



Nov. 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to notify you that due to the proclamation last night by Governor Reynolds, all middle school and other youth sports for students younger than high school age have been suspended until at least December 10. The governor stated: "With the exception of high school, collegiate, or professional sports, all youth and adult sports activities of any size are suspended. This includes group swimming lessons, swim teams, dancing, gymnastics, and organized basketball games. This does not prohibit individual sporting and recreational activities."

This means that today's junior high boys' game against Sioux Central is postponed, and any other games and practices scheduled prior to December 10 will also be postponed. There will be more updates in the future from the governor as to whether or not the December 10 date will get extended or not. We will also be working with our junior high coaching staff and the other schools on our schedule to see when we will be ready to resume games if we are allowed to resume after December 10. Obviously our athletes would need some time to resume practicing before returning to game action.

Also, when it comes to high school sporting events, spectators are "limited to no more than two spectators per athlete, performer, or competitor participating in the gathering. Spectators may only be present during the time that student or that student's team is participating in a game, meet, or competition." As of the last communication we received from the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, we were told that cheerleaders, halftime dance performers, and coaches are not allowed to have two spectators in attendance, only the athletes playing in the game that is the primary event of the evening. If we learn anything different, we will let you know.

Spectators must also remain at least 6 feet apart from other spectators who do not live in their household. In order to have enough space in our gym to keep spectators socially distanced and to be in compliance with the state guidelines, this also means that we will need to clear the gym after every game. For example, if there is a varsity girls' game followed by a varsity boys' game, parents of the girls' athletes will need to leave at the conclusion of the girls' game, and boys' parents should not arrive until after the girls' game has ended. We are working on finding affordable options to live stream the games for those unable to attend. We will communicate more information on that option as it becomes available.

We know that this will cause some inconveniences, but please understand that this is for the safety of our students, coaches, and other staff. COVID cases are clearly on the rise everywhere around us. If we do not take all the steps necessary to stop the spread, we run the risk of needing to shut school down again and return to fully remote learning. If that happens, all extracurricular activities will stop. The education of our students is the number one priority, and we want to be able to continue fully in-person unless we absolutely are unable to do so.

Thank you for your understanding, and please help us put these guidelines into place so everything goes as smoothly as possible for our home events.

Sincerely,

Mr. Berg