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DATE: April 5, 2021
TO: High School Students and Families
FROM: Jeff Lowell, District Athletics and Activities Director
RE: High school athletics update ([Chinese](#) | [Spanish](#))

Please click on the links below to jump to a specific section of this update:

- [Phase 3 Guidelines for Programs](#)
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1. Phase 3 Guidelines for Programs

We are grateful that current conditions allow for our students to have opportunities to participate in high school athletics this year and remain focused on providing these opportunities in a safe environment following all required mandates from the governor's office, the Department of Health, the WIAA and other regulatory agencies as appropriate.

As updates to mandates are released, we review and determine how each may influence District programs. It is essential to remember that any mandate means that a school district cannot be less restrictive than what has been shared. A school district always has the authority to make decisions in the best interest of their students that may be more restrictive than what is included in the mandates.

Please review this quick summary of important elements of athletic programming while in Phase 3:

- **Spectator Guidelines:** Updated [Spectator Guidelines](#) were released on March 18, 2021. Targeted communications are being sent through each high school athletic department. *Please read these guidelines and watch for weekly communications from your school.* Each school has a defined number of seats for home parents, home students, away parents, and visiting parents. School athletic departments communicate with those eligible to attend, and at each sporting event, there will be a pass list at the door. If your name is not on that list, you will not be allowed into the venue. At this time, we cannot accommodate walk up traffic at sporting events. *We need everyone to work together to follow the guidelines as they are currently written. We appreciate your help.*
- **Masks:** Athletes will continue to wear masks during competition, with two exceptions. Aquatic athletes may remove their mask while in the water during practice and competition and cross-country athletes are able to drop their mask at the beginning of a race. Anyone else in attendance at a practice or competition must always remain masked.
- **High Risk Indoor Sports:** The move to Phase 3 also provides opportunities for competitions for basketball, wrestling, and competitive cheer (no tournaments) during our Season 2, which began on March 29 for gymnastics and for basketball, swim and dive (boys) and wrestling on April 5.

2. Potential of 'Reopening Rollback' to Phase 2

On April 2, 2021, the *Seattle Times* published an article titled "[King County public health official: Surge in COVID cases could lead to reopening rollback.](#)" The article provides a detailed look at the current upward trend of COVID cases in the county and the prospect of failing to meet the necessary benchmarks to remain in Phase 3 in the county.

I share this with all of you as we have successfully completed Season 1. We appreciate all the work by athletes, parents, and coaches to support the programs at our four high schools. The willingness and effort to follow safety measures has

paid off for everyone. Now is the time to redouble these efforts and finish the season strong as we head into Season 2. Now is the time to recommit to these safety measures to ensure that Season 2 and Season 3 athletes have the same opportunities to practice and compete that Season 1 athletes received during March.

The District continues to update our [COVID Dashboard](#), with the number of COVID-19 infections and close contacts in each school location over the last 14 days.

3. **Miscellaneous Items**

Last week, the athletic directors at Bellevue, Interlake, Newport, and Sammamish shared a link with participants and parents for each Season 1 program’s end of the season survey. We appreciate all the responses to this survey as the information is valuable to our athletic department. The link to the survey will remain open through Friday April 9 (closing at 6 p.m.). If you have not yet completed the survey and need the link again, please contact your school’s athletic director.

We will continue to send updates to high school families every two weeks. After sending the updates, we will also post each one on the Athletics and Activities department page. The next update will be sent home after April 12 and will provide an important update related to the governor’s review of King County’s numbers and any potential rollback in the re-opening Phase.

Participants and their families will continue to see more targeted communications from high school athletic departments and coaching staff prior to **and** throughout their scheduled seasons.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Athletics and Activities Department by email (lowellj@bsd405.org or arnonea@bsd405.org), phone (425-456-4010 or 425-456-4050) or [Let’s Talk](#).

In partnership



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4. **2020-2021 Archived Communications**

Friday January 29, 2021		General update about KingCo Conference athletics
Thursday February 4, 2021:	Chinese Spanish	Registration, February Conditioning, Academic Eligibility
Thursday February 11, 2021:	Chinese Spanish	Waived Fees, KingCo scheduling, Non-WIAA season dates
Thursday February 18, 2021:	Chinese Spanish	Schedules, Spectators, Academic Eligibility, Try-Outs
Thursday February 26, 2021:	Chinese Spanish	Safety measures, Game Schedules, Spectators, Transportation
Spectator Plan for Season 1 Sports 2020-21	Chinese Spanish	Phase 2 Spectator Guidelines
Student Transportation for 2020-21 Seasons 1-3		Detailed guidance for transporting students to competitions and practice
Sports Season Guidelines 2020-21		KingCo Conference Safety Measures for 2020-2021
3/16/21 Athletic Director Update	Chinese Spanish	Season 1 updates, Transition to Phase 3,
Spectator Update 3/18/21		Phase 3 Spectator Guidelines – replaces Phase 2 Guidelines