May 18, 2021

Dear Member Schools:

The announcement by Governor Baker and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) on May 17, 2021 regarding the removal of mandatory masks/facial coverings was reviewed and discussed by the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) Monday afternoon. The SMC voted **unanimously to recommend the approval of the May 17, 2021 EEA guidelines effective May 18, 2021**. This recommendation was forwarded to MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino, MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine and Task Force Chairs, Thom Holdgate and Dr. Keith Crowley. Commissioner Jeffrey Riley and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) also reviewed this recommendation. All constituents provided full **APPROVAL**. You may view the updated EEA guidelines HERE.

To clarify, this means:

- Athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors *are not required* to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes when they are on the bench or in a dugout *are not required* to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes in low-risk sports when indoors where a distance of at least 14 feet or more is consistently maintained between each participant, *are not required* to wear a mask/ facial covering.
- Spectators and chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires and other officials who can social distance while outdoors, *are not required* to wear a mask/face covering.
- Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff while indoors *are required* to wear mask/facial covering.
- All athletes participating in high school sports are considered youth and fall under youth guidelines.

Additionally, there are *no changes to individual MIAA sport modifications* other than the mask/facial covering mandate. As restrictions are lifted, a review of the EEA guidelines will continue through the MIAA governance process guided by the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee.

As has been the case throughout the year, the final decision for a school to partake in a particular sport and/or to follow more stringent guidelines belongs at the local level.