



# COUNTY OF BUCKS

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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DAVID C. DAMSKER, M.D., M.P.H.

5/28/20

### GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR BUCKS COUNTY YOUTH SPORTS IN THE YELLOW PHASE

The Bucks County Health Department has been closely tracking the COVID-19 outbreak since the onset, and has excellent data showing the consistent downward trend of cases. The County will be moved to the “yellow” phase of the Governor’s reopening plan, effective Friday, June 5, 2020.

Organized competition and games will not be allowed until the “green” phase. However, given the current stable, and improving, situation in Bucks County, as well as the fact that “physical activity conducted as part of summer programming” is allowed under the “yellow” phase, the Health Department is advising that outdoor youth team practices can occur starting on June 5, only if critical safety guidelines and protocols are followed.

It is essential that all Bucks County Municipalities and School Districts be involved in the early decision-making process with teams, especially those desiring to utilize fields belonging to those entities. If at any point in time, a league or team is not following these safety guidelines, the Municipalities and/or School Districts also reserve the right to terminate any usage of their fields or equipment.

At a minimum, the Health Department suggests that all safety protocols include:

- Limiting the size of the practice to as few participants as possible (never exceeding 25)
- Procedures for temperature and symptom screening of all participants prior to beginning practice (symptoms screenings should include fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, runny nose, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea/abdominal pain.)
- Procedures for all participants to wash or sanitize their hands prior to, and after, practice
- Procedures for if a participant tests positive for COVID-19
- Requiring that no personal equipment be shared
- Coaches wearing face coverings
- Social distancing at all times, with no physical contact, including no handshakes, fist-bumps, or high-fives
- Eliminating spitting or chewing gum by participants
- Requiring individual water bottles/beverages for all participants
- Procedures for quickly sanitizing anything used during practice that could be touched by multiple people
- Guidelines to keep any spectators away from the practice area
- Recommending not carpooling multiple participants together (using masks, if carpooling is necessary)

While following these critical guidelines allows for the minimization of the risk of spread of COVID-19, nothing can eliminate it completely. However, it will permit children to safely begin to transition back into much needed healthy physical activity, as well as prepare them for the new rules that will be in place for games when allowed under the green phase.

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Director  
Bucks County Health Department