

Diné College Athletics

COVID – 19 Pandemic

Policy and Procedure



Policy Statement

The Athletics Department contends to address the impact that COVID-19 is having on athletic operations. It is our responsibility to identify and implement practices that will minimize the health risks associated with resuming of Physical Sports Activity in Spring 2022 Semester, while continuing to maintain positive student athlete outcomes. Our considerations are beyond the current threat imposed by COVID-19 and focus on an overall approach to proper manage all illnesses, viruses, and infectious diseases that affect our Diné People.

Reason for Policy

Diné College has a responsibility to the student athletes in providing a safe environment. The purpose of this policy is to allow for the safe and efficient athletic department operations. Students will be returning in Spring 2022 to practice and compete, this policy will outline guidance and procedures for students to abide while participating in extracurricular activities.

The Athletics department will be guided by these procedures that will be implemented and followed for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, recommendations from the National and State governing bodies, these guidelines may change at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Vice President of Student Affairs guided by the Incident Command Center (ICC)

This policy works within the following parameters:

1. Center for Disease Control (CDC)
2. United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA)
3. National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA)
4. USA Archery (USAA)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness (see list of symptoms) caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Here is what we currently know:

- The way the virus spreads is mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets when people cough, sneeze, or talk.
- You may also be able to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- The virus may be spread by people who are not experiencing symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html> (Updated January 14, 2022)

Procedures

In accordance with national, state, and college guidelines, all student-athletes will have their first COVID-19 Vaccination before beginning practice for Spring 2022. Continuing student athletes from fall 2021 semester are highly encouraged to obtain the Booster Shot. Updated vaccination cards need to be submitted to ICC for verification and approval.

If a student-athlete does not have their COVID-19 Vaccination, they are not eligible to participate in Sports (i.e. Practice, Team Meetings, and Competitions).

Diné College promotes vaccination to help increase the proportion of students, faculty and staff that are vaccinated to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent interruptions to in-person learning. *Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from COVID-19 disease and to end the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Some students or staff might not be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine due to health care access and lack of knowledge of COVID-19 Vaccine. Athletics Department will work with local clinics to get student-athletes and staff vaccinated.

Athletics department requires vaccination before any participation; however, we will require the following:

- Wearing a Mask (N95 Masks or surgical Masks, Absolutely NO cloth masks)
- Social Distancing
- Proper Hand washing / Hand sanitizer use
- Cleaning, Improving, ventilation, and maintain healthy facilities.
- Daily Symptom Screening

Mandatory Masks

Diné College still has a mandate for all students / staff / faculty to wear N95/KN95 facemasks regardless if you have your vaccine or under medical accommodation approved by DHR (Update January 13, 2022). This is to continue protecting our at-risk population. CDC has lifted some restrictions to mask mandate in the United States, however, Diné College will continue to enforce mask mandate among those coming on-site to ensure a safe environment. Any travel will require only the use of N95/KN95 Masks only no exceptions.

Travel

Only fully vaccinated student-athletes and staff are eligible to travel, approval will come from Athletic Director, in Compliance with Navajo Nation, Indian Health Services, and CDC guidelines.

- Five Day self-quarantine will be implemented for all Staff and Student Athlete travelers.
 - Staff and Student Athletes are encouraged to self-monitor in accordance with CDC guidelines.

- All travelers will need to submit to Athletic Director a Negative Test three (3) days prior to trip.
 - Athletic Department will have some home test kits on hand for travelers
 - Local Indian Health Care centers also have rapid test, Results need to reach the Athletic Director's office before Trip.
- Day of trip, the Athletic Director will verify that each Student Athlete is not experiencing symptoms. (Temperature Checks and Student Self-Monitoring reporting)
- The coach will carry extra gloves, N95 Masks, and sanitizers at all times.
- Student Athletes will receive enough face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer for duration of the trip. Items will be pre packed in a zip lock bag.
- All students and staff on travel must wear a N95/ KN95 facemask at all times.
- Hotel sanitization ratings will be checked before any reservations with any hotel.
- Limited 2 Student Athletes per hotel room.
- Student Athletes and Coaches must wipe down all touching points in hotel prior to unpacking (ie. Light switches, doorknobs, drawers, TV Remote, Outlet covers, etc.
- Throughout the trip, all participants must wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Coach will constantly remind student athletes.
- Pre-Ordering meals for quick pick up is encouraged. No dine-in restaurants, to avoid large groups.
- All travelers will be required to quarantine for five (5) days after each trip.
- Mandatory to conduct an At-Home test or Indian Health Service COVID-19 test two (2) business days after each trip.
 - Results need to reach the Athletic Directors office as soon as possible.
 - At-Home Test kits are available at the Athletics Office
 - Negative Tests, you may exit self-quarantine and may return to daily activities

Training

Practice Session, coaches, must follow college guidelines regarding social distancing and maximum number of people in or on a facility. This may require coaches to plan several practice sessions to accommodate all their student-athletes. It is the responsibility of the coach to communicate training session times, locations, or changes with the athletic team and staff.

Practice Plans

Coaches are required to submit practice plans to Athletic Director for approval. The plans will be checked to ensure that the plan appropriately follows the guidelines of this policy. All Student Athletes must abide by the guidelines and policy set forth by the Coach.

If a team member tests COVID 19 Positive and has been in physical contact with the team, Practice and Competitions will be put on hold. All team members will be required to get a COVID 19 Test, Practice and Competitions schedule may resume until all team members show a COVID 19 Negative Test. Results will be clarified by Athletic Director and Incident Command Center.

Competition

Each institution will be setting their own guidelines for competition days. It is our responsibility to take extra precaution and ensure we have a safe and fun experience during these competitions.

- Social Distancing is highly encouraged
- Mandatory N95/KN95 Masks only, No cloth masks
- Constant use of hand sanitizer

Daily Contact Screening

All Staff and Student Athletes will be screened daily when showing up for practice or competition.

Ensure you have your 1. College ID Badge 2. C-19 Clearance Sticker on your badge (Second C-19 Sticker for Booster Shots), 3. Know your Diné College ID number. These are required for coming on site. Other than staff and Student-Athletes, no one else will be allowed onsite for practice sessions.

C-19 Clearance Sticker

Diné College has made it mandatory for those working on-site to have their COVID-19 Vaccination and to have the C-19 Sticker visibly shown on your College ID Badge.

In order to obtain your C-19 Clearance Sticker

- you must visit a Screening Station
- present your COVID-19 Vaccination dose card
- an orange C-19 Clearance sticker will be placed on your badge.
- Screeners will submit a photocopy of your vaccination card for verification.
- Second C-19 Stickers will be issued for verified Booster shots.