipment that a student-athlete uses prior to its use by another student-athlete with an EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Maxi-wipe disinfectant wipe).
 3. Provide any notes to the Custodial staff regarding cleaning issues.
- c. Weight Room Specific Cleaning Protocols
 - i. Nightly, the Custodial staff will perform the following tasks that will be signed off by a supervisor:
 1. Empty all trash and recyclables.
 2. Dust surfaces.
 3. Use an EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner) on door knobs/handles, push plates, door surfaces, key card swipes, light switches, telephones, computers, monitors, mouse, keyboards, sinks, soap/sanitizer dispensers.
 4. Clean floors and use EPA List N spray (i.e.) and let it set until dry in order to sanitize the floor.
 5. Spray an EPA List N approved spray (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner/Quick Defense) on all surfaces, including weight racks and equipment such as dumbbells, and let it set until dry in order to sanitize space.
 6. Check Cleaning Stations and refill stock as necessary.
 - ii. Daily, Strength and Conditioning Staff will perform the following tasks:

1. Disinfect in-use equipment during/after each training group finishes workouts utilizing an EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner/Quick Defense).
 2. Athletes will need to bring their own water bottle/towel and monitor them during training session.
 3. Masking policy will be dictated by the current #FortifyFranklin Plan. Unvaccinated athletes are required to wear masks in all indoor settings.
 4. Doors will be opened during sessions to increase airflow and limit touching of doors, etc.
- d. Practice Area and Equipment Specific Cleaning Protocols
- i. The use of EPA List N approved disinfectant for athletic equipment during the course of practice and games will be as follows:
 1. In practice and games when equipment and balls are being rotated throughout the event, EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Quick Defense) will be utilized due to the 1-3-minute dwell time.
 - a. Each team will need to determine a designated equipment cleaner and determine a rotation of when equipment can be cleaned during the course of a practice/game.
 2. Post practice and games when equipment has time to dry and sit for an extended period, EPA List N disinfectant (i.e. Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner) will be used due to the 10-minute dwell time, allowing overnight disinfecting to take place.

8. Testing Protocols for Tier 1 individuals

- a. Surveillance Testing
 - i. Unvaccinated student-athletes and other Tier 1 individuals that are not currently actively involved in a competition period of their season
 1. Student-athletes will be included in the general surveillance testing protocols of the institution. The need for testing will be based on level of community immunity, community spread, and local public health official recommendations.
 - ii. Vaccinated individuals do not require testing unless they become symptomatic, or based on a risk assessment of a documented close contact with COVID-19.
- b. Competition Season Testing
 - i. Unvaccinated student-athletes and other Tier 1 individuals that are participating in the competition portion of their season against outside competition (i.e., "In-season")
 1. Weekly PCR/NAAT testing or three times-a-week antigen testing when no competition is scheduled.
 2. PCR/NAAT test within three days of first competition of the week or antigen test within one day of each competition.
 - ii. Vaccinated individuals do not require testing unless symptomatic, or based on a risk assessment of a documented close contact with COVID-19.
- c. The cost of testing will first be billed to the student's or Tier 1 individual's insurance. If insurance coverage does not apply, the individual will bear financial responsibility for the cost of testing (unless the individual has an approved religious or medical exemption for the vaccine). The College does not accept responsibility for insufficient insurance coverage or disputes between third party testing laboratories and insurance claims.
- d. Game day personnel (Ball persons, chain gang, booth personnel, etc.)
 - i. Priority for all work assignments may be given to vaccinated individuals.
 - ii. Personnel will adhere to all campus policies.
 - iii. The college reserves the right to require proof of vaccination or a negative test prior to arrival and within 3 days of gameday. Any test will be at the expense of the individual unless previously agreed upon by the institution.