



TO: All Youth Clubs/Adult Teams
DT: November 19, 2020
RE: PA COVID-19 Mitigation

We have come to the end of our fall playing session. You are all to be applauded for your efforts in providing our players with training and games and keeping everyone as safe as possible. We had a few positive tests along the way but with everyone's commitment we were able to prove we could play safely in the middle of a pandemic. Thank you for your efforts.

Now we face the next phase of our Covid-19 journey. As the infection rates continue to grow in Pennsylvania, we have a couple of new public health directives.

On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 Dr. Rachel Levine, PA Secretary of Health issued revised mitigation instructions to Pennsylvanians expanding the mask mandate established last spring.

<https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health-Details.aspx?newsid=1140>

(More on masking below.)

On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, Dr. Debra Bogen issued a stay at home advisory for Allegheny County.

https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Resources/COVID-19/Docs/COVID-19%20Related%20Stay-at-Home%20to%20Stop%20Social%20Gatherings%20Advisory.pdf

This advisory means Allegheny County residents should only leave their home for work, school, and essential trips like grocery shopping or a visit to the doctor or dentist. **With this advisory PA West Soccer is instructing our teams/clubs located in Allegheny County or teams/clubs with activities scheduled in Allegheny County to suspend all activities in compliance with the advisory.**

Here are the essential elements of the strengthened mask mandate:

- Masks are required to be worn indoors and outdoors if you are away from your home.
- When outdoors, a mask must be worn if you are not able to remain physically distant (at least six feet away) from someone not in your household the entire time you are outdoors.

- When indoors, masks will now be required even if you are physically distant from members not in your household. This means that even if you are able to be six feet apart, you will need to wear a mask while inside if with people other than members of your household.
- This order applies to every indoor facility, including homes, retail establishments, gyms, doctors' offices, public transportation, and anywhere food is prepared, packaged, or served.

Additionally, physical distancing and proper hand hygiene are as important as ever. Equally as important is limiting the number of attendees to coaches and players only.

PA West Soccer is committed to providing a safe environment for our players. The masking order must be followed by teams planning to continue training and/or playing indoor or outdoor during winter months.

Further, those planning to travel out of state must also comply with the revised travel instructions from the Commonwealth.

Find them here: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx#>

Please be vigilant as the community spread rises and COVID-19 is more prevalent now than just a couple of weeks ago. Should Governor Wolf or Health Secretary Levine provide any additional directives or mandate a postponement or suspension we will comply.

We encourage each of clubs and leagues to revisit their Return To Play plan and redouble efforts to educate each of your members on your plans and protocols for a safe "continue" to play. Remember, anyone uncomfortable with continuing to play may sit out and return when they are ready. Each individual and organization must assess the risk and make their own determination.

Finally, as some of us transition to indoor play we will be providing an indoor guide in the near future.

For the latest COVID-19 information from Pennsylvania go to:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

All important changes will be posted on the Covid-19 Info page of our web site at <https://www.pawest-soccer.org/news/covid-19-info-center/>