

Helena Youth Lacrosse Association
COVID statement and guidelines

As Covid-19 continues to affect our community more and more each day, keeping it away from our families is a tremendous challenge, yet one that HYL A and our Covid Task Force are taking very seriously.

We have maintained close communication with health officers at the Lewis and Clark County Health Department, as well as the Governor's office to gather the most current and prudent directives that impact Lacrosse and our community.

Like other Lacrosse programs throughout the state, HYL A players and families have been and will likely continue to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus. We have implemented plans and directives at the indoor pre-season practices and outdoor season with the intent minimize risk of exposure and keep our kids on the playing lacrosse. How we come together as an organization and community in finding solutions to mitigate outbreaks and deal with them when they occur will hopefully keep all of our kids playing lacrosse.

Together, and only together, we can play a role in ensuring our Covid policies are adhered to, masks are worn when required at all times, and also by letting our kids know that it's not their fault if their team can't practice or play a game due to Covid cases. As situations arise, parents are also free to keep their players at home out of an abundance of caution, and this does not affect their standing on a team.

As confusion may arise throughout the organization as to the "rules applied" for players or coaches testing positive or having direct or indirect exposure, the following is a reiteration of the protocols mandated by the L&C County Health Department and the directives we will continue to follow within HYL A:

1. A close contact is someone that shares a space less than six feet over the course of a 15-minute period (cumulative over 24 hours) with a person infected with Covid-19. That person now has a high likelihood of exposure to the virus and should quarantine immediately and be tested. Quarantine timelines are then established by your health care provider or by a contact tracer. If a person has had close contact with a known positive case, they may not participate in HYL A -related activities until such time as the affected individual(s) has been medically-cleared to resume activities.

Because contact tracing has become more intermittent, we suggest that the parents of a known positive case immediately contact anyone that may have been considered a close contact and consult with your own medical provider. Just because your son or daughter was "near" a positive case, or practiced with them, it does not necessarily make them a close contact. A person that has tested positive, will quarantine and generally be released by a health officer ten days after their initial onset of symptoms, so long as the last three of those ten days were symptom free.

2. A contact of a contact is someone that has had interaction with a close contact. People that have had this type of contact are not directed to get tested or self-quarantine.

HYLA has not and will not place a quarantine order on any one person or team. However, If HYLA feels as though a team needs to cease from playing for a period of time due to multiple cases, we have that discretion. This is not a quarantine, it's a pause in play on a case-by-case basis allowing parents and coaches to determine the severity of the issue.

HYLA will continue to follow state and county protocols in addressing these situations and we ask that anyone with questions or concerns to please contact any board member. Also, if anyone would like to help our organization better enforce our safety measures, please offer to volunteer.

For many of our players, lacrosse continues to be an important part of their physical and mental well-being, and the 2021 season will likely be one of the most unique seasons we will experience.

HYLA Board