



**STAFF REPORT**  
**9/9/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** William B. Pattison, Jr., City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2020-52 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, Adopting California Department of Public Health Interim Guidance Related to Youth Sports During COVID-19 State of Emergency.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review, discuss, and adopt Resolution No. 2020-52 Adopting California Department of Public Health Interim Guidance Related to Youth Sports During COVID-19 State of Emergency.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The California Department of Public Health has issued new guidance on youth sports during the COVID-19 state of emergency that generally allows youth sports and physical education ONLY when the following can be maintained: (1) physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between participants; and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risk of transmission. The proposed Resolution formally adopts the interim guidance, which can be enforced by the City.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 13, 2020, Dr. Sonia Y. Angell, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) Director and State Health Officer, expanded statewide the indoor closures for businesses that encourage mixing of individuals beyond immediate households and make physical distancing and wearing face coverings difficult. The Order also provides that for counties on the County Monitoring List, including the County of Riverside, “the risks and impacts of disease transmission are even greater”. Therefore, the Order also required the immediate closure of indoor operations of additional businesses, events and activities in counties listed on the State’s Monitoring List. Pursuant to this Order, the indoor operation of gyms and fitness centers is not currently permitted in the County of Riverside. Once again, this Order remains in effect today and will be applicable until otherwise directed by Dr. Angell.

As a result of the July 13, 2020 Order closing the indoor operation of gyms and fitness centers in the County of Riverside, any and all youth sports and physical education programs within the County are required to take place outdoors until otherwise advised by the State Health Officer.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

On August 3, 2020, the CDPH issued new Interim Guidance as related to Youth Sports. A summary of the Interim Guidance is as follows:

- No outdoor and indoor sporting events, assemblies, and other activities that require close contact are allowed at this time (e.g. tournaments, events, or competitions).
- Youth sports and physical education are permitted only with (1) physical distancing (6 feet); and (2) a stable cohort.
- If sport/activity doesn't allow for physical distancing/cohorting, then ONLY physical conditioning and training is allowed as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Avoid equipment sharing, and if unavoidable, clean and disinfect shared equipment between use.
- Wear cloth face coverings during indoor physical conditioning.
- Activities that require heavy exertion should be conducted outside in a physically distanced manner without face coverings.
- Youth sports programs and schools should provide information to parents or guardians regarding this and related guidance, along with the safety measures.

Also on August 3, 2020, CDPH issued the “Youth Sports Questions and Answers” memorandum, which is attached to the Resolution as Exhibit “B.”

Pursuant to CDPH’s Interim Guidance and FAQ’s, beginning July 30, 2020, CDPH is allowing youth sports and physical education ONLY when the following can be maintained: (1) physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between participants; and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risk of transmission.

For sports that cannot be played with sufficient distancing or cohorting (e.g., basketball, football, soccer), only physical conditioning and training is permitted and ONLY where physical distancing can be maintained. Conditioning and training should focus on individual skill building (e.g., running drills and body weight resistance training).

The August 3, 2020 Interim Guidance and FAQ’s impacts all youth sports and activities, including school-based, club and recreational youth sports, including but not limited to football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, softball, baseball, soccer, swim, water polo, gymnastics, cheer, dance, and karate.

The City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 1159 adding Section 1.08.030 to the Coachella Municipal Code making it unlawful for any person to violate any emergency order made by the Governor of the State of California under the Emergency Services Act or any order of the State

Department of Public Health or Riverside County Health Officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease.

Violation of an emergency order shall be punishable by administrative citation fines, misdemeanor criminal prosecution, and/or civil action, in addition to other means listed in Urgency Ordinance No. 1159. Violations are ongoing and remedies are cumulative.

The proposed Resolution would formally adopt the CDPH guidance and would allow the City to enforce this guidance.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution No. 2020-52