

Q and A for contest and practice this coming season..please see the guidance on the web site for more info .. watch the video from Nov 11th for more answers to questions. Most of the questions are answered in the guidance and in the video. We will add more answers here as we move into the contest season in January.

1. Our school has gone to 100% virtual can we still practice or have debate meets? YES, but it must all be done in the virtual format. You can continue to practice in virtual and have debate competition in virtual. If you are 100% for school there can be no in person live contact for speech, theatre, and debate. Please see DOE ruling below.

August 14, 2020

Department of Education Issues: "Reopening and Public Health Frequently Asked Questions"

If our district or nonpublic school moves to 100% online or remote learning can we still offer extracurricular activities?

All in-person activities and practices would need to be suspended during the period of 100% remote learning. Offering in-person activities would be incompatible with the goal of mitigating higher rates of virus transmission. Extracurricular activities could still be conducted virtually.

If a family chooses 100% online or remote learning is the student still eligible for extracurricular activities?

Any otherwise eligible student remains academically eligible. A district may, at their discretion, determine that a request to participate in in-person extracurricular activities is inconsistent with the claim that the student could not attend school in-person.

2. Does our school decide how we are going to do contest this year or do I find that out from the State Office or Contest Manager? Your school makes that decision on how to run contest this year. Please see the guidance on the web site for your options.
3. How do I find a judge for our contest? Contact your contest manager they will have a listing or contact the state office for a listing of judges that can be used at your contest.
4. Can a judge be a novice or from our home town and judge our school this year? Yes, however they must have IHSSA certification this year.
5. Guidance on Governor Reynolds' Public Health Proclamation on January 7, 2021 included the following measures for junior high and high school sports/activities, effective Friday, January 8 at 12:01 a.m. through at 11:59 p.m. on February 6, 2021.

The proclamation language removed the spectator restrictions with regard to who can attend and the numbers allowed. There are no limits per participant, coach, performer, etc. The total number of spectators allowed is up to schools, based on what the facility's capacity is and the social distancing requirements.

The provisions on social distancing and masks are under section 6 of the proclamation:

Section 6

B. Sporting and recreational gatherings: Except for collegiate or professional sporting or recreational gatherings, all sporting and recreational gatherings, including sporting, recreational and other extracurricular gatherings sponsored by a high school, must comply with the following requirements:

(1) **Social Distancing Required:** The gathering organizer and all spectators must ensure at least six feet of physical distance between each group of spectators.”

(2) **Masks Required:** Although athletes or student participants are not required to wear a mask while participating in a gathering, all other participants and spectators over the age of two shall wear a mask or other face covering for all gatherings

Q. Are schools required to allow more spectators or may they follow previous plans of household members for each participant?

A. Schools can determine their spectator limits. Any guidelines more restrictive (fewer than the proclamation allows) are permissible. Schools/conferences may continue with their spectator plans based on the more restrictive guidelines in the December 16 proclamation if they desire.

Q. Are schools required to enforce social distancing for spectators?

A. The proclamation directly states: "the gathering organizer....must ensure" that there is six feet of social distancing between each group of spectators. A school is considered the gathering organization.

Q. Do social distancing and masks requirements in this proclamation apply to speech and music activities?

A. Yes, music and speech events must comply with the social distancing and masks requirements listed above.