March 30, 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Marin County Public Health is currently investigating clusters of COVID-19 cases related to team sports. Non-adherence to guidance, including out-of-state travel and participation on multiple teams, is leading to preventable infections and threatens our pandemic response. After two months of progress, COVID-19 case counts are no longer declining across the region, and in some areas infection rates are increasing.

Participating in, traveling to, and attending sporting events increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Travel outside of the region increases risk of infection with new variants of the virus and can accelerate introduction of these variants into our community. These risks can be mitigated with strict adherence to established guidance and protocols.

Requirements

- Sports teams must review appropriate State guidance to apply the appropriate protocols to all aspects of their operations (see References below).
- Sports teams must create, adopt and implement a Site Specific Protection Plan (SPP).
- Schools must update COVID-19 Safety Plans (CSP) to include sports-related safety procedures and protocol.
- Sports teams must report positive COVID-19 cases to Marin County Public Health
  - School sports teams should report to COVID19schools@marincounty.org.
  - Private and recreational sports should report to COVID-19commerce@marincounty.org.
- Sports teams must be able to identify and notify all close contacts of sport-related COVID-19 exposure, including travel to and from sporting events.

Recommendations

- All sports should adhere to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommended precautions for Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports.
- All school related sports should follow California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sports Guidelines. CIF expects its member leagues, school districts, and schools to comply with the orders, regulations, and guidance of the Governor's Office, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Department of Education (CDE). CIF guidelines include the following safety provisions:
  - Sports teams should ensure that students are only participating on one team.
Sports teams must not travel out-of-state for competition.
Inter-county play should only occur in adjacent counties when the sport is authorized in both counties.
Sports teams should not participate in tournaments or events that involve more than two teams.
Teams should follow state guidance on spectators for youth and adult recreational sports.

- Students who participate in high-risk sports activities that do not follow CDPH guidelines (e.g., out-of-state travel) should quarantine for 10 days. If those returning from non-essential travel are asymptomatic and test negative (antigen or molecular) on Day 5 or later, quarantine may be shortened to 7 days.

Key Resources

CDPH. Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports.
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx

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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Playing Sports.

References

Guidance for Gyms & Fitness Centers
Guidance for Campgrounds, RV Parks, and Outdoor Recreation