



## UNITED PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

CHRISTOPHER BACHMEIER, SUPERINTENDENT

Burlington-Des Lacs Elementary  
301 Wallace, Burlington, ND 58722-2235  
Des Lacs-Burlington High School  
PO Box 117, Des Lacs, ND 58733-0117  
725-4334 (HS) – 725-4375 (FAX)  
839-7135 (E) – 838-1573 (FAX)

### DIRECTORS

Brenda Buri, President  
Brett Casavant, Vice President  
Josh Sundsbak, Director  
Chad Brown, Director  
Jayme Burkhart, Director  
Jody Askvig, Business Manager

Scott Medalen, High School Dean of Students/AD

Sue Kranz, Elementary Principal

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## United Public School District #7 Covid-19 Return to Play Protocols Fall 2020 Season

**Acknowledgment of Infection Risks:** The risk of COVID-19 transmission will still be present as school activities begin in August and likely through the 2020-2021 school year. Students and their families, along with school personnel, must recognize these risks and implement best practices to mitigate these risks. Participation in school activities is voluntary. Every individual must evaluate the risks versus the benefits of activity participation. Students and staff who are immunocompromised or who live with family members with elevated health concerns may choose not to participate this year, based on associated risks.

The primary means of COVID-19 transmission is through respiratory droplets and, potentially, through aerosolization. Risk mitigation strategies should be aimed at reducing the likelihood of a person's respiratory droplets encountering another person. Every school is different, and every activity is different. It is important to understand that certain mitigation strategies may be feasible in one school or for one activity, but not another.

### **Benefit of Sports/Activities:**

The physical and psychosocial benefits of education-based activity participation are numerous. Students who participate in school activities learn life lessons in an environment that cannot be duplicated. The academic achievements, social and leadership skills, as well as overall mental health, are known to be significantly enhanced in many students who participate in a school activity compared to those who do not. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in thousands of North Dakota students missing out on these life-shaping educational experiences over the past several months.

### **Schedules:**

Our schedules will look different this year. There have been cancellations and changes in times to games that have been scheduled.

- This fall, Des Lacs – Burlington will not participate in or host fall tournaments for indoor activities that do not relate to postseason play.
- Des Lacs – Burlington has moved the start time for all Junior High and Elementary School indoor contests to 4:30 and 5:30 start times to ensure that buildings are near empty.
- Des Lacs – Burlington has moved indoor contests to the largest gymnasium possible rather than playing in the old gym in Des Lacs.

### **Transportation/Road Trips:**

- Des Lacs – Burlington will continue to provide transportation after practice via the shuttle bus.
- Des Lacs – Burlington will continue to provide transportation to away games.
- Des Lacs – Burlington is highly recommending all participants to wear masks when riding the bus.
- Busses will be sanitized before and after each trip.
- Parents can bring their participant home from the event by filling out the transportation consent form as they have done in years past.
- Des Lacs – Burlington coaches will decide how to handle postgame meals based on individual program's needs or abilities.
  - If the individual program does have communal postgame meals, prepackaged and store-bought meals will be distributed to the players.
    - No peanut products are to be purchased or distributed to players at any time.
  - If the coach determines that communal food will not be available, individual players will be responsible for their own meals.
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### **Masks:**

- Des Lacs – Burlington coaches will wear a mask entering any indoor facility but may coach without wearing a mask.
- Des Lacs – Burlington players are strongly encouraged to wear a mask upon entering any indoor facility.
- Des Lacs – Burlington players may be required to wear a mask when entering schools at neighboring school districts. The host school will make this determination.
- Masks are optional for student-athletes during outdoor competitions and when on the sidelines.
- Masks are optional for student-athletes during indoor competitions and when on the sidelines.

### **Water:**

- All athletes, managers, and coaches must have their own water bottles labeled with the individual's name.
- Water bottles must not be shared between athletes, managers, and coaches.
- Hydration stations will only be used by team managers to fill individual water bottles. Team managers must wear gloves while filling water bottles.

### **Game Workers:**

- Table and Press Box workers will wear masks.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available at the scorer's table for workers, officials, and team personnel.

### **Ticketing**

- DL-B Activity passes will still be available at a reduced rate. and These passes may only be used during the fall season.
  - \$15 for Student Passes for home events.
  - \$55 for Adult Passes for home events
- Punch Passes will be sold as in the past and can be carried over to Winter Sports Season.
- Ticket takers will wear a mask and gloves.

## **Spectators**

- For outdoor events, there will be no minimum attendance guidelines
- For indoor events, when Governor Burgum declares we are in Green, individuals attending games will be limited to 75% capacity or 500 people (whichever is less).
  - Individuals attending games include participants, coaches, referees, and workers.
  - Based on previous years' attendance, crowds have not exceeded the numbers listed above, so we do not expect fans to be turned away.
- For indoor events, when Governor Burgum declares we are in Yellow, individuals attending the games will be limited to 50% capacity or 250 people (whichever is less).
  - Individuals attending games include participants, coaches, referees, and workers.
  - ONLY PARENTS of participants from both teams and HOME STUDENTS will be allowed as spectators when in Yellow.
- Des Lacs – Burlington 9-12 grade volleyball players will be issued two volleyball parent cards to be presented to ticket takers at home and away events for times that the State of North Dakota is determined by the Governor to be in Yellow.

## **Concessions**

- Will be served and will follow ND Smart Restart Guidelines

## **Live Streaming**

- Indoor contests for grade 9-12 contests will be streamed on YouTube Live.

**\*\*\* All the above plans may change as guidance changes\*\*\***