



TO: All Special Olympics Washington Programs, Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers

FROM: Dave Lenox, President and CEO

CC: Special Olympics Washington Board of Directors and Staff

DATE: May 8, 2020

I hope this finds you healthy and well.

In light of the recently announced phased approach to reopening Washington and modifying physical distancing measures, and after hearing from many of you as well as other organizations, we have decided to cancel all Summer regional competitions and State Summer Games (August 21-23). While this addresses regional and state competitions, we will be working with Area Directors to determine local training options as counties open.

As Governor Inslee announced, some areas of the state that have not been heavily impacted by the pandemic may reopen sooner than other parts of the state. So, it is possible that some areas may be able to return to practices sooner than others. With this in mind, our plan moving forward is to focus on local area programming, and we will be working with our Area Directors to develop guidelines to ensure a safe return to practices when the time is right. The safety of our athletes and volunteers is always our first concern. We are working now to clarify the Governor's definition of "at risk" populations and will share that information with Area Directors as it comes available.

The Special Olympics Washington staff will also continue to work on ways to keep athletes active, in touch, and engaged during this challenging time. Stay tuned for more on this front!

I understand the cancelation of Summer regional and state competitions compounds the disappointment many are feeling following the cancelation of Spring season. Please hang in there! We want to make sure everyone is safe, fit, and healthy for when we can all get together again!

By the end of July, we hope to be able to give a definitive timeline for the status of Fall season. Until then, please continue to check with your Area Director and our website for resources and the latest updates on our response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Coaches and local volunteers - if you have any questions, please contact your Area Director.

Athletes – please reach out to your coach if you have any questions.

And to all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone else on the Special Olympics Washington team if we can be of support.