



MEMORANDUM

TO: PRINCIPALS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF BCSS MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: BCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: BCSS RESPONSE TO COVID-19
DATE: MARCH 10, 2020
CC: SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERS, BCSS SPORT COMMISSIONERS

BC School Sports (BCSS) continues to actively monitor the public health situation in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We are receiving many questions from our members and concerned parties, and we want to assure our membership we are taking this matter extremely seriously and are committed to the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches and supporters around the province.

At this time, we continue to monitor the information from the national and provincial health authorities. They are in agreement that COVID-19 presents a public health concern, but that the risk to individuals remains low.

The BCSS winter season of play last concluded last weekend, and there are no further zone or provincial championships until late May. We will continue to monitor the situation.

As spring sports begin their season of play, exhibition, tournament and regular season competition will be commencing. At the local level, participation in these contests will remain at the discretion of the school and school district. To this point, the threat has remained low, and we continue to see school sport contests being played, but the public health risk is fluid, and may change rapidly at any time.

Student-athletes and coaches when participating are encouraged to adopt all advised actions by public health officials, such as washing hands frequently, and for at least 20 seconds at a time, and containing coughs or sneezes into a tissue or sleeve, and most importantly, remaining home if you are sick, especially with a fever or respiratory illness.

Additionally, we are recommending that all pre and post-game handshakes are temporarily halted to minimize risk. As sportsmanship is a key element to any school sporting event, we encourage players to acknowledge each other in appropriate ways such as a nod or elbow dab.



Currently the CAAAA National Athletic Directors Conference (April 16-18) and the BCSS AGM (April 18-19) are scheduled to proceed as scheduled. Additional updates will be published and circulated as required. Further guidance on zone and provincial championships will be published closer to the end of the season of play.

Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the BCSS office.

RESOURCES:

Public Health Service of Canada: COVID-19 Prevention and Risks

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>

Vancouver Coastal Health: Information on Coronavirus

<http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/vancouver-coastal-health-statement-on-coronavirus>