



Oregon School Activities Association
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October 14, 2009

To: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors
From: Tom Welter, Executive Director
Subject: H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu)

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) has received several inquiries related to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and its potential impact on upcoming OSAA State Championship activities and athletics.

While we recognize the desire of schools and communities to have students participating in these events, the OSAA places the safety and health of everyone involved – both participants and spectators – as our top priority. Toward that end, the OSAA Executive Board has requested that staff distribute the following policy regarding the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and OSAA State Championships.

TEAM SPORTS

Teams from schools that are closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) will not be allowed to participate in high school activities or athletics until the school has been re-opened and classes resume (i.e. a school closed on Friday would not be considered re-opened until classes resume on Monday). In an effort to provide a participation opportunity for schools in this situation, the OSAA will allow an OSAA playoff game in a team sport to be conducted later than its originally scheduled date on the bracket, provided that a minimum of one travel day remains following the contest prior to the next round of play (football excluded). If a contest is not able to be completed within these parameters, the contest will be considered a forfeit by the school closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and the other school's team will advance in the bracket.

Football games will not be permitted to move beyond Saturday of each week due to the weekly participation limitations for football participants. The OSAA Medical Aspects of Sports Committee has advised that under no circumstances should a school participate in more than one varsity football contest in a calendar week. The potential risk to the health and safety of participants causes serious concerns for the Committee.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Students of schools that are closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) will not be allowed to participate in high school activities and athletics until the school has been re-opened and classes resume (i.e. a school closed on Friday would not be considered re-opened until classes resume on Monday). Due to the high number of individuals involved in these events, it is simply not possible to move and/or reschedule individual sport state championships on such short notice.

It is strongly suggested that schools and leagues adopt this policy, or a similar one, in advance of facing these types of situations. The OSAA encourages schools and leagues to work together to balance the desire to have contests played while keeping the health and safety of participants and spectators at the forefront.

School officials should work closely and directly with their local and state public health officials to make sound decisions, based on local conditions, and to implement strategies in a coordinated manner.

For the latest of what's happening in Oregon regarding the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu), please visit: www.flu.oregon.gov.