



February 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Athletes,

As many of you are aware, in early February we were given the green light to begin competition in four sports: Cross Country, Girls Golf, Swimming/Diving, and Girls Tennis. Many of these teams have had their first competitions of the year, and the joy and satisfaction this has brought these athletes, coaches, and families is immeasurable.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released a statement on Friday, February 19th regarding a path of how to move forward with our remaining sports programs. You can find their statement [here](#). We are thrilled to be able to provide an avenue for many more of our student-athletes to compete. There is a lot to digest and interpret exactly how this will play itself out in each county. We will most likely need to hear from the San Mateo County Dept. of Health, as well as our district office, both of which are being worked on now. For those teams that have games scheduled against schools from our neighboring counties, we will need to hear from them as well.

The league and sectional Commissioners are working together to interpret and summarize the CDPH statement and how this affects all of us.

Here are some of the highlights of the CDPH Statement:

As of Friday, February 26th, as long as San Mateo county's adjusted case rate is below 14 per 100,000 we are able to begin practices and competition for all outdoor sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball, and water polo) under the following conditions:

- Weekly testing for football and water polo, if the case rate is between 7 and 14. Currently San Mateo County is below this threshold and testing is not necessary, but if we go back up between 7 - 14, we will have to implement testing.
- Informed Consent - families will sign an informed consent document that will be provided by the state.
- Face Coverings - everyone involved will use face coverings while not competing. Face coverings will be used during play to the extent tolerated.
- Physical Distancing - maintain at least 6 feet of distance between coaches and participants and facilitate physical distancing between participants to the maximum extent possible.
- Hygiene and Sanitation - When equipment is shared during an activity, participants perform hand hygiene (wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) before play, during breaks, at half time, and after the conclusion of the activity.

- Limitations on mixing by participants - Limit participation by athletes and coaches during practice and competition to one team, and refrain from participating with more than one team over the same season or time period. For larger teams, limit mixing by establishing stable smaller training groups for drills and conditioning.
- Travel Considerations - Bus/van travel for members of a team may pose a greater risk. To mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk during bus/van travel, employ universal masking, physical distancing and windows to remain open the full duration of the trip unless not feasible. We plan to have athletes get themselves to competitions to the greatest extent possible.
- Fans - Continuing with SUHSD district policy, spectators are not permitted during practices/contests; players, coaches, and officials are the only individuals allowed present.
  - The district is focused on maximizing student-athlete participation in practices and competition. Student-athletes are consistently and actively supervised by their respective coaches, throughout practices and competition. Therefore, observers (as indicated by the updated guidance) are not needed “for the strict purpose of age-appropriate supervision.”

We are currently working with our district and site administrators as well as our Athletic Booster Organizations to put a comprehensive plan in place to allow our teams to practice and compete. Each sport will be given a start and end date for practices and games. League schedules are currently being put together and some non-league competitions may occur as well.

Two critical areas of concern are the possible need for weekly testing and transportation. We are looking into logistical and financial options for weekly testing if that is necessitated. The availability and cost of busses while adhering to physical distancing protocols may prove to be a prohibitive factor in providing transportation to games.

Over the next one to two weeks, we hope to have a comprehensive plan that we will share with you on how we will move forward.

This is an exciting time for all of us and we can not wait to see more of our teams competing. We appreciate all of your support and patience as we navigate this process.

Sincerely,

Patrick Smith, Carlmont High School AD

Steven Kryger, Menlo-Atherton High School Co-AD

Paul Snow, Menlo-Atherton High School Co-AD

Melissa Schmidt, Sequoia High School AD

Tim Faulkner, Woodside High School AD

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