



Current Rumor & Reality July 29, 2020

▶▶ **Rumor:** SCPH is calling for fall sports to be canceled!

Reality: On July 24, 2020, SCPH offered guidance to school districts suggesting a delay in starting the season for moderate to high contact sports until October 1, 2020. Read the letter here:

<https://www.scph.org/sites/default/files/editor/Coronavirus/Sports%20Considerations.pdf>

Rationale: Oct 1 gives districts several weeks to monitor for any COVID-19 transmission concerns and to respond accordingly. Jumping right into moderate to high contact sports competition before transmission concerns may be identified could lead to transmission rates soaring around the county & region. The concern for moderate to high contact sports is the close proximity to one each other during play, touching the same equipment frequently, and sustained heavy breathing. Because this is a novel virus, we don't have clear understanding of who may get really sick and have difficulty recovering. A cautious approach gives everyone a chance to make any necessary adjustments to keep our student athletes, coaches, and communities at lower risk of contracting COVID-19.

▶▶ **Rumor:** People who get more than one positive COVID test result are counted as multiple cases.

Reality: Cases are only counted once. The Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS), where information is reported to the Ohio Department of Health, is person-based. Each test (if there are multiple tests) is included in that person's record and only counted as one case.

When cases are entered into ODRS, they are entered with names and birthdates and additionally receive a unique identification number, similar to a unique patient ID at the doctor. If a person gets tested, they are asked their name and birthdate and that is cross-referenced in the system. That test is then associated with the existing case. A repeat test for the same person is not entered as a new case. As an additional verification step, the Bureau of Infectious Diseases also completes a de-duplication analysis.

People may be getting confused about the total test number. If the same person is tested multiple times--after every weekend outing with friends, for example--each



test is counted once and is included in the count of total tests performed. But this does not equate to cases.

- ▶ **Rumor:** A person can get hit by a bus and die, but if they test positive for COVID – they count it as a COVID death. The numbers are junk!

Reality: In this specific example, the cause of death would not be due to Covid-19. There are some cases though, where complications from COVID lead to heart failure for example. In this case, the cause of death would be heart failure but listed on the death certificate would be the contributing factor COVID. This could also include heart disease, diabetes and any other chronic health conditions that contributed to the death. The physician is the one who signs the death certificate and puts the cause of death and contributing factors.

- ▶ **Rumor:** Hospitals receiving a monetary incentive for the POSITIVE cases they find.

Reality: There is CARES Act funding that is tied to treating COVID patients. This funding is relief for extra staff working on Covid-19 activities, testing supplies, PPE etc. Many of our local health systems have had to beef up their lab capacity considerably to be able to run the number of tests that are being processed. The CARES Act funding supports these types of activities.

- ▶ **Rumor:** There's a video that just got released and the doctors on the video say hydroxychloroquine cures COVID-19. "THEY" keep taking it down to suppress the truth

Reality: On June 15, 2020 the Food & Drug Administration – the folks responsible for making sure the food and drug supply is **safe AND effective** – revoked the Emergency Use Authorization for Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients because, "...recent results from a large, randomized clinical trial in hospitalized patients that found these medicines showed **no benefit** for decreasing the likelihood of death or speeding recovery. This outcome was consistent with other new data, including those showing the suggested dosing for these medicines are unlikely to kill or inhibit the virus that causes COVID-19." Read more about it here: <https://bit.ly/3hL3WAR>

Hydroxychloroquine is not a cure for COVID-19, nor is Chloroquine. The search for adequate treatment continues at breakneck pace. We look forward to the day when we can say with certainty there is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19.

