



Dear Parents/Guardians of New Norway students,,

RE: Update Regarding School Athletics and Vaccinations

As you read in correspondence shared from the Division last week, at the request of Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services, BRSD has temporarily introduced "COVID-19 Hazard Control" measures. The intent is to help protect the health and safety of students and staff in schools while Alberta works to get through yet another wave of COVID 19.

Effective Monday, November 1st, all staff, parents/guardians, facility user groups, visiting sports teams (please note: student athletes are exempt from this), officials, spectators, and anyone else that wishes to enter the school will be required to provide either proof of vaccination or a negative rapid test result dated within 72 hours, as a condition of entry to the school building or interacting with students. You can read the entire Administrative Procedure 451 - Covid 19 Hazard Control on the website: <https://www.brsd.ab.ca/download/369275>.

We, at New Norway, have made it a priority to ensure school athletics remain strong and are making sure our extra-curricular activities continue to operate within a safe environment. However, we also understand the importance of continuing to include our parents/guardians in our school culture. From what I've been told we are the only school in our region that has never denied access by allowing fans into every match that has been played in our school. Additionally, every match has been live-streamed. We are presently changing the method of our live stream from a Google Meet to our YouTube channel to give parents, grandparents, and the community easier access to watch our teams play. Finally we have previously sent out a letter to parents regarding our school's athletics covid policy. We will continue to do our best to make sure all of our home games continue to be live streamed so that you can cheer our teams on from the comfort of your homes and invite other friends and family members to do the same. This link will be shared with our coaches (to distribute to parents) and displayed on our social media pages as well as our YouTube channel.

To follow the new policy from BRSD...

If you want to watch the games in person, please note the following safety protocols:

- All parents/guardians (fans), coaches, team personnel, and officials that enter the building must present their vaccination record or a negative rapid test result dated within 72 hours prior. There will be a window of time (30 min prior to the start of each game and 15 min. after the start for both girls and boys teams) in which the north school entrance closest to the gym entrance will be unlocked and a staff member will be checking these records. For the first game only parents of the first team to play (usually girls) will be allowed in the gym. Once the girls game is over the girls' parents will be required to leave out the west gym exit. Once that group of parents have exited the north gym entrance will be opened to allow fans for the next game in. At that time the gym supervisor will again check records. After the outlined time, admittance into the school will no longer be allowed and you will have to view the game via livestream.

- A **Maximum of 2 Parents** per athlete may attend. We do not have the space to accommodate friends or grandparents.
- Masks must be worn by all visitors at all times. In addition we are no longer allowing drinks, other than water, to be consumed in the gym. We have found in our hosting that some parents (mainly from other schools) have flouted this rule by holding a drink as a reason to have their mask off for prolonged periods of time. If drinking water please take a drink and immediately place your mask correctly again.
- Members from different households will be required to be seated 2m apart from each other. Members within the same household can sit next to each other.
- Immediately following your student's game we would ask that visitors exit the school in a timely manner (within 5 minutes) so the next group can be allowed access and records checked.
- At this time we will continue to offer fans in-person attendance to **ALL** games (including tournaments and league games) in our gym. The exception will be before 2:40pm on Thursday, November 4th (because our students are still in school) at the Junior High Boys Division 3 Playoff tournament. We will also continue to live stream all games.

We hope that adherence to these safety protocols will allow us to continue to invite spectators to attend different live events in our school, so we thank you in advance for your cooperation around this and continued patience.

If you have any questions or concerns around this, please make sure to reach out directly to myself or New Norway School Administration.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Brent Anderson

Athletic Director, New Norway Spartan Athletics