



COVID-19 Guidelines: SPORT EVENTS & GAMES

MARCH 9, 2020

For You To Know Right Now

*Yolo County's Health Officer strongly recommends that all community organizations, schools, religious organizations, other entities and event planners cancel any non-essential **mass gatherings or large community events** starting on March 10 2020. The Yolo County Health Officer will reassess this recommendation on or before April 1, 2020.*

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Yolo County is working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in monitoring COVID-19 and providing guidance and resources to prevent, detect and respond to the occurrence of COVID-19 cases in Yolo County and California. All organizations hosting events should prepare for possible impacts of event cancellations due to COVID-19 and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as other infectious diseases, including influenza. We are now seeing cases of COVID-19 that represent community spread.

STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED IN YOLO

The goals of the Health Officer's recommendations are:

- 1) To protect people attending and working at large gatherings in the local community from contracting COVID-19; and
- 2) To reduce community transmission and introductions of COVID-19 into new communities.

Mass gatherings and large community events bring people from multiple communities into close contact with each other and have the potential to increase COVID-19 transmission. **Mass gatherings are events** where large numbers of people are within an arm's length of one another for an extended period of time. Mass gatherings may include: religious services, sporting events, plays, music concerts, assemblies, and conferences.

One method to slow the spread of respiratory virus infections, including COVID-19, is by increasing **social distancing** (reduce close contact), especially for the more susceptible or immuno-compromised populations. **Social distancing** also helps prevent our healthcare system from becoming rapidly overwhelmed.

STRATEGIES FOR SPORTING EVENTS AND GAMES

Everyone can do their part to help plan, prepare for, and respond to this emerging public health concern. Sporting events can bring hundreds or thousands of athletes and spectators together in a single location. And while concerns about disease remain localized, the emergence of new, more deadly infectious diseases like COVID-19 has instigated fear and precaution over large gatherings. The Public Health Officer strongly recommends that events such as sports games be cancelled to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Actively Encourage People to Stay Healthy:

- The health of your athletes, families and supporters is of utmost importance. Holding a large mass gathering such as sports games, meet and greets, and press events can cause the spread of COVID-19.
- Athletes and employees who have symptoms of respiratory illness are recommended to stay home until they are free of fever (100.4° F or greater) and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- Athletes and employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms upon arrival should be sent home immediately.



Emphasize Staying Home When Sick, Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene:

- Place posters that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) at the entrance to your facilities and in other areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Remind people to clean their hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Provide soap and water, alcohol-based hand rubs, tissues, and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- Encourage the use of nods or elbow bumps in place of handshakes and hugs.

Offer Alternative Options:

- Consider hosting tournaments or games without fans present.
- Offer online and video streaming for games or tournaments so the public can still view or participate.

Perform Routine Environmental Cleaning:

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in your facilities or by athletes. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Ensure that daycare areas are thoroughly cleaned.

RESOURCES

- www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus
- www.yolocounty.org/coronavirusguidance
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCD/C/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>