



ORCHARD VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE
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Sports Forms Tips

Dear Parents,

In order to ensure the quickest approval results from the district physician, please follow these helpful tips before submitting your sports physical paperwork. Please be sure that:

- A Health History Update Questionnaire (HHQ) is completed **if the date of the physical is more than 90 days prior to the start of the sport, tryouts, or practices**. If you checked “yes” for CoVid +, please add the date your child tested positive. If your child tested positive for CoVid AFTER the date of the physical exam, they will need a clearance note to return to sports.
- Any new health problems identified on the HHQ have a clearance letter from your physician, especially orthopedic/muscular injuries, concussion, or cardiac problems
- If your child has asthma/anaphylaxis, an asthma/allergy action plan is attached
- **You and your child** have read and signed the Sudden Cardiac Death information sheet

*** Please remember that physicals are valid for exactly one calendar year (365 days) from the **date of exam**.

Sports Physical Deadlines

Fall – June 15th

Winter – November 1st

Spring – February 1st

Please be advised that there is a 10 – 14 day turn-around time for approvals. No athlete will be allowed to participate/tryout until ALL paperwork has been completed, submitted to the school nurse, and approved by the district physician. Approval to participate is not guaranteed if documents are received after these dates.

These documents must be thorough and complete in order for the district physician to approve your child for sports participation. The school nurse is not permitted to make any additions or changes to these documents. Incomplete forms will be returned home and will delay your child’s ability to participate in their desired sport.

HELPFUL TIP: You can return documents to me via e-mail (preferred) or your child can return it to me in the Health Office. If you choose to send it in with your child, I recommend that you retain a copy of the completed documents for yourself in the event they should get misplaced or lost.

Kindest Regards,

Michelina Tenuto, RN

This form should be maintained by the healthcare provider completing the physical exam (medical home). It should not be shared with schools. The medical eligibility form is the only form that should be submitted to a school. The physical exam must be completed by a healthcare provider who is a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant who has completed the Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment Professional Development module hosted by the New Jersey Department of Education.

■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (Interim Guidance)

HISTORY FORM

Note: Complete and sign this form (with your parents if younger than 18) before your appointment.

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Date of examination: _____ Sport(s): _____

Sex assigned at birth (F, M, or intersex): _____ How do you identify your gender? (F, M, non-binary, or another gender): _____

Have you had COVID-19? (check one): ☐ Y ☐ N

Have you been immunized for COVID-19? (check one): ☐ Y ☐ N If yes, have you had: ☐ One shot ☐ Two shots

☐ Three shots ☐ Booster date(s) _____

List past and current medical conditions. _____

Have you ever had surgery? If yes, list all past surgical procedures. _____

Medicines and supplements: List all current prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, and supplements (herbal and nutritional). _____

Do you have any allergies? If yes, please list all your allergies (ie, medicines, pollens, food, stinging insects). _____

Patient Health Questionnaire Version 4 (PHQ-4)

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems? (Circle response.)

	Not at all	Several days	Over half the days	Nearly every day
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge	0	1	2	3
Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	0	1	2	3

(A sum of ≥ 3 is considered positive on either subscale [questions 1 and 2, or questions 3 and 4] for screening purposes.)

GENERAL QUESTIONS (Explain "Yes" answers at the end of this form. Circle questions if you don't know the answer.)		Yes	No
1. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with your provider?			
2. Has a provider ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?			
3. Do you have any ongoing medical issues or recent illness?			
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU		Yes	No
4. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out during or after exercise?			
5. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?			
6. Does your heart ever race, flutter in your chest, or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?			
7. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems?			
8. Has a doctor ever requested a test for your heart? For example, electrocardiography (ECG) or echocardiography.			

HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU (CONTINUED)		Yes	No	
9. Do you get light-headed or feel shorter of breath than your friends during exercise?				
10. Have you ever had a seizure?				
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY		Unsure	Yes	No
11. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 35 years (including drowning or unexplained car crash)?				
12. Does anyone in your family have a genetic heart problem such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), long QT syndrome (LQTS), short QT syndrome (SQTS), Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT)?				
13. Has anyone in your family had a pacemaker or an implanted defibrillator before age 35?				

**New Jersey Department of Education
Health History Update Questionnaire**

Name of School: _____

To participate on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, each student whose physical examination was completed more than 90 days prior to the first day of official practice shall provide a health history update questionnaire completed and signed by the student's parent or guardian.

Student: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Last Physical Examination: _____ Sport: _____

Since the last pre-participation physical examination, has your son/daughter:

1. Been medically advised not to participate in a sport? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, describe in detail:

2. Sustained a concussion, been unconscious or lost memory from a blow to the head? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain in detail:

3. Broken a bone or sprained/strained/dislocated any muscle or joints? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, describe in detail:

4. Fainted or "blacked out?" Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, was this during or immediately after exercise?

5. Experienced chest pains, shortness of breath or "racing heart?" Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain

6. Has there been a recent history of fatigue and unusual tiredness? Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Been hospitalized or had to go to the emergency room? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain in detail

8. Since the last physical examination, has there been a sudden death in the family or has any member of the family under age 50 had a heart attack or "heart trouble?" Yes ☐ No ☐

9. Started or stopped taking any over-the-counter or prescribed medications? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Been diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19)? Yes ☐ No ☐

If diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19), was your son/daughter symptomatic? Yes ☐ No ☐

If diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19), was your son/daughter hospitalized? Yes ☐ No ☐

Date: _____ Signature of parent/guardian: _____

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■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (Interim Guidance)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

PHYSICIAN REMINDERS

- Consider additional questions on more-sensitive issues.
 - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
 - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
 - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
 - Have you ever tried cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
 - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance-enhancing supplement?
 - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
 - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
- Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (Q4–Q13 of History Form).

EXAMINATION		
Height: _____	Weight: _____	
BP: _____ / _____ (_____ / _____)	Pulse: _____	Vision: R 20/ _____ L 20/ _____ Corrected: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
COVID-19 VACCINE		
Previously received COVID-19 vaccine: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		
Administered COVID-19 vaccine at this visit: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N If yes: <input type="checkbox"/> First dose <input type="checkbox"/> Second dose <input type="checkbox"/> Third dose <input type="checkbox"/> Booster date(s) _____		
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, hyperlaxity, myopia, mitral valve prolapse [MVP], and aortic insufficiency) 		
Eyes, ears, nose, and throat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils equal Hearing 		
Lymph nodes		
Heart ^a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murmurs (auscultation standing, auscultation supine, and ± Valsalva maneuver) 		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Skin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herpes simplex virus (HSV), lesions suggestive of methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA), or tinea corporis 		
Neurological		
MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder and arm		
Elbow and forearm		
Wrist, hand, and fingers		
Hip and thigh		
Knee		
Leg and ankle		
Foot and toes		
Functional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double-leg squat test, single-leg squat test, and box drop or step drop test 		

^a Consider electrocardiography (ECG), echocardiography, referral to a cardiologist for abnormal cardiac history or examination findings, or a combination of those.

Name of health care professional (print or type): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of health care professional: _____, MD, DO, NP, or PA

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■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES FORM: SUPPLEMENT TO THE ATHLETE HISTORY

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

1. Type of disability:		
2. Date of disability:		
3. Classification (if available):		
4. Cause of disability (birth, disease, injury, or other):		
5. List the sports you are playing:		
	Yes	No
6. Do you regularly use a brace, an assistive device, or a prosthetic device for daily activities?		
7. Do you use any special brace or assistive device for sports?		
8. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?		
9. Do you have a hearing loss? Do you use a hearing aid?		
10. Do you have a visual impairment?		
11. Do you use any special devices for bowel or bladder function?		
12. Do you have burning or discomfort when urinating?		
13. Have you had autonomic dysreflexia?		
14. Have you ever been diagnosed as having a heat-related (hyperthermia) or cold-related (hypothermia) illness?		
15. Do you have muscle spasticity?		
16. Do you have frequent seizures that cannot be controlled by medication?		

Explain "Yes" answers here.

Please indicate whether you have ever had any of the following conditions:

	Yes	No
Atlantoaxial instability		
Radiographic (x-ray) evaluation for atlantoaxial instability		
Dislocated joints (more than one)		
Easy bleeding		
Enlarged spleen		
Hepatitis		
Osteopenia or osteoporosis		
Difficulty controlling bowel		
Difficulty controlling bladder		
Numbness or tingling in arms or hands		
Numbness or tingling in legs or feet		
Weakness in arms or hands		
Weakness in legs or feet		
Recent change in coordination		
Recent change in ability to walk		
Spina bifida		
Latex allergy		

Explain "Yes" answers here.

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the questions on this form are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete: _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Date: _____

Asthma Treatment Plan – Student

(This asthma action plan meets NJ Law N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.8) **(Physician's Orders)**



(Please Print)

Name		Date of Birth	Effective Date
Doctor	Parent/Guardian (if applicable)		Emergency Contact
Phone	Phone		Phone

HEALTHY (Green Zone) IIII➡



You have all of these:

- Breathing is good
- No cough or wheeze
- Sleep through the night
- Can work, exercise, and play

And/or Peak flow above _____

Take daily control medicine(s). Some inhalers may be more effective with a "spacer" – use if directed.

MEDICINE	HOW MUCH to take and HOW OFTEN to take it
<input type="checkbox"/> Advair® HFA <input type="checkbox"/> 45, <input type="checkbox"/> 115, <input type="checkbox"/> 230 _____	2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerospir™ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Alvesco® <input type="checkbox"/> 80, <input type="checkbox"/> 160 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Dulera® <input type="checkbox"/> 100, <input type="checkbox"/> 200 _____	2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Flovent® <input type="checkbox"/> 44, <input type="checkbox"/> 110, <input type="checkbox"/> 220 _____	2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Qvar® <input type="checkbox"/> 40, <input type="checkbox"/> 80 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Symbicort® <input type="checkbox"/> 80, <input type="checkbox"/> 160 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 puffs twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Advair Diskus® <input type="checkbox"/> 100, <input type="checkbox"/> 250, <input type="checkbox"/> 500 _____	1 inhalation twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Asmanex® Twisthaler® <input type="checkbox"/> 110, <input type="checkbox"/> 220 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 inhalations <input type="checkbox"/> once or <input type="checkbox"/> twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Flovent® Diskus® <input type="checkbox"/> 50 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 250 _____	1 inhalation twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Pulmicort Flexhaler® <input type="checkbox"/> 90, <input type="checkbox"/> 180 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 inhalations <input type="checkbox"/> once or <input type="checkbox"/> twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Pulmicort Respules® (Budesonide) <input type="checkbox"/> 0.25, <input type="checkbox"/> 0.5, <input type="checkbox"/> 1.0 _____	1 unit nebulized <input type="checkbox"/> once or <input type="checkbox"/> twice a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Singulair® (Montelukast) <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 10 mg _____	1 tablet daily
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> None	

Remember to rinse your mouth after taking inhaled medicine.

If exercise triggers your asthma, take _____ puff(s) _____ minutes before exercise.

CAUTION (Yellow Zone) IIII➡



You have any of these:

- Cough
- Mild wheeze
- Tight chest
- Coughing at night
- Other: _____

If quick-relief medicine does not help within 15-20 minutes or has been used more than 2 times and symptoms persist, call your doctor or go to the emergency room.

And/or Peak flow from _____ to _____

Continue daily control medicine(s) and ADD quick-relief medicine(s).

MEDICINE	HOW MUCH to take and HOW OFTEN to take it
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuterol MDI (Pro-air® or Proventil® or Ventolin®) _____	2 puffs every 4 hours as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Xopenex® _____	2 puffs every 4 hours as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuterol <input type="checkbox"/> 1.25, <input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 mg _____	1 unit nebulized every 4 hours as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Duoneb® _____	1 unit nebulized every 4 hours as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Xopenex® (Levalbuterol) <input type="checkbox"/> 0.31, <input type="checkbox"/> 0.63, <input type="checkbox"/> 1.25 mg _____	1 unit nebulized every 4 hours as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Combivent Respimat® _____	1 inhalation 4 times a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase the dose of, or add:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

• If quick-relief medicine is needed more than 2 times a week, except before exercise, then call your doctor.

EMERGENCY (Red Zone) IIII➡



Your asthma is getting worse fast:

- Quick-relief medicine did not help within 15-20 minutes
- Breathing is hard or fast
- Nose opens wide • Ribs show
- Trouble walking and talking
- Lips blue • Fingernails blue
- Other: _____

And/or Peak flow below _____

Take these medicines NOW and CALL 911. Asthma can be a life-threatening illness. Do not wait!

MEDICINE	HOW MUCH to take and HOW OFTEN to take it
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuterol MDI (Pro-air® or Proventil® or Ventolin®) _____	4 puffs every 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Xopenex® _____	4 puffs every 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuterol <input type="checkbox"/> 1.25, <input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 mg _____	1 unit nebulized every 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Duoneb® _____	1 unit nebulized every 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Xopenex® (Levalbuterol) <input type="checkbox"/> 0.31, <input type="checkbox"/> 0.63, <input type="checkbox"/> 1.25 mg _____	1 unit nebulized every 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Combivent Respimat® _____	1 inhalation 4 times a day
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

Triggers

Check all items that trigger patient's asthma:

- ☐ Colds/flu
- ☐ Exercise
- ☐ Allergens
 - Dust Mites, dust, stuffed animals, carpet
 - Pollen - trees, grass, weeds
 - Mold
 - Pets - animal dander
 - Pests - rodents, cockroaches
- ☐ Odors (Irritants)
 - Cigarette smoke & second hand smoke
 - Perfumes, cleaning products, scented products
 - Smoke from burning wood, inside or outside
- ☐ Weather
 - Sudden temperature change
 - Extreme weather - hot and cold
 - Ozone alert days
- ☐ Foods:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- ☐ Other:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

This asthma treatment plan is meant to assist, not replace, the clinical decision-making required to meet individual patient needs.

Disclaimer: This Asthma Treatment Plan is not a medical device. It is a document that provides information about asthma and its treatment. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for medical advice or treatment. The information in this document is for informational purposes only and should not be used to make any medical decisions. The information in this document is not intended to be used as a substitute for medical advice or treatment. The information in this document is for informational purposes only and should not be used to make any medical decisions.

Permission to Self-administer Medication:

- ☐ This student is capable and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administering of the non-nebulized inhaled medications named above in accordance with NJ Law.
- ☐ This student is not approved to self-medicate.

PHYSICIAN/APN/PA SIGNATURE _____

Physician's Orders

DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

PHYSICIAN STAMP

REVISED MAY 2017

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Make a copy for parent and for physician file, send original to school nurse or child care provider.

Asthma Treatment Plan – Student

Parent Instructions



The **PACNJ Asthma Treatment Plan** is designed to help everyone understand the steps necessary for the individual student to achieve the goal of controlled asthma.

- 1. Parents/Guardians:** Before taking this form to your Health Care Provider, complete the top left section with:
 - Child's name
 - Child's doctor's name & phone number
 - Parent/Guardian's name & phone number
 - Child's date of birth
 - An Emergency Contact person's name & phone number
- 2. Your Health Care Provider will complete the following areas:**
 - The effective date of this plan
 - The medicine information for the Healthy, Caution and Emergency sections
 - Your Health Care Provider will check the box next to the medication and check how much and how often to take it
 - Your Health Care Provider may check **"OTHER"** and:
 - ❖ Write in asthma medications not listed on the form
 - ❖ Write in additional medications that will control your asthma
 - ❖ Write in generic medications in place of the name brand on the form
 - Together you and your Health Care Provider will decide what asthma treatment is best for your child to follow
- 3. Parents/Guardians & Health Care Providers together** will discuss and then complete the following areas:
 - Child's peak flow range in the Healthy, Caution and Emergency sections on the left side of the form
 - Child's asthma triggers on the right side of the form
 - Permission to Self-administer Medication section at the bottom of the form: Discuss your child's ability to self-administer the inhaled medications, check the appropriate box, and then both you and your Health Care Provider must sign and date the form
- 4. Parents/Guardians:** After completing the form with your Health Care Provider:
 - Make copies of the Asthma Treatment Plan and give the signed original to your child's school nurse or child care provider
 - Keep a copy easily available at home to help manage your child's asthma
 - Give copies of the Asthma Treatment Plan to everyone who provides care for your child, for example: babysitters, before/after school program staff, coaches, scout leaders

PARENT AUTHORIZATION

I hereby give permission for my child to receive medication at school as prescribed in the Asthma Treatment Plan. Medication must be provided in its original prescription container properly labeled by a pharmacist or physician. I also give permission for the release and exchange of information between the school nurse and my child's health care provider concerning my child's health and medications. In addition, I understand that this information will be shared with school staff on a need to know basis.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone

Date

FILL OUT THE SECTION BELOW ONLY IF YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CHECKED PERMISSION FOR YOUR CHILD TO SELF-ADMINISTER ASTHMA MEDICATION ON THE FRONT OF THIS FORM.

RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE FOR ONE (1) SCHOOL YEAR ONLY AND MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY

- ☐ I do request that my child be **ALLOWED** to carry the following medication _____ for self-administration in school pursuant to N.J.A.C.:6A:16-2.3. I give permission for my child to self-administer medication, as prescribed in this Asthma Treatment Plan for the current school year as I consider him/her to be responsible and capable of transporting, storing and self-administration of the medication. Medication must be kept in its original prescription container. I understand that the school district, agents and its employees shall incur no liability as a result of any condition or injury arising from the self-administration by the student of the medication prescribed on this form. I indemnify and hold harmless the School District, its agents and employees against any claims arising out of self-administration or lack of administration of this medication by the student.
- ☐ I **DO NOT** request that my child self-administer his/her asthma medication.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone

Date

Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Medical Eligibility Form

The Medical Eligibility Form is the only form that should be submitted to school. It should be kept on file with the student's school health record.

Student Athlete's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Exam _____

- ☐ Medically eligible for all sports without restriction
- ☐ Medically eligible for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment of
- ☐ Medically eligible for certain sports
- ☐ Not medically eligible pending further evaluation
- ☐ Not medically eligible for any sports

Recommendations: _____

I have reviewed the history form and examined the student named on this form and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not have apparent clinical contraindications to practice and can participate in the sport(s) as outlined on this form. A copy of the physical examination findings- are on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the medical eligibility until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents or guardians).

Signature of physician, APN, PA _____

Office stamp (optional)

Address: _____

Name of healthcare professional (print) _____

I certify I have completed the Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Signature of healthcare provider _____

Shared Health Information

Allergies _____

Medications:

Other information: _____

Emergency Contacts: _____

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**This form has been modified to meet the statutes set forth by New Jersey.*

Website Resources

- Sudden Death in Athletes
<http://tinyurl.com/m2gjmva>
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
www.4hcm.org
- American Heart Association www.heart.org

Collaborating Agencies:

American Academy of Pediatrics New Jersey Chapter

3836 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 108
Hamilton, NJ 08619
(p) 609-842-0014
(f) 609-842-0015
www.aapnj.org



American Heart Association

1 Union Street, Suite 301
Robbinsville, NJ, 08691
(p) 609-208-0020
www.heart.org



New Jersey Department of Education

PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
(p) 609-292-5935
www.state.nj.us/education/



New Jersey Department of Health

P. O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(p) 609-292-7837
www.state.nj.us/health



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SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

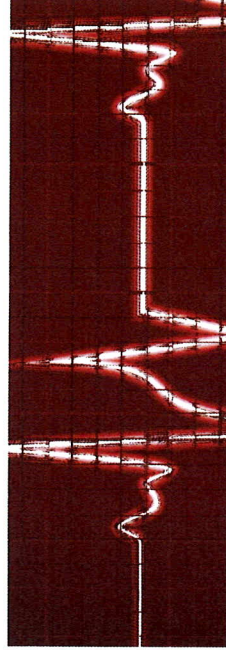
The Basic Facts on Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes



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SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

Sudden death in young athletes between the ages of 10 and 19 is very rare. What, if anything, can be done to prevent this kind of tragedy?

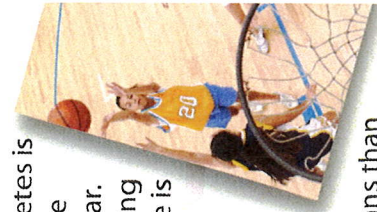


What is sudden cardiac death in the young athlete?

Sudden cardiac death is the result of an unexpected failure of proper heart function, usually (about 60% of the time) during or immediately after exercise without trauma. Since the heart stops pumping adequately, the athlete quickly collapses, loses consciousness, and ultimately dies unless normal heart rhythm is restored using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

How common is sudden death in young athletes?

Sudden cardiac death in young athletes is very rare. About 100 such deaths are reported in the United States per year. The chance of sudden death occurring to any individual high school athlete is about one in 200,000 per year.



Sudden cardiac death is more common: in males than in females; in football and basketball than in other sports; and in African-Americans than in other races and ethnic groups.

Other diseases of the heart that can lead to sudden death in young people include:

- Myocarditis (my-oh-car-DIE-tis), an acute inflammation of the heart muscle (usually due to a virus).
- Dilated cardiomyopathy, an enlargement of the heart for unknown reasons.
- Long QT syndrome and other electrical abnormalities of the heart which cause abnormal fast heart rhythms that can also run in families.
- Marfan syndrome, an inherited disorder that affects heart valves, walls of major arteries, eyes and the skeleton. It is generally seen in unusually tall athletes, especially if being tall is not common in other family members.

Are there warning signs to watch for?

In more than a third of these sudden cardiac deaths, there were warning signs that were not reported or taken seriously. Warning signs are:

- Fainting, a seizure or convulsions during physical activity;
- Fainting or a seizure from emotional excitement, emotional distress or being startled;
- Dizziness or lightheadedness, especially during exertion;
- Chest pains, at rest or during exertion;
- Palpitations - awareness of the heart beating unusually (skipping, irregular or extra beats) during athletics or during cool down periods after athletic participation;
- Fatigue or tiring more quickly than peers; or
- Being unable to keep up with friends due to shortness of breath (labored breathing).

What are the current recommendations for screening young athletes?

New Jersey requires all school athletes to be examined by their primary care physician ("medical home") or school physician at least once per year. The New Jersey Department of Education requires use of the specific Preparation Physical Examination Form (PPE).

This process begins with the parents and student-athletes answering questions about symptoms during exercise (such as chest pain, dizziness, fainting, palpitations or shortness of breath); and questions about family health history.

The primary healthcare provider needs to know if any family member died suddenly during physical activity or during a seizure. They also need to know if anyone in the family under the age of 50 had an unexplained sudden death such as drowning or car accidents. This information must be provided annually for each exam because it is so essential to identify those at risk for sudden cardiac death.

The required physical exam includes measurement of blood pressure and a careful listening examination of the heart, especially for murmurs and rhythm abnormalities. If there are no warning signs reported on the health history and no abnormalities discovered on exam, no further evaluation or testing is recommended.

Are there options privately available to screen for cardiac conditions?

Technology-based screening programs including a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) and echocardiogram (ECHO) are noninvasive and painless options parents may consider in addition to the required

PPE. However, these procedures may be expensive and are not currently advised by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology unless the PPE reveals an indication for these tests. In addition to the expense, other limitations of technology-based tests include the possibility of "false positives" which leads to unnecessary stress for the student and parent or guardian as well as unnecessary restriction from athletic participation.

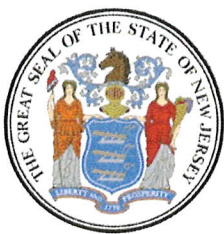
The United States Department of Health and Human Services offers risk assessment options under the Surgeon General's Family History Initiative available at <http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/index.html>.

When should a student athlete see a heart specialist?

If the primary healthcare provider or school physician has concerns, a referral to a child heart specialist, a pediatric cardiologist, is recommended. This specialist will perform a more thorough evaluation, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), which is a graph of the electrical activity of the heart. An echocardiogram, which is an ultrasound test to allow for direct visualization of the heart structure, will likely also be done. The specialist may also order a treadmill exercise test and a monitor to enable a longer recording of the heart rhythm. None of the testing is invasive or uncomfortable.

Can sudden cardiac death be prevented just through proper screening?

A proper evaluation should find most, but not all, conditions that would cause sudden death in the athlete. This is because some diseases are difficult to uncover and may only develop later in life. Others can develop following a



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Sudden Cardiac Death Pamphlet
Sign-Off Sheet**

Name of School District: _____

Name of Local School: _____

I/We acknowledge that we received and reviewed the Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes pamphlet.

Student Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____