



Friday July 24, 2020

Dear School Administrators:

Summit County Public Health, at the request of many school districts, would like provide guidance and considerations regarding the next phase of school competitive sports. SCPH has reviewed the OHSAA guidance and believes that it provides practical recommendations to keep students, coaches, officials and spectators safe. However, COVID-19 contact sports make it very difficult to maintain six feet of social distance or wear masks the two most effective strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, Summit County is currently a Level 2/Orange which recommends limiting exposure and exercising a high degree of caution. Level 2 also advises that there be a decrease in in-person interactions outside of the household.

Summit County Public Health encourages schools to consider the following recommendations to the start of fall sports:

- Delaying the start of competitive play to October 1;
- Shortening the competitive play season for **moderate and high-risk sports** (see below);
- Limiting spectators to two (2) per athlete, or consider eliminating spectators all together;

Sport	Risk
Badminton	No contact low risk
Baseball (Boys)	No contact low risk
Basketball	High risk
Bowling	No contact low risk
Cheerleading / Competitive Spirit Squads	Moderate risk
Dance Team	Minimum risk
Field Hockey	High risk
Flag Football (Girls)	Moderate risk
Football (Boys)	High risk
Golf	No contact low risk
Gymnastics	No contact low risk
Hockey	High risk
Indoor/ outdoor Track & Field/ Cross Country	No contact low risk
Lacrosse	High risk
Skiing & Snowboarding	No contact low risk
Soccer	Moderate risk
Softball/ Slow Pitch Softball (Girls)	No contact low risk
Swimming & Diving	No contact low risk
Tennis	No contact low risk
Volleyball	Moderate risk
Water Polo	Moderate risk
Weightlifting	No contact low risk
Wrestling	High risk



Summit County Public Health understands that sports are important factor in the development of children, these are uncertain times and we are asking you to consider making adjustments to the Fall sports season to protect the health of your students/coaches and their families. In Summit County, we have already scene situations where teams and coaches have been exposed and been required to quarantine. We appreciate your willingness to review our considerations. If you have any questions, please contact Tonia Burford, Environmental Health Director 330-812-3868 or at tburford@scph.org

Sincerely,



Donna Skoda, RD, LD, MS
Health Commissioner
Summit County Public Health

