



MEMORANDUM

TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: LATEST ORDER FROM PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER
DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2020
CC: BCSS COMMISSIONERS, ZONE PRESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

BCSS has received numerous inquiries as to the effects of the most recently announced Provincial Health Officer Order ('The Order') from December 2, 2020. The Order, like those issued in the last 4-6 weeks exempts school activities. School activities remain under the K-12 Guidelines. This morning, I spoke directly with Dr. Brian Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer to confirm my understanding of the order, and we agree that the order implies no change for school sport. Due to the diligence and hard work of our schools, athletic directors and coaches, there has been no evidence of spread due to school sports. We commend you on your safety first attitude and ask that this continue to be the top priority.

This means BCSS remains in BCSS Phase 2 of the Return to School Sport plan. While in Phase 2 inter-school activities remains banned, while intra-school activities may happen with students from the same educational learning group (cohort). Students from different educational learning groups must remain physically distanced at all times; there is no grey area here. Further, sports that have sustained or frequent contact are required to minimize contact, even for students from the same educational learning group. As usual, all activities are at the discretion of the school and/or district administration.

With other sport and recreational activities in the community being scaled back to physically distanced activities, this provides further opportunity for our athletic directors and coaches to demonstrate their leadership, creativity and resiliency that has been on display for the past 3+ months. As we approach the darkest, shortest days of the year, our student-athletes will be requiring outlets to aid their physical and mental well-being more than ever. I know this situation is difficult, and far from ideal, but it remains critical to keep our students connected to their school, their friends, teammates, and school sport.

BCSS staff are currently preparing a sport-specific document to assist schools in providing a safe but engaging training environment for our winter season of play activities, as we did for our fall activities. Look for this in the coming weeks.

Should there be any further questions, don't hesitate to contact the BCSS Office. Thank you for your continued servant leadership to school sport, and the student-athletes in BC!