
From: Oliven, Laura (MDH)
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH)
Subject: RE: 2 week pause

Categories: Sports Guidance Review

Yes, please do. In a meeting with the COS when Jan was talking about priorities I wrote into the chat youth sports and then the pause idea came up. Tarek immediately wrote to me that he did not support a pause that lacked clear definitions around what we are trying to achieve and what would be expected upon resumption.

The election, particularly the loss of six DFL seats in the House was in part a referendum on our guidance and sports was part of that. I think you should send an email, but I don't think we should meet until next week when we get clear guidance from GO on how to proceed.

Laura Oliven, MPP (she,her)
COVID-19 Response

Minnesota Department of Health

Cell: [REDACTED]



From: Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH) <cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Oliven, Laura (MDH) <laura.oliven@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: 2 week pause

Hey,

I never heard back from you on this, so thought I would check in. Didn't mean to shut this conversation down. If there is still conversation around a two week pause, would love to help support it. I haven't really heard anything since last Sunday. Would it be worth bringing us together again, or best to wait, etc? I am going to send you an email about the Tournament language. I did check with MASC and MSHSL on the language so I thought that would be a nice way to report back and ask for a status update on that...so will send you a separate email with the right folks on it..

Hope you are hanging in...

Cynthia

From: Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH)
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:14 PM

To: Oliven, Laura (MDH) <laura.oliven@state.mn.us>

Cc: Griffith, Jayne (MDH) <jayne.griffith@state.mn.us>; Banerjee, Emily (MDH) <emily.banerjee@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: 2 week pause

Just looping in Jayne and Emily, I still worry about the bias in how this data was collected. They surveyed schools. First, as we have seen here in MN Schools have pressure and incentive to have sports look safer than they might be, second students are not required to disclose to schools their COVID-19 status if they get sick, third we know that COVID-19 is likely underdiagnosed in this age group, and finally I don't know how aggressively WI is testing this age group.

Also, the reality is, we are seeing transmission associated with sports activities – both on and off the field. It is not possible to tease out the social component of sports from the sport itself – unless maybe you are a pro athlete where they have so many other pieces in place to control your activities on and off the field. Additionally, MDH's stance has never been to kill sports completely, we are asking to pull back on games and competition – practices ok. So students still have that outlet to address the mental health of things.

At the end of the day COVID-19 is spread best when people have close contact with each other, intermix with other groups, are not masked, and are breathing heavily – sports checks all those boxes, both the activity itself and the social piece around it. With close to 4,000 cases reported today in MN and likely going forward, exponential growth in our state, medical supplies starting to be taxed – this is not the time to challenge public health recommendations that are based on good science and reasonable balances. We are already finding a middle ground by allowing practices to address the mental health of athletes.

Cynthia

From: Oliven, Laura (MDH) <laura.oliven@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:01 PM

To: Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH) <cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us>

Subject: FW: 2 week pause

Laura Oliven, MPP (she,her)

COVID-19 Response

Minnesota Department of Health

Cell: [REDACTED]



From: Tomes, Tarek (MNIT) <Tarek.Tomes@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:59 AM

To: Mueller, Heather (MDE) <Heather.Mueller@state.mn.us>; Oliven, Laura (MDH) <laura.oliven@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: 2 week pause

Just wanted to share this.

https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/education/local_schools/uw-study-high-school-sports-have-not-spread-the-covid-19-coronavirus/article_3b04400a-7651-50df-a2ff-01a71bf4db65.html

From: Tomes, Tarek (MNIT)

Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:08 PM

To: Mueller, Heather (MDE) <Heather.Mueller@state.mn.us>; Oliven, Laura (MDH) <laura.oliven@state.mn.us>

Subject: 2 week pause

Just sharing that in my opinion I would not recommend a 2 week pause without clarity of what happens at the end of 2 weeks. Based on all data I have seen, spread from the actual sports competition is not one of our highest risk concerns. Certainly the the gathering and fan element is. I certainly could be wrong on that.