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August 5, 2020

Re: **UPDATED ADVISORY FOR THE OPERATION OF YOUTH SPORTS**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that on August 3, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued new Interim Guidance as related to Youth Sports. A copy of this Interim Guidance can be found here: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-youth-sports--en.pdf>. Additionally on August 3, 2020, CDPH issued the “Youth Sports Questions and Answers” memorandum. A copy of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx>

Pursuant to CDPH’s Interim Guidance and FAQ’s, beginning July 30, 2020, CDPH is allowing youth sports and physical education ONLY when the following can be maintained: (1) **physical distancing** of at least six (6) feet between participants; and (2) a **stable cohort**, such as a class, that limits the risk of transmission (see the CDC Guidance on Schools and Cohorting available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html#cohorting>). For sports that cannot be played with sufficient distancing or cohorting, only physical conditioning and training is permitted and ONLY where physical distancing can be maintained. Conditioning and training should focus on *individual* skill building (e.g., running drills and body weight resistance training). Sports that cannot be played with sufficient distancing and cohorting are not permitted.

Please note that the August 3, 2020 Interim Guidance and FAQ’s **impacts all youth sports and activities**, including school-based, club and recreational youth sports, including but not limited to football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, softball, baseball, soccer, swim, water polo, gymnastics, cheer, dance, and karate.

By way of background, Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-22-30, dated March 19, 2020, orders all persons to stay at home to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. This Order encompasses the Order of the State Public Health Officer, also dated March 19, 2020, which states in relevant part: “To protect public health, I as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) order all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors...” A copy of this Executive Order and the Order of the State Public Health Officer can be found online at:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/img/Executive-Order-N-33-20.pdf>.

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In addition, on March 22, 2020, the State Public Health Officer designated a list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers’ to help state, local, tribal, and industry partners as they work to protect communities, while ensuring the continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.” A copy of the State Public Health Officer’s “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” list, as updated on July 27, 2020, can be found here:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/#:~:text=The%20Critical%20Manufacturing%20Sector%20identifies,manufacturing%20industries%20are%20essential%20to>

The State then set out California's path forward from this "Stay-at-Home" Order in California's Pandemic Resilience Roadmap. That Road map identifies four stages of the pandemic: safety and preparation (Stage 1); reopening of lower-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 2); reopening of higher-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 3); and finally, an easing of final restrictions leading to the end of the Stay-at-Home Order (Stage 4). <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Update-on-California-Pandemic-Roadmap.pdf>

On May 7, 2020, it was announced that statewide data supported the gradual movement of the entire state of California into Stage 2 of the Pandemic Resilience Road Map. On May 22, 2020, the County of Riverside was permitted to move forward into the State’s “accelerated Stage 2” of the Pandemic Resilience Roadmap.

On July 1, 2020, CDPH issued “Guidance on Closure of Sectors in Response to COVID-19” to 19 counties on the County Monitoring List, including Riverside County. A copy of this Guidance can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Closure-of-Sectors-in-Response-to-COVID-19.aspx>.

On July 2, 2020, Dr. Sonia Y. Angell, CDPH Director and State Health Officer, issued an Order specific to Riverside County which restricted the operations of various sectors after the “current data reflect that community spread of infection is of increasing concern across the state, and most particularly in those counties on the County Monitoring List” like Riverside County. **This Order remains in effect today** and will be applicable until otherwise directed by Dr. Angell. A copy of this Order can be found here:

https://rivcoph.org/Portals/0/Documents/CoronaVirus/July/GovernorOrders/Order_Closing_Indoor_Services_and_Sectors-Riverside.pdf?ver=2020-07-02-132939-667×tamp=1593721789591

Most recently, on July 13, 2020, Dr. Angell expanded statewide the indoor closures for businesses that encourage mixing of individuals beyond immediate households and make physical distancing and wearing face coverings difficult. The Order also provides that for counties on the County Monitoring List, including the County of Riverside, “**the risks and impacts of disease transmission are even greater**”. Therefore, the Order also required the immediate closure of indoor operations of additional businesses, events and activities in counties listed on the State’s

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Monitoring List. Pursuant to this Order, **the indoor operation of gyms and fitness centers is not currently permitted in the County of Riverside.** Once again, **this Order remains in effect today** and will be applicable until otherwise directed by Dr. Angell. A copy of this Order can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/SHO%20Order%20Dimming%20Entire%20State%207-13-2020.pdf>.

As a result of the July 13, 2020 Order closing the indoor operation of gyms and fitness centers in the County of Riverside, please be advised that **any and all youth sports and physical education programs within the County must take place outdoors until otherwise advised by the State Health Officer.**

Again, pursuant to CDPH's Interim Guidance and FAQ's, youth sports and physical education may ONLY occur when both **physical distancing** of at least six (6) feet between participants and a **stable cohort** can be maintained. In addition, outdoor and indoor sporting events, assemblies, and other activities that require close contact or that promote congregating **are not** permitted at this time. As such, **tournaments, events, or competitions**, regardless of whether teams are from the same school or from different schools, counties, or states **are not permitted at this time** and should be cancelled or continued.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Shea, Deputy County Counsel, at kshea@rivco.org. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Priamos

GREGORY P. PRIAMOS
County Counsel