

August 4, 2021

Dear CYO Parents, Coaches, and Athletic Directors:

CYO continues to consult with Dr. Robert Salata, Physician-in-Chief and Master Clinician in Infectious Diseases regarding COVID-19 developments. Dr. Salata serves as the STERIS Chair of Excellence in Medicine and as a Professor and Chairman in the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University for University Hospitals. Dr. Salata has been a CYO coach and his children and family participate in CYO.

Earlier this summer Ohio reached a level of only 50 new infections per day. That number continues to trend upward. On August 3, 21 Ohio reported over 1,700 new cases.

- The Increase in Ohio cases is directly related to the highly contagious COVID Delta variant.
- The Delta variant of the COVID virus is 60% more contagious than the earlier virus.
- The key factor related to COVID is Transmissibility – how easily a virus spreads.
- The greatest risk for serious illness to persons from COVID is for unvaccinated persons.
- Ninety Nine percent of persons hospitalized from COVID in the University Hospitals system are of unvaccinated persons. One percent are persons who are immunocompromised.

The science of the COVID-19 virus has not changed. The Virus has changed – mutated – and there will be new mutations because that is what viruses do. The science has consistently stated that getting the vaccine, wearing a mask when indoors, and washing hands often are the best and most effective actions every person can take to protect themselves and others.

CYO and COVID-19 in the Fall of 2021

- Any persons who do not feel well or have any COVID related symptoms are asked to NOT ATTEND any CYO practices or games under any circumstances.
- Any persons who are not vaccinated are asked to wear a mask when at any CYO practices or contests, indoors or outdoors. Please protect all children and adults in CYO by wearing a mask at all CYO gatherings if you have not received a vaccine.
- CYO is not restricting the number of fans who attend indoor CYO contests AT THIS TIME.
- Volleyball – Indoor CYO sport
 1. CYO requires that all coaches wear a mask while coaching in practices and games.
 2. Athletes ARE NOT REQUIRED to wear a mask while practicing or competing in games.
 3. CYO requires that all coaches, parents and spectators wear a mask when entering CYO indoor venues for volleyball practices and games.
 4. Fans will not be permitted to enter CYO indoor game venues if they are not wearing a mask over their nose and mouth.
 5. Fans are required to keep their mask over their nose and mouth the entire time when inside at a CYO venue. Violators will be required to leave the facility.

These CYO fall sports operational guidelines are subject to change according to further pandemic related developments. Vulnerable, high risk, and immunocompromised individuals as identified by the CDC should remain at home for their own safety and for the safety of others.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a battle of human psychology. We all want a quick fix, a technical solution that will allow us to get on with our lives – NOW! The changing environment is humbling and reminds us again that viral pandemics do not work that way. This pandemic requires that we change our thinking and change our behavior – how we think and what we do. That is hard work individually and together. CYO understands that pandemic fatigue is real and that people are tired and longing for the pandemic to end. We are too.

COVID fatigue is a real and difficult factor for everyone after 18 months of dealing with COVID and the many related changes, disappointments, and losses.

We will continue to monitor safety guidelines, best practices and protocols from local and state health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association to provide the safest possible environment for coaches, athletes, officials, and spectators. This process will lead us to determine the best practices for the upcoming CYO winter sports season.

At CYO, we will continue to focus on our mission and programs with the goal of doing what together we do best: *Giving young people a fun, holy, and healthy sports experience while giving them memories that last a lifetime.*

Please join us in praying for all of the children and families in CYO. Thank you for your full cooperation by doing your part to live our CYO mission: *CYO inspires young people to know God, to love God, and to serve God through athletics.*

Peace be with you.

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