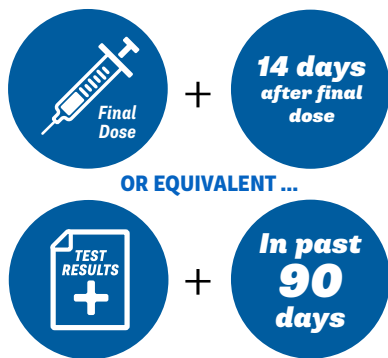


# COVID-19 and Fall Sports Participation

COVID-19 infection rates have spiked recently, driven by the highly transmissible delta variant.

COVID-19 vaccination is the most effective way to achieve control of the pandemic. Data indicates that the vaccines authorized in the U.S. offer high levels of protection against severe illness and death from the delta variant and other circulating variants of the virus.

## “Fully vaccinated” individuals



A person is considered “fully vaccinated” beginning 14 days after their final dose of a vaccine currently available in the United States through [FDA emergency use authorization](#), or vaccines that are approved as part of the [WHO emergency use listing](#).

The equivalent of “fully vaccinated” is a documented COVID-19 infection in the past 90 days (or more, if allowed by local authorities).

Unvaccinated people and individuals with certain medical conditions remain at substantial risk for infection, severe illness and death, especially in areas where the level of community transmission is high.

Given the rapidly evolving COVID-19 landscape, many COVID-19 prevention and management strategies are being developed at school and community levels in connection with federal, state and local public health guidance.

Because vaccination against COVID-19 can result in personal health benefits for vaccinated individuals and because the risks of adverse outcomes with COVID-19 infection are higher in unvaccinated individuals, different requirements for fall sports participation may apply to fully vaccinated and unvaccinated student-athletes. For example:

## Possible requirements for unvaccinated individuals

- **Schools may require COVID-19 testing of all unvaccinated student-athletes** upon their arrival to campus and regularly throughout the semester, while fully vaccinated students could be exempt from testing if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms or have not come in close contact with someone infected.
- **Schools may require all unvaccinated student-athletes to wear masks and stay physically distant** during team meetings and meals, while requiring fully vaccinated students to wear masks only during certain team activities held indoors.



## Resources



As requirements for fall sports will vary among schools, contact campus administrators for local COVID-19 updates. For information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about vaccines, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>. For more on how the NCAA is supporting student-athletes and their schools during COVID-19, visit <https://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-coronavirus> and check out the NCAA Social Series episode “[Vaccines & Fall Sports](#).”