



For Immediate Release  
June 25, 2020

HOLLISTON – As part of the Town’s comprehensive plan to safely ease social restrictions while minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19, Holliston Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Michael Cassidy announced that the track and fields at the Holliston High School would reopen to the public on Friday, June 26, 2020. “This was a collaborative decision involving the Holliston Public Schools, Parks & Recreation, and public safety, which took into consideration both local public health conditions, and guidance from multiple state agencies, offices, and boards,” explained Cassidy. In accordance with the *Safety Standards for Parks, Open Space, and Outdoor Education Programs – Phase II* memo issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the track and fields are open subject to the following guidelines:

- Visitors must practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet from others and adhering to all site-specific rules, regulations, and posted signage regarding permitted uses.
- All persons over the age of five must wear CDC approved face covering when they are unable to maintain at least six feet of distance from others, unless they are prevented from wearing a face covering by a medical or disabling condition. All persons are likewise advised to avoid close personal contact to prevent spreading the virus.
- No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather.
- On the track, walkers should move aside and leave room for others to pass.
- Users of athletic fields and other playing surfaces should sanitize hands before and after play and not share equipment.
- Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated to ensure proper social distancing.
- Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II, and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercises. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and include, without limitation, basketball, football, baseball, softball, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse.
- Individuals should not congregate outside the field of play to avoid overcrowding.
- Visitors should adhere to strict “carry in, carry out” policy and take trash with them.

Cassidy noted that the athletic fields at the High School complex will remain available for public use at the discretion of the town; school buildings remain closed and public restrooms would not be available. “We will continue to monitor spread of the disease in our community, and compliance with state and local guidelines in those sectors which have reopened,” stated Cassidy. Those unable or unwilling to comply with the guidance will be asked to leave the facility.

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