

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reopening of Youth Sports

The El Dorado Union High School District is excited to announce that with the most recent changes to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines for Youth Sports as of February 19, 2021, the majority of athletic programs in the District have been approved to resume play. In addition to sports in the purple and red tiers, CDPH has approved outdoor high-contact sports in the orange tier (football, lacrosse, soccer, and water polo) to be played when a county's adjusted COVID-19 daily case rate falls below 14 cases per 100,000. As of today, El Dorado County has met that requirement. The El Dorado Union High School District has also shown a steady decline of positive COVID-19 cases and quarantines of students and staff.

- For more information, visit the EDUHSD COVID-19 Dashboard: <http://www.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/COVID-19/index.html>
- For more details on the CDPH Guidelines for Youth Sports, including the sports that are approved for play, visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx>

An additional requirement set forth by the CDPH is that coaches and athletes in football and water polo must be COVID-19 tested on a weekly basis when the county's case rate is between 14 and 7 cases per 100,000. If competing, testing must be performed with test results made available within 24 hours of the contest. Once our county reaches less than 7 cases per 100,000, testing will no longer be required.

The El Dorado Union High School District is currently working closely with the El Dorado County Office of Education, El Dorado County Public Health, and local testing providers to identify testing resources to meet the requirements noted above. Coaches and athletic directors will keep families in these programs updated regarding the testing process.

Unfortunately, the most recent CDPH updates did not address indoor sports that fall in the yellow tier, specifically competition cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, and wrestling. The District remains hopeful that CDPH will address these sports soon, and we will continue to advocate on their behalf with our state leaders. We will keep our community informed as updated guidance comes available.

As we continue to see COVID-19 cases in El Dorado County decline, we ask our entire school community to help keep our athletes on the field by engaging in safe COVID-19 related practices. Attendance for spectators at sporting events continues to be governed by CDPH guidelines, which limits observers to immediate household members only. Household members who plan to attend events are asked to practice social distancing from non-household members when observing competitions at District facilities. As a reminder, masks are required for all individuals visiting District facilities, including immediate household members observing sports competitions. Any student athlete showing signs of illness should not be sent to school or allowed to attend practices or contests.

The El Dorado Union High School District is looking forward to seeing our student athletes back in competition soon. Thank you to our greater school community for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these challenging times, as well as through these new requirements set forth by the State.