



## Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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January 29, 2021

TO: Jefferson County School Superintendents and all Recreational Program Operators, Businesses, Leagues and Organizations:

In consultation with our school districts and in accordance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Guidelines, Jefferson County Public Health Service has identified guidelines for the initiation of high-risk sports competition and tournaments in Jefferson County (School Districts and all other recreational activity). All responsible parties must strictly adhere to the INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY as amended by NYSDOH on January 22, 2021. <https://forward.ny.gov/statewide-guidelines>


Jefferson County currently has a 14 day rolling average percentage positive results of 8.4%. The positive cases have increased from 856 on December 1, 2020 to 4,407 on January 29, 2021. The number of deaths have increased from 12 on December 31, 2020 to 52 on January 29, 2021. The COVID-19 virus has been easily transmitted from person to person since the start of the Holiday season.

In addition to adherence to the INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, as amended, the following consensus was also reached:

- Practice sessions conducted per the NYSDOH guidelines for the high risk sports may occur starting February 8, 2021.
- Practice, sports competition and tournaments will not occur if the school is in 100% remote session.
- Jefferson County's 14 day rolling average percentage positive results must be 4% or under to begin competition and tournaments. <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>
- Athletes must wear acceptable face coverings (as detailed in NYSDOH guidance), unless a medical exemption is obtained from medical provider and approved by the school's physician; and
- Spectators will not be permitted to attend indoor sporting events.

Please note, this is the minimal guidance schools must adhere to, but school districts may implement more restrictive measures should they choose.

Sincerely,

  
Ginger B. Hall  
Public Health Director