



www.allencountypublichealth.org
Allen County Combined Health District

August 26, 2020

**Important Information related to the resumption of
Sports Practice, Competition and Venues**

On August 19, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an order that all youth, collegiate, amateur, club and professional Sports are permitted to practice and engage in competition within the State as long as all minimum mandatory safety standards outlined are complied with. The decision whether to participate in fall sports or not has been given to local decision-makers in schools, colleges, universities, community organizations, and professional teams.

While Allen County Public Health recognizes that there are substantial health benefits to youth and adults through exercise and sports, COVID-19 continues to present a substantial risk to Ohioans, including Allen County residents. In the spring, during the initial surge, all spring sports were cancelled. As far as the number of cases of COVID-19, the situation is worse during this summer surge in Allen County than it was in the spring; our caseload of COVID-19 has tripled. Unlike certain professional leagues, the local athletes will not be in a “bubble.” After games they return home and live with parents, guardians and other family members. COVID-19 can spread easily within families if precautions are not taken. School-aged athletes also have the potential of infecting fellow members of the student body, many of whom may not choose to participate in sports. This could spread the infection amongst student, staff, and faculty and then further into the community.

It will be important to manage the risks that sports present. The lowest risk is where an athlete performs skill-building drills or conditions at home, alone or with family and household members. The risk increases when the athlete participates in a team-based practice. Competition between different teams creates more risk, with full competition between teams from different geographic areas creating the highest risk for athletes, their families, and their immediate communities. Based on the spread of COVID-19 in our community, there may be a need to consider flexibility as far as the different levels of sports activities that can be offered.

It is critical that any organization that chooses to provide sports practices, competitions and/or venues strictly follow all of the minimum mandatory standards set forth in the Director’s Order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These minimum standards address athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff, employees, venues, affiliated teams and schools, and spectators. A copy of the order can be found at this link:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Requirements-Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>.

Participants must also comply with any additional health rules for the prevention of COVID-19 from their governing authorities. In the event of a conflict, the most restrictive provision is to apply.

Per the Order, each host or sponsoring organization shall designate, in writing and prior to a Sport event, a compliance officer whose responsibility it is to ensure that the requirements of the Director’s Order are followed. Each Sports Participant has an obligation to comply with the Order. Each Sports venue is required to have a written operations plan, prepared in consultation with the local health department. Please see the following page for Allen County Public Health’s plans for providing such consultation to Allen County sponsoring organizations, hosts, and venues.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Luhn, Health Commissioner



219 E. Market Street, P.O. Box 1503, Lima, Ohio 45802-1503 | Phone: 419-228-4457 | Fax: 419-224-4161

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services Serving All Allen County Including the Cities of Lima & Delphos



www.allencountypublichealth.org

Allen County Combined Health District

**Guidance for Meeting Safety Requirements for Sports Practice or Competition and Sports Venues
August 26, 2020**

Please complete and fax or email this form to Allen County Public Health to notify us of your organization's name, contact information and Compliance Officer.

Allen County Public Health has created a tool to help you write your organization's plan to meet all the minimum mandatory standards set forth in the Director's Order. There are two templates available, one for Safety Requirements and one for Venue Requirements. The documents are available on Allen County Public Health's website, with links directly to the documents below. Both PDF and Excel versions are available.

- **Safety Requirements for Sport to Practice or Compete**
Subject to their full compliance with all provisions of the Director's Order, youth, collegiate, amateur, club, and professional sports are permitted to practice and engage in competition within the State.
- **Spectator as Sports Venues Requirements**
Sports venues include all locations and facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, that host Sports events, including but not limited to stadiums, arenas, playing fields, tracks, speedways, golf courses, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts and open-air courses.

You **DO NOT** need to submit your plans to Allen County Public Health.

- You are expected to meet all the requirements in the order.
- If you have questions, we will be available for consultation. Please email: contact@allenhealthdept.org
- If we have/receive any questions, concerns, issues or complaints regarding your sports practices, competitions, or venue(s), we will reach out to ask for copies of your plans.

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Contact email: _____

Venue(s): _____

Compliance Officer: _____ Phone: _____

Compliance Officer email: _____

FAX TO: 419-224-4161 ATTN: COMPLIANCE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

219 E. Market Street, P.O. Box 1503, Lima, Ohio 45802-1503 | Phone: 419-228-4457 | Fax: 419-224-4161

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services Serving All Allen County Including the Cities of Lima & Delphos