



**OISRA ALPINE DIVISION COVID-19 GUIDELINES**  
**Version 2**  
**(November 15, 2020)**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Summary of change</b>
Pods	OISRA recommends having pods for carpooling P. 6
Definition of “Close Contact”	In definition of “close contact,” the 15-minute exposure is now defined as being “cumulative within a 24 hr. period.” P. 3 and P. 6
Symptoms of COVID-19	Clarified primary and secondary symptoms, and suggest seeing a medical provider if have any other symptoms that are concerning you. P. 3

**OVERVIEW**

Covid-19 has presented the world with unprecedented challenges. Globally, we have been forced to learn to live with the virus until better treatments or a vaccine are developed.

We are lucky that skiing is a low-risk activity for virus transmission because it is an outdoor, no-contact sport. But gathering in groups to improve skiing skills adds some level of risk. This level of risk depends on how active the virus is in the local community. If there is community spread, then the risk of transmission cannot be zero.

But the risk can be minimized. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) sets up public health protocols to minimize community spread so that Oregon’s businesses, schools, and other activities can reopen safely. They have mandates for community actions, and they have metrics that measure the effectiveness of those community actions. Based on their data, the community spread in most counties is still too high to allow all schools and students to return to in-person instruction, but OHA does allow high school ski team activities to take place.

As an organization OISRA is obligated to follow the OHA-mandated requirements for our activities, just as businesses are required to follow OHA regulations for their activities.

In the big picture, the collective actions of the larger community determine if the community spread is low enough for OHA to continue allowing our ski team activities. Hopefully, the larger community is committed to doing their part.

OISRA is committed to controlling virus transmission within the smaller communities of our ski teams. These OISRA guidelines follow the OHA mandates and we are expecting compliance from coaches, students, families, and volunteers. We ask that everyone generally acts as if they are infected and take precautions, so they do not cause anyone else to become infected. The bottom line is that we all must protect each other as well as ourselves. These guidelines do not prevent leagues/teams from adopting even more strict or conservative approaches than those mandated by OHA or recommended by the OISRA Alpine Division.

If you are not willing to comply with these OISRA COVID-19 Guidelines, this may not be a season for you to join a ski team. You will be respectfully asked not to participate this season if you are violating these guidelines.

Our goal is to enjoy being outdoors together! We greatly appreciate your understanding and support to achieve this objective in spite of the unprecedented challenges!

## **REQUIREMENTS**

**This document is a living document. It will be updated and changed as we continue to learn more and whenever OHA and ODE change their information.**

**The governing authority that allows OISRA to offer skiing as a team sport during the pandemic is the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).** [The OHA October 15<sup>th</sup> directive](#) allows students on high school ski teams to do “training, conditioning and competition,” even though the students may be participating in long distance learning – because skiing is an outdoor, non-contact sport.

- OHA requirements will be followed:
  - Comply with applicable [Oregon Department of Education Guidance](#)
  - Discourage vulnerable people from attending OISRA activities
  - Ensure athletes and spectators wear a mask or face covering
  - Communicate guidelines to students, families, coaches, and volunteers
  - Promote good hygiene – wash hands (use sanitizer), avoid touching face (eyes, nose and mouth), and cough or sneeze into bent elbow or tissue
  - maintain physical distancing
  - observe gathering capacities
  - limit travel groups and enforce mask wearing in travel groups
- OHA recommendations will be followed:
  - Encourage athletes to bring own water and food
  - stagger arrival and departure times for larger groups
  - refrain from physical contact
  - minimize travel time
  - minimize spectators and people gathering
  - Assign physical distancing monitors at gatherings

**Repeat the message of 3 W's often.**

**Wear a mask  
Wash your hands  
Watch your distance**

**[Infographic to share](#)**

**DO IT ALL !!!**

## **OHA Public Health Protocols**

- Coaches will educate skiers/families/other coaches/volunteers when to STAY HOME to prevent spread of the virus.

- Educate everyone about the signs of COVID-19: **Primary symptoms:** shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, persistent new cough, fever of 100.4 F, chills, new loss of taste/smell; **secondary symptoms:** muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, undiagnosed rash or sores , diarrhea, and vomiting.
- **Coaches will emphasize: Do not come to a ski activity if you feel sick. *The symptoms listed above do not include all possible symptoms for when you should stay home when you do not feel well. Call your medical provider if you have other symptoms that are concerning you.***
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) requires people to quarantine for 14 days if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes, **cumulative during a 24 hr. period**) with a positive COVID-19 case.
- OISRA is requiring people to get a COVID-19 test after quarantine period or if having symptoms
  - If test is negative, must show coach WRITTEN proof of negative test and permission from physician to return to ski team activities.
  - If test is positive, must show coach WRITTEN permission from a physician to return to ski team activities (strenuous exercise).
- Teams will **screen** participants for all in-person gatherings – meetings, training and competitions. These attendance/screening records can be used for contact tracing. Include any family members, volunteers, and all coaches who are present at the event on these records.
  - Required to keep records for at least 4 weeks.
  - Required to include a column that shows you have assessed if people meet the health criteria for attending ski team. Recommend having a column for checking when students leave training, so all students are accounted for at any activity.
    - Optional column for recording temperature. Note that readings with non-contact infrared thermometers (NCIT) can be affected by the ambient environment and head coverings, making them less reliable in a situation where a person is bundled up and riding in a heated car.
  - Sample form for attendance records is [here](#).
- Coaches are required to remove someone from an activity if they show signs of becoming ill during the activity
  - If a skier, volunteer, coach, or spectator displays symptoms of COVID-19, they will be asked to leave the area of the activity. Give them a clean mask if they do not have one.
  - If a student is not able to drive themselves, their family will be contacted and the student will be isolated from the rest of the group until transportation can be arranged.
  - The family will be instructed to contact a healthcare provider for testing. The person should STAY HOME while the test results are pending.
    - If test is negative, must show coach WRITTEN proof of negative test and permission from physician to return to ski team activities.
    - If test is positive, must show coach WRITTEN permission from a physician to return to ski team activities.
- Coaches are required to inform Vulnerable Populations

- Vulnerable individuals are defined by CDC as people aged 65 and older and those with serious underlying conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions such as therapy.
- Coaches should tell vulnerable individuals that they are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and that NFHS (National Federation of High School Associations) recommends they do not oversee or participate in high school sports workouts.
- All participants are required to maintain Physical Distancing and follow Mask Wearing protocols
  - [OHA requires wearing a mask or face covering when participating in an outdoor sport when six \(6\) feet of distance cannot be maintained.](#)
  - OISRA does not allow students to wear face shields because of potential for injury during exercise.
  - CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that [gaiters have two layers.](#)
  - The face covering is meant to protect **other people** in case you are infected. People can spread COVID-19 to others even if they do not feel sick. Hand washing and physical distancing are the best ways to keep **yourself** safe. Wearing a mask can also protect the person wearing the mask.
  - Generally, OISRA requires everyone present at a ski team activity to wear a face covering, because at times it will be difficult to maintain the (6) foot distancing. Strive to practice physical distancing AND wear a mask. DO BOTH!
  - For dryland training,
    - It is **not recommended** to wear a mask when exercising strenuously. Masks get wet from exhaled breath and sweat during strenuous activity and subsequently may either restrict breathing or become ineffective as a filter.
    - For low-moderate exercising outdoors, masks do not have to be worn if a **minimum of 6 feet** distancing can be maintained.
    - For strenuous exercising (when it is not easy to talk) outdoors, athletes must be able to maintain a **minimum distance of 10 feet** when they are not wearing a mask.
  - For on-snow training and competitions, follow all venue pandemic rules, which will probably include
    - Athletes should wear their face coverings when not on course, but do not have to wear face coverings when on course.
    - Athletes and coaches should wear face coverings when in lift queues and when on the chairs
    - Athletes and coaches should maintain physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet at all times, including ticket queues and chairlift queues
      - It is recommended to be a single rider on a chairlift, or with teammates.
      - Recommend athletes and coaches limit sharing chairlifts with public people outside of your training group.
  - REMINDER: masks alone are insufficient to provide an adequate level of protection or source control. They should be used **in combination with** physical distancing and an emphasis on good hygiene practices: hand washing (or using hand sanitizer) and not

touching eyes, nose, or mouth. Coaches should **stress the three W's (WASH HANDS, WATCH DISTANCE, WEAR MASKS)** whenever they are talking about mask-wearing, so others do not get a false sense of security from wearing a mask. Mask wearing is only **ONE PART OF THE PACKAGE** of what needs to be done to minimize transmission.

- Everyone should carry extra masks so they can change them if they get wet or soiled. Coaches should have extra masks in case someone forgets their mask.
- Cloth masks must be washed after each use.
  - Physical distance monitors (parent volunteers) can help coaches enforce the physical distance mandate, especially in areas where people may tend to crowd, such as lining up to check in or to go to the restroom.
  - Coaches may want to use a bullhorn or other voice amplification system while wearing a face covering, allowing more distance between them and their athletes and helping their voice carry when athletes are spread out physically distancing.
- Coaches are required to enforce good Hygiene practices: hand washing, avoid touching face (eyes, nose, and mouth), and practice respiratory etiquette
  - Students will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
    - at the beginning of any in-person meeting, training, or competition
    - after any in-person meeting, training, or competition, before leaving the premise
    - before and after using a restroom or porta-potty
    - before putting on a mask and before eating
    - after they touch surfaces that have been touched by the public
  - Students will be reminded not to touch their face, even when wearing gloves
  - Students will be reminded to cough into a bent elbow or tissue.
- To the extent possible, coaches should discourage personal contact
  - All participants and athletes should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps and group celebrations
- All participants are required to follow OHA Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines
  - Every effort will be made to avoid having any objects that more than one person would touch.
    - Each skier is responsible for their own equipment and handles only their own equipment.
    - Each skier brings their own water and food.
    - Each skier brings their own hand sanitizer
    - Sanitize shared equipment between uses
    - All screening/attendance records will be handled and stored by only the person taking attendance or dropped in a plastic bag that can be sealed for transport to another person for storage.
  - Any timing equipment should be sanitized when handled by more than one person.
  - Sanitizing supplies will be available near restrooms and porta potties, and students can clean surfaces they come in contact with.

- Events are required to be organized according to OHA Gathering Capacity Limitations
  - Ski venues will have gathering capacity limits for events, which include the total number of coaches, racers, race help and volunteers. **OISRA teams will follow the ski venues' regulations for gathering capacity, their parking rules, and other pandemic rules and regulations.**
  - Coaches will have a plan to limit the number of people at any gathering. Discourage non-essential people from crowding/gathering in small groups.
- All participants are required to follow OHA Travel Guidelines
  - OHA requires limiting exposure to those outside the household unit during travel
  - For travel groups that include more than one household in the same vehicle, all members of the travel group, including the driver, must wear a mask or face covering and spread out as much as possible within the vehicle (minimum of three (3) feet required between passengers not in the same household).
  - Limit travel groups to those who have been in regular contact (e.g. team members). Members of different teams should not travel in the same vehicle.
  - Document the names of each travel group(s) and staff including the driver, along with the date and time of the trip and the vehicle number/license. Drivers should store these records.
  - Allow drivers to transport multiple travel groups if wearing a mask and sanitizing hands before and after each driving each group. Vehicles must be cleaned between each group following [transportation guidelines](#).
- NFHS recommends Cohorting for students who train together
  - NFHS recommends setting up pods of 5-10 students who train together.
  - Coach must minimize interaction between students in separate pods.
  - Helper coaches should be assigned to the same pod for every practice/time trial.
  - Coach must also pay attention to their personal health protocols (physical distancing and hand hygiene) when they interact with students in separate pods.
- ***OISRA recommends Cohorting for students who carpool together***
  - ***Pods for students who train together are difficult to enforce and a well-organized outdoor activity that keeps students physically spaced more than 6 feet apart and wearing masks does not place students in a situation where they are in CLOSE CONTACT with someone who has an infection.***
  - ***CLOSE CONTACT is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person, with or without a mask, for more than 15 minutes (accumulated during a 24 hr. period of time)***
  - ***Pods are most effective if they are applied to carpooling situations where students are in an indoor, closed space and closer than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes.***
  - ***Pods for carpooling are important as a preventative measure for stopping transmission of the virus.***
  - ***Information about carpooling pods is the type of information that would be important for contact tracers to have.***

#### **OISRA-specific rules**

- OISRA Alpine Division Activities will be held outdoors
  - All OISRA Alpine practices will be held outdoors or by Zoom (for dryland practices)

- All OISRA Alpine meetings will be held outdoors or by Zoom
- Cars will be used for shelter, instead of lodges.
- Students will be discouraged from hanging around in groups before or after ski team activities.
- OISRA Rules for Returning to Activity after a COVID-19 Infection
  - An athlete with COVID-19 must be cleared by their primary care provider prior to returning to ski team activities. A primary care provider must give them written permission to return to STRENUOUS EXERCISE.
  - No exercise is recommended for 14 days from diagnosis and 7 days after all symptoms have resolved.
  - Returning to activity should be in phases, with athlete being monitored for symptoms of dizziness, difficulty breathing, chest pain/pressure, decreased exercise tolerance, fainting.:
    - Phase 1: At least two sessions of light aerobic activity (up to 70% maximum heart rate) for up to 15 minutes. Sessions should be at least 24 hours apart. Activities may include brisk walking, light jogging or using a stationary bike. No strength training.
    - Phase 2: At least one session of aerobic exercise (up to 80% maximum heart rate) for up to 30 minutes. Simple movement activities such as running drills may be added to increase level of difficulty. No strength training.
    - Phase 3: At least one session of exercise (up to 80% maximum heart rate) for up to 45 minutes. May add some simple sport specific activities and strength training to increase level of difficulty.
    - Phase 4: At least two sessions of sport specific training (up to 80% maximum heart rate) for up to 60 minutes. Sessions must be at least 24 hours apart.
    - Phase 5: Resume normal training activities and duration for at least one session.
    - Phase 6: Return to competition with no restrictions.
- Reminders for OISRA pre-season requirements during the pandemic
  - Coaches must have registered online, and completed all required training courses before working with students – a COVID-19 release waiver is included in this registration
  - Students must have met the requirements for a sports physical before participating – a COVID-19 release waiver is included in the online registration.