



TO: All Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Head Basketball Coaches

FROM: Steve Savarese, Executive Director

DATE: December 14, 2020

RE: URGENT! Update regarding attendance at basketball contests

First and foremost, I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year, but most of all, I want to thank you for your sacrifices and commitment to educational athletics. You have been AWESOME over the last few months, and we are truly grateful.

However, due to the recent sharp increase in prevalence of COVID-19 in our state, we eagerly share the following measures recommended by Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).

1. For indoor sports, to help facilitate social distancing, and to reduce the potential exposure to COVID-19 by large numbers of people, the total number of spectators be limited to less than 20% of usual occupancy.
2. In any sport where there is hand to hand contact, or hand contact with a shared object such as a ball, players and officials sanitize their hands each time they enter and leave the court or area of active play.
3. 3. Hosting schools make a public announcement at the beginning of each game, and during intermissions, reminding all spectators to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and persons not in their household, and to keep their face coverings or masks on at all times while in the athletic venue.
4. For sports tournaments involving multiple teams and games, schedule and organize the events such that mingling of spectators with teams not actively engaged in competition is avoided.
5. Encourage players, their families, and their coaches to refrain from organizing non-sport related social activities which increase the risk for transmission and may jeopardize sport participation.
6. If a sporting event participant or official is diagnosed with COVID-19 within two days after an event, the opposite team and officials be contacted to determine the need for quarantine among individuals in that group.
7. Additionally, the Department requests our athletic associations encourage and empower sporting event officials to delay the start of an event or suspend competition whenever spectators are not complying with social distancing guidelines or proper wearing of face coverings or masks

- i. (Complete letter from Dr. Harris may be found at the following link:)  
<https://www.ahsaa.com/Portals/0/PDF's/AHSAA/AHSAA/COVID%20Uploads/Letter%20to%20ALSDE%20AISA%20and%20AHSAA%20in%20re%20Additional%20Sports%20Mitigation%20Measures.pdf?ver=ywXLE6HttvI8QR8MBjOK8w%3d%3d>

The ADPH also reiterates the importance of continued compliance with paragraph 11 of the current Safer at Home Order, available at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/legal/assets/order-adph-cov-gatherings-120920.pdf> and the Department's "Guidelines for Adult and Youth Athletic Activities," available at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-sah-athletic-activities.pdf>

The AHSAA expectation has been and continues to be that member schools comply with current ADPH recommendations and guidelines, and the State Health Order. We greatly appreciate your compliance with the aforementioned health recommendations thus providing a safe environment for all in attendance at winter sport athletic events.

The AHSAA is very grateful for Dr. Harris and Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent (ALSDE) and their staffs for their continued support and guidance to the AHSAA and member schools.



7325 Halcyon Summit Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: 334-263-6994 Fax: 334-387-0075