COVID-19: Guidance for Youth Sports from the Wyoming Department of Health

June 15, 2020

Background
On June 10, 2020, Wyoming’s State Health Officer issued new public health orders related to the COVID-19 virus. The Sixth Continuation of Statewide Public Health Order #2 addresses large gatherings of people (restricting to 250 people or less), but the orders do not specifically address youth sports. This document provides guidance from the Wyoming Department of Health on how youth sports activities can occur while keeping individuals and families safe, and while continuing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Copies of the current statewide orders can be found at: https://covid19.wyo.gov/

General Guidance
The Wyoming Department of Health recommends the following guidelines for youth sporting activities that take place during the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. **Confined Spaces – Players and Coaches.** No more than 50 people (players, coaches, parents) can be in a confined space, whether indoors or outdoors. In general, a single playing area (e.g., baseball field, basketball court, tennis court, pool, etc.) is considered a confined space. However, if steps are taken to ensure no mixing between groups of 50 people in a single playing area, then larger sporting events may take place. For example, certain areas of a field could be blocked off or arranged to create multiple confined spaces.

   The WDH encourages organizers to keep participant groups as small as possible.

   Indoor confined spaces are determined by the presence of some form of barrier to separate and define different spaces. An indoor basketball court, for example, would be considered a confined space.

2. **Spectators.** The statewide public health orders allow up to 250 spectators during outdoor events, so long as household groups can maintain a distance of six feet from other household groups. It is the responsibility of the event organizer/staff to ensure that spectators practice social distancing, as outlined in the public health orders. If the event organizer/staff cannot ensure social distancing occurs, then spectators should not be allowed.

   Spectators may view outdoor events from stands, surrounding field areas, parking lots, or other areas so long as social distancing can be maintained. Indoor sporting events will need an exception, under Statewide Order #2, to have more than 50 people in a confined space.

   WDH recommends that spectators of youth sporting events be limited by the organizer to parents or immediate family members of participants to limit crowds and ensure that appropriate social distancing can be maintained.

3. **Concessions.** Concessions may operate according to the requirements for restaurants and other food service establishments in the Statewide Public Health Order #1. It is the responsibility of the event organizer/staff to ensure that people do not congregate with each other – and that they maintain adequate social distancing – while in line for concessions.
4. **Close-contact sports.** In Statewide Public Health Order #1, close contact sports are prohibited in gymnasiums and fitness centers. A close contact sport is one in which frequent contact between multiple participants occurs, and would include, for example, basketball, football, rugby, wrestling, and hockey. Practices and drills that do not involve close contact between participants can occur.

While there is no specific order preventing outdoor contact sports, WDH recommends delaying or limiting close contact between players at this time.

5. **Rosters and contact tracing.** The WDH recommends that sporting events and teams maintain updated rosters of all players, coaches, and volunteers to help facilitate and enable contact tracing in the event that COVID-19 is detected in a participant.

6. **Symptom screening.** Coaches and other adult participants should be screened for symptoms of respiratory illness to the greatest extent possible, and not allowed to participate if symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 are present. Please see the screening guidance here.

7. **Face coverings.** Cloth face coverings should be worn by coaches, staff, officials, parents, and spectators whenever 6 feet of separation cannot be maintained. Players should refrain from wearing face coverings.

8. **Equipment and other contact.** Efforts should be made to limit unnecessary physical contact between players and coaches (high-fives, hugs, etc.). Use of shared equipment should be minimized; when this is not possible, equipment should be sanitized between each use.

Participants should not share water bottles.

Schedules should be staggered as much as possible so that there is sufficient time for participants of one event to leave the playing area or facility before the next group arrives or enters the playing area.

9. **Travel.** While there is no statewide order prohibiting team travel, there is a risk for COVID-19 transmission during transport (if players are carpooling or traveling on a bus, for example). Furthermore, participants might be at increased risk of getting COVID-19 if traveling to an area with a higher number of COVID-19 cases. Travel over long distances to participate in youth sporting events is not recommended by WDH.

   a. If transport occurs, it is recommended that the organizing entity maintain a record of children and adults transported and which vehicle they were in for contact tracing purposes, if necessary.

10. **Notification.** WDH recommends that organizers/staff or coaches inform parents and players of social distancing and other expectations for preventing transmission of COVID-19 before conducting practices, games, and other events.

The CDC has provided considerations, recommendations, and resources for youth sporting activities, which can be accessed here.

For more information about the COVID-19 outbreak please visit: [health.wyo.gov](http://health.wyo.gov) or [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)