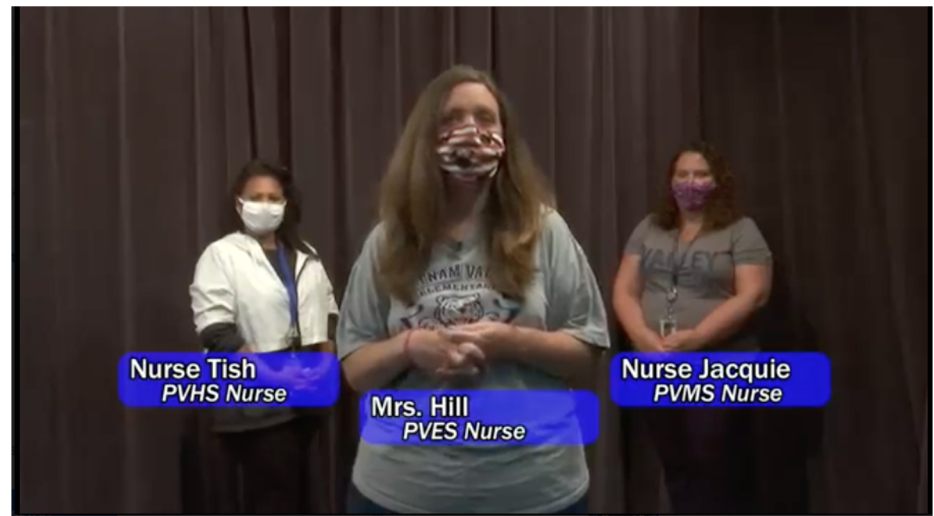




Putnam Valley Return to
Interscholastic Athletics



Thank you Nurses!



First I would like to thank our school nurses who have been incredible throughout this reopening process. It has been challenge after challenge and as stressed as they are about trying to keep our students and staff safe they have buckled down and done an incredible job supporting the schools and administration. They really deserve a tremendous amount of credit for making this all possible.

NYSDOH

Lower risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:

Greatest ability to maintain physical distance and/or be performed individually

Greatest ability to 1) avoid touching of shared equipment 2) clean and disinfect any equipment between uses by different individuals 3) not use shared equipment at all

Moderate risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:

Limited ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually

Limited ability to 1) avoid touching of shared equipment 2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals 3) not use shared equipment at all

Higher risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:

Least ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually

Least ability to 1) avoid touching of shared equipment 2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals 3) not use shared equipment at all

PVHS Return to Interscholastic Athletics Plan

We have developed protocols and procedures based on guidance outlined by the NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Education, Section 1, and the NYSPHSAA. We have consulted our district physician as well as other school districts in our region. And, while our document focuses primarily on the fall program, it sets the stage for how we will also approach the winter and spring seasons.

The teams we are addressing in the immediate term are as follows:

- Girls Varsity Soccer
- Girls and Boys Varsity Cross Country
- Varsity Field Hockey
- Boys Varsity Soccer

Athletics

There is an inherent risk of injury when one chooses to participate in interscholastic athletics. Additionally, in the current COVID-19 environment contact between individuals during practice and play is unavoidable. During this time, these activities pose a greater potential for transference of pathogens. To reduce the incidence of pathogen transfer during all sporting events, safeguards will be implemented to better protect athletes, staff and spectators during practice sessions, meetings and contests.

Personnel

- Coaches and support staff will be subject to all health directives established by the district.

Social Distance

- A distance of 6 feet will try to be maintained at all times. This distance will be waived during competitions and certain practice drills where it cannot be met.

Face Covering Expectations

- Face covers are required for all students, parents, coaches, officials, chaperones, timekeepers, trainers, and community members who enter campus for interscholastic athletics (even when participation is outdoors) and must remain on until they leave campus.
- Student athletes are always to wear masks during practice and games. If a mask break is needed there will be designated spaces for that purpose. Athletes must be conditioned to play with masks on. If they are going to cheer from the sideline they must have their mask on. During game play the student must have their mask on. If they cannot tolerate the mask they are to move to the designated area for mask breaks.
- Coaches are always to wear their masks at practices and games. No exceptions.

Practice

- Coaches should derive a method to congratulate teammates and opponents that do not require direct contact. Example: snaps, clapping it up, verbal cheers
- Equipment should be assigned to one person for the duration of the season whenever possible.
- Coaches should look to minimize or eliminate sharing of equipment.
- Hand sanitizing/hand washing should be part of the practice plan. Hand washing/sanitizing should include a proper sanitizing agent.
- Student athletes should be reminded to exercise discipline in making sure they do not touch their own face throughout practice.
- Students should bring their personal mask that they would use during the school day. A spare is recommended. Masks will be available if a student needs one for the day.

Student athletes physically in school:

- At the end of the school day, student athletes should report to the PVHS gym. Each team will have a designated bleacher that they can social distance with masks on. There will be monitors in the gym that will allow students to change one at a time in the athletic hall bathrooms.
- Students will be gathered by their coach and brought to the practice space/game space.

Student athletes learning remotely:

- Students that are virtual for the day should also come to campus fully prepared to practice. ***They must fill out the screening tool prior to arrival on campus.***
- Practice/Home games: They should report to the designated field.
- Away Games: They shall wait in front of the school for their teams to exit the school for the bus.

Water

- All athletes are responsible for bringing their own marked water bottle to practice and games. If refills are necessary, there will be a designated filling station at the concession stand.

Arrival for practice and home games

- Students physically in school should come to school prepared to go to practice.

Equipment

- We will try and limit the sharing of equipment to the best of our abilities. If possible, students will be provided a numbered piece of equipment that they and they alone will use.
- After practice/games: Equipment will be wiped down or sprayed by the student athletes and coaches using school approved products.

Bathroom facilities

- The bathroom facilities that will be open during practices/games will be the ones located in the concession stand. There are portable toilets available at the end of the bleacher as well. Prior to practice the bathrooms across from the PVHS gymnasium will be available.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned prior to 3:15pm and at days end or early in the morning the next day.

Inclement weather

- In the event of inclement weather: severe rain, thunder, lightning etc. teams will be directed back to the PVHS gym. Practices will now be concluded and student athletes are to exit from those spaces when their rides arrive. Students are not to move throughout the building. They need to remain in the gym with their coaches.

Athletic trainer

- Our ATC will work out of the athletic training office as well as the turf/backfield sideline. The ATC will have authority in the decision for a student to practice/compete or not based upon their professional judgement and the use of any medical equipment available to them (infrared temperature scanning devices etc.). Any such decision will be immediately shared with the student athletes coach, parents and the Athletic Director.

Transportation

- The district will provide transportation to away contests in accordance with the BOE bus policy.
- Parents/guardians may transport their own child home regardless of whether they can watch the game or not in accordance with the district/section 1 spectator rules. Prior permission through the FamilyID registration platform is required.

Competitions

- Competitions will be conducted in accordance with the NYSPHSAA return to play document and additional guidance is provided from Section 1 Athletics.

Spectators

- Section 1 Executive Committee approved two home fans per home team player only. There are to be no away fans at any contest until further notice.
- Approved site supervisors will monitor and ensure 6 feet compliance and spectator seating requirements.
- Spectator masks are required if 6 feet of social distancing cannot be met or maintained.

7-Day Rule and Added Practices for Eligibility

On October 12th the 7-day rule will be waived for the Fall 1 Season. We are recommending to our coaches that they do not go 7 days in a row for safety purposes. It will allow us flexibility as the season progresses to practice on Sunday or give a day off in other key places.

Section 1 implemented a 10 practice rule for all Fall 1 Sports since coaches were not allowed to interact with players prior to the season start date. With the long layoff it was thought that extra time to gain fitness

High Risk Practices

At this time there are no high risk athletics allowed. No practicing or contact with the athletes. This will continually be re-evaluated by the Executive Committee. Next meeting is October 26th.

Current Participation

Field Hockey: 24 Student Athletes

Girls and Boys Cross Country: 22 Student Athletes

Girls Soccer: 27 Student Athletes

Boys Soccer: 25 Student Athletes

Future Seasons.....currently

Winter: November 30th - January, No high risk contests until Dec. 31st. It will be re-evaluated by State Officials by Dec. 31. Section 1 is urging them to give guidance ahead of time.

Fall 2: March(End February) - May 1, Competitive Cheerleading, Football, Volleyball

Spring: May - June

There may be slight overlaps but you may rollover 3 practices for all sports with the exception of baseball which may roll over 4 practices.

Questions?