



## 2021-22 Athletics Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

*Effective September 7, 2021*

### **Introduction**

Villa Maria College places the highest regard on the health and safety of our student athletes. The College will permit athletic activity with safety precautions in place following local, state, federal, and athletic association guidance.

All aspects of the College's Coronavirus Response Policy and Procedures apply to athletic activity. The details of the College's response to the Coronavirus can be found here: <https://villa.edu/coronavirus>. The following is additional information, policy, and procedure related to Athletic activity.

- Acknowledgement of risk
  - Student athletes will be asked to sign a document acknowledging the risks associated with athletics during a public health crisis (i.e., that, irrespective of the safety measures that the College puts in place, COVID is an infectious disease, and no measures can entirely eliminate the risk of contagion).
  - The document can be found here: [Athletic Assumption of Risk.docx](#)
- Vaccination
  - Student athletes are required to be vaccinated by October 1, 2021.
    - Students can apply for a medical or religious exemption in writing. The form can be obtained from the Director of Athletics.
    - Exemptions will be considered by the Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, and VPOMO.
  - Discuss: Full and part-time athletic staff are required to be vaccinated
    - Athletic staff can apply for a medical or religious exemption in writing.
    - Exemptions will be considered by the Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, Director of Human Resources, and VPOMO.
- Testing program
  - Vaccinated Individuals
    - A Vaccinated and asymptomatic person does not need to test unless the opponent or league requires it.
    - Vaccinated and symptomatic individuals
      - Fill out health screening form <https://www.villa.edu/screening/> and follow the plan established by the contact tracing team.
  - Unvaccinated Individuals
    - Only unvaccinated individuals who received an approved exemption are allowed to participate in athletic activity.
    - Unvaccinated student athletes and unvaccinated athletic staff are required to test no more than 24 hours before any contest or team travel activity.

- The College will use the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card for rapid diagnostic testing. The College's team doctor will oversee the testing program. The Head Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director will facilitate the testing on a regular basis under the direction of the team doctor.
- Health screening
  - Only individuals who are feeling sick or who are positive for Covid-19 should complete the health screening form on-line. This form should be completed on-line before entering a campus building and can be accessed here: <https://www.villa.edu/screening/>
- Masks
  - Everyone is required to wear a mask inside while on campus. This applies to all people, vaccinated or unvaccinated. The following exceptions are in place:
    - If you are eating in the dining hall or at a designated College-sponsored event.
    - If you are working alone in an individual office or other work setting.
    - If you are teaching and are at least 6 feet away from other individuals or behind a protective barrier.
    - If you are a student-athlete in the act of competing in-doors. Athletes on the sidelines should still wear a mask while not in the act of competition.
- Quarantine
  - All individuals will follow the College's quarantine policy: <https://www.villa.edu/coronavirus>
  - For Vaccinated Individuals
    - The following quarantine, isolation and travel policies are in place for vaccinated individuals:
    - Vaccinated individuals who have come in contact with someone who is positive do not have to quarantine or test following a known exposure if they are asymptomatic. There is still a chance you could develop symptoms or transmit COVID-19, even with the vaccine.
    - Vaccinated individuals who develop symptoms after a known exposure need to stay home and contact the College through the daily health screening form to develop their return plan.
    - Under the direction of the Contact Tracing team, fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and are symptomatic should get tested 3-5 days after exposure and will likely need to isolate. If they receive a negative test, then a plan to return to campus will be made.
    - Isolation – You may still test positive after an exposure to COVID-19 even after you are fully vaccinated. If you do test positive, you will be asked to isolate in accordance with College policy.
    - Travel – Fully vaccinated individuals can travel domestically and internationally and do not have to quarantine or test in order to return to the college.
      - These scenarios, outlined above, are Villa Maria College specific. If you are vaccinated, your information will not be passed along to the Erie County Department of Health for additional contact tracing unless you have received a positive test result.
      - The CDC policy (regarding fully vaccinated individuals can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> Here is guidance as of July 27th:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

- For Unvaccinated Individuals
  - If an unvaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19, that person may only return to the College after isolating for at least 10-days after the onset of illness, have no fever for 24-hours without using fever-reducing medication, and report that their symptoms are improving. The College may have to report positive cases to local health officials.
  - The college tracing team will continue to follow established quarantine policies for unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19, including a 10 day quarantine period and remote accommodations. If you are unvaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 or contacted by a contact tracer, please fill out the daily screener form here: <https://www.villa.edu/screening/>
- Site Safety Monitor
  - The Athletic Director is the site safety monitor who is responsible for compliance with all aspects of these policies and procedures intended for the safety of Athletic staff and student-athletes.