



# Columbia County Department of Health

John J. Mabb, MA  
Public Health Director

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Ichabod Crane Central School District  
Suzanne Guntlow, Superintendent  
2910 Route 9  
Valatie, New York 12184

Dear Superintendent Guntlow:

I am writing to inform you that given the steady drop in the positivity rate here in Columbia County the Department of Health will allow school districts to move forward with practicing for sports. As previously stated the seven (7) day rolling rate must drop below 4% for actual games to take place.

As indicated in our previous letter the decision to move forward with sports remains a decision for each district to make. If a district plans to move forward the department shall look for:

- Each school district's Board of Education or non-public school's Board of Directors (or other appropriate person/entity) must approve the district/school's participation in each specific higher-risk sport.
- Each school superintendent/school leader must oversee the creation of a sport-specific preparedness plan, to be approved by the district/school's medical director.
- Each parent/guardian must sign an informed consent.
- It is recommended that each student-athlete have medical clearance from their healthcare provider.
- Each parent/guardian, student-athlete, and school official must agree to fully cooperate with case investigations and contact elicitation and to adhere to isolation and quarantine orders.

In addition, it will be required that student athletes and coaches be tested once a week utilizing rapid antigen tests supplied by the County and/or Questar III BOCES and a daily list of all practice participants be maintained in the event contact tracing is required. Teams can begin practicing before testing takes place however games cannot be played until testing begins. Should the seven (7) day of positivity rate rise above 5% all practices and scheduled games will be suspended pending a drop in the rate back to or below 4%.

If any school has to move to a remote schedule due to a spike in COVID-19 positive cases in the school community practices and scheduled games will be subject to cancellation and/or postponement.

Sincerely,

John J. Mabb, MA  
Public Health Director