



## **News from Livingston County, NY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Resuming High-Risk Youth Sports in Livingston County**

**Geneseo, NY, January 29, 2021**— On Friday, January 22, 2021 Governor Cuomo announced he would allow higher risk sports to commence in New York schools effective February 1, 2021 subject to local health department approval. Last Friday, Livingston County announced that our Department of Health determined that it will allow, higher-risk and moderate risk sports to proceed. Today, the Health Department shared a letter with Schools noting conditions, recommendations and guidance. That letter is attached.

County Administrator Ian M. Coyle stated "While this approval comes with hope and anticipation and conjures a sign of a return to normalcy, this State decision to allow these types of sports to commence is not without risk. There is indeed significant risk involved in allowing higher-risk sports to resume. Student-athletes will need to be diligent and do their part to protect themselves, participate in sports safely, and practice good virus-defense measures inside, and particularly outside, of athletic endeavors. We remain hopeful but careful as we roll out this next phase of our community's reopening."

Jennifer Rodriguez, Health Director, commented "We want to thank our schools for their ideas and support through this approval process, especially our Superintendents. There are a multitude of mandates, requirements and safety plan elements that will be governed and managed by schools as owner/operators of facilities and programs. Schools recognize and appreciate these

requirements and have committed to the strict adherence of these guidelines so as to maintain consistency of protocols across the County. We are here, as always, to work together for the benefit of our county's youth. This is a small milestone, but an important one. Let's not reverse our forward progress with an insufficient level of vigilance. If everyone does their part, this return of additional school sports should go smoothly."

Enc: County Health Department Letter to Schools 01/29/21

Additional Resources:

- [Sports summary guidance](#)
- [Sports detailed guidance](#)
- [NYS safety plan template](#)
- [Youth Sports Participation During COVID-19: A Safety Checklist](#)
- [CDC Toolkit for Youth Sports](#)

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
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*"Commitment to Leading The Community for a Healthier and Safer Tomorrow"*

TO: Livingston County School Superintendents

FROM: Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S.

DATE: January 29, 2021

RE: Resuming High-Risk Youth Sports in Livingston County

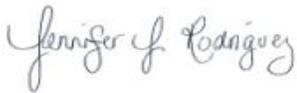
On Friday, January 22, 2021 Governor Cuomo announced he would allow higher risk sports to commence in New York schools effective February 1, 2021 subject to local health department approval. With the support of Board of Supervisors, the Livingston County Department of Health has determined that it will allow higher-risk and moderate risk sports to proceed, with the following conditions and recommendations:

Schools must follow the New York State Department of Health's [Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency](#) and applicable Executive Orders for the conduct of their school sports. Plans should be in place at each school and should mirror the NYS guidance. In accordance with NYSDOH guidance, responsible parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, whether indoor or outdoor, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless they are unable to tolerate a face covering for the activity (e.g. practicing, playing); provided, however, that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering.

- Schools must limit capacity of indoor facilities to no more than 50 percent occupancy and limit spectators to no more than two spectators per player. Schools, at their sole discretion and option, can choose to be more restrictive
- For the areas of spectators and non-participants: Implement social distancing, require face coverings, and utilize enhanced disinfection protocols.
- In moderate and high-risk sports, if a player, coach or referee receives a COVID-19 diagnosis, all in-person team or group activities for that sport may be suspended to lessen the spread of infection and allow for contact tracing; Such situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Livingston County Department of Health.
- As with all positive COVID-19 cases in Livingston County, contact tracing will be conducted for anyone identified as close contacts.
- Travel for games and competitions outside the Finger Lakes region and/or contiguous counties is strongly discouraged at this point in time. All current NYS Travel Advisory guidance for quarantine will apply to athletes, coaches and family members who choose to travel to non-contiguous states.

- Each team is responsible for screening all athletes and coaches for COVID-19 symptoms for every team event, including practice, scrimmage, or tournaments.
- Vaccination status does not alter regulation requirements.
- All individuals not actively participating in sports must wear acceptable masks/face coverings when in common areas or when unable to physically distance.
- Livingston County reserves the right to revoke or amend this approval, subject to external factors such as an increase in the local positivity rate and/or changes to the community presence/transmission of other types and variants of the Coronavirus.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Rodriguez".

Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S., M.S.W.  
Public Health Director

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