

FAQ's on the New Guidelines and the Impact on Schools

Schools and Extracurricular Activities

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders and the Mitigation, Enforcement and Immunity Protections Orders apply to schools?

The Orders do not apply to educational instruction but do apply to school activities within and outside of the classroom that are not related to educational instruction, including, but not limited to, assemblies, school board meetings, staff meetings, and extracurricular activities.

Do the event and gathering limitations in the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders include students and staff?

Yes, the Orders include all individuals present at the event or gathering, regardless of whether they are students, staff, or others.

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to school buses?

The Order does not apply to school buses. The Department of Education includes a list of best practices for safely transporting students.

Are school board meetings considered gatherings?

Yes. A school board meeting is a gathering and must follow the indoor gathering limits, and members must practice physical distancing, and comply with the Secretary's Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings. Local education agencies should consider alternative ways to host these meetings including virtual.

Does the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Order apply to school cafeterias and college dining facilities?

No. The Orders do not apply to school cafeteria food services and college dining services, as those services are not considered to be a private catered event or offered by a restaurant. See the Department of Education's website for additional guidance and resources on schools.

What are considered extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities are defined in the Limited-Time Mitigation Orders as voluntary activities sponsored, approved or permitted by a school entity or local education agency or an organization sanctioned by the local education agency other than sports and athletics, and include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

Adult and Youth Sports

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to school sports for private and public K-12 schools?

Yes, the Orders apply to all K-12 school sports games, contests, competitions, scrimmages, and practices.

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to youth and adult recreational sports?

Yes, the Orders apply to youth interscholastic and intrascholastic athletics and to youth and adult organized athletic contests, competitions, scrimmages, or practices regardless of what they are called and whether the participants are from the same state or other states.

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to collegiate sports?

No, collegiate sports activities may continue in accordance with guidance from the CDC and the Department; however, spectators may not attend. Collegiate and professional sports teams must abide by all league and university testing protocols, contact tracing, and other public health practices.

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to professional sports?

No, professional sports activities may continue in accordance with guidance from the CDC and the Department; spectators may not attend.

If a sport is exclusively conducted outside is play allowable according to the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Order?

No. All non-collegiate and non-professional sports activities are suspended, including both indoor and outdoor sports activities.

How do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to multi-field/complex sports facilities?

All in-person retail businesses serving the public within a building or indoor defined area in the entertainment industry including multi-field/complex sports facilities are prohibited from operation. Additionally, all organized athletic contests, competitions, scrimmages, and practices regardless of what they are called, with the exception of professional and collegiate sports activities, are prohibited.

How do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to dance studios, gymnastic facilities, cheerleading gyms?

All organized athletic contests, competitions, scrimmages, and practices regardless of what they are called are suspended including dance studios, gymnastic facilities, cheerleading gyms, etc. In addition, extracurricular activities, which includes activities such as non-competitive dance and cheerleading have been suspended by the order.

How do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to dance, gymnastic or cheerleading competitions?

Dance, cheerleading, and gymnastics are all considered athletics and are suspended.