



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

October 14, 2020

Schelli Slaughter, MHA
Director

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Dear Thurston County Superintendents,

I am writing this letter to provide you with new guidance on sports activities at school. Thurston County is currently in the moderate transmission category with a transmission rate of 59.1 cases per 100,000 population over the past 14 days, per the [Washington State Risk Assessment Dashboard](#). During the last two weeks, I have seen a rise in cases in Thurston County much like what we experienced in July.

Over the summer, our coaches and athletes were able to continue to practice safely, even though our county experienced a similar rise in cases. If schools choose to allow team practices or training for sports for students they must limit groups to cohorts of six individuals, practice outside, maintain a distance of six feet or more, enforce strict mask wearing for athletes when not actively engaged in strenuous activity, enforce masking for all coaches/staff at all times, screen for symptoms, use safe hygiene practices, and follow CDC and WIAA guidance for the cleaning of equipment.

Given our increasing transmission rates, my recommendation differs from the [Governor's Sporting Activities Requirements](#) by not allowing scrimmage, intra-team competitions, league games, and no spectators.

COVID-19 continues to be a dynamic situation in Thurston County. If the situation in our county changes my guidance may change to reflect the change in conditions and the best available science and guidance. Thank you so much for your continued hard work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and in keeping those who work and learn in our schools safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Thurston County Health Officer