

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

September 3, 2020

Glenn M. Lungarini
Executive Director, CAS-CIAC
30 Realty Dr., Cheshire, CT 06410

Dear Mr. Lungarini and CAS-CIAC Board Members,

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is in receipt of your letter of August 28th.

As we have stated previously and consistently, there are characteristics that make certain sports unique with regard to their potential for the spread of COVID-19, and thereby present a higher risk for initiating or furthering community spread of any outbreaks even when data metrics support in-person learning. With regard to CIAC's consideration of additional mitigation strategies for indoor girls' volleyball and football that may lower their risks for person-to-person respiratory droplet spread, DPH has suggested that CIAC consider modifications to higher risk activities, and we continue to encourage such modifications. Absent such modifications, DPH is unlikely to support higher risk activities for the Fall term. We would also recommend that CIAC consult with your sports medicine committee before implementing significant changes to how high school sports are played in our state so that any potential unintended consequences of those changes (including increased risk of injury) can be fully vetted prior to implementation.

Regarding metrics, DPH publishes a daily report on case numbers and testing data, as well as enhanced weekly report related to schools every Thursday (<https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CT-School-Reopening/ddy2-ijgu/>). In addition, we have made available the thresholds and metrics the SDE and DPH are using to advise schools on remote vs distance learning. It is important to consider the direction of trends in those metrics as well and unfortunately, we are already seeing some of the metrics in our state trending upward. DPH follows local and national trends and meets regularly with other states and federal partners as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All of these activities form the basis of our public health recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deidre S. Gifford".

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

cc: M. Cardona, Commissioner, CSDE
J. Geballe, COO, State of Connecticut
D. Lehman, Commissioner, DECD



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