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PRESS RELEASE

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High Risk Sports Update

We are revising our guidance for high-risk sports for schools and area recreational competition. Effective on Monday, February 22, 2021, which coincides with the conclusion of school winter break, if our positivity rate is below 6% then competitive play for sports may proceed.

The decision is in consideration of the downward trend of several indicators such as, the number of new cases, positivity rate and the improved trend of Rt (rate of transmission).

The number of new cases daily has come down significantly from that which we were experiencing post-holiday period and continues moving in the right direction. Our positivity rate on a 14-day rolling average was 9.4% when the Governor announced on January 22, 2021 that high-risk sports could proceed and today our current positivity rate is 6% and improving daily. Further, our Rt rate on January 1st was 1.26 and at the time of the announcement it was .95; anything above 1 is a cause for concern. Today our rate of transmission (Rt) is .80. So all the indicators show our community is moving in the right direction and permitting sports is a responsible and safe decision.

The state guidance for high risk sports is still applicable as well as additional guidance from the Jefferson County Public Health, which includes: sports of any nature, competition or practice will cease if a school is 100% remote; face coverings are still applicable and spectators are not permitted at indoor sporting events. Additionally, schools have the ultimate authority to implement more restrictive measures should they choose.

Lastly, we all must continue to remain vigilant in our community by wearing face coverings, practice social distancing and avoiding large gatherings because following these protocols is what is necessary to allow sports and other activities to proceed.