



September 15, 2021

To: Barbara Ferrera and LA County Public Health, Kathryn Barger, LA County Supervisor; and Councilman CD 12 John Lee

Re: **Protocol for Organized Youth Sports: Appendix S Effective Date: Wednesday, September 01, 2021 - Revised 8/30/2021**

Northridge West Neighborhood Council OPPOSES the COVID testing requirements for Youth Sports. LA County Public Health attempted to impose a long list of impractical requirements on all LA County Youth Sports. While the LA County COVID guidelines for Youth Sports that went into effect Sept 1, 2021, were improved and amended on August 30, 2021, by the removal of COVID testing requirements for some participants, there are still some youth who will be unequally burdened by these requirements.

We are asking LA County to make recommendations – not mandates – on youth sports leagues and to remove the mandatory testing requirement for children 12 years and older, who are unvaccinated. Youth leagues, like little league and AYSO, cannot afford to provide COVID testing and are run by parents and volunteers. Many of the sports that would be subjected to these new requirements are played outside in open areas (such as soccer). In addition, many of these sports operated successfully last season and over the summer without these protocols and without spread.

Please remove this impractical requirement and let our kids play sports.

Sincerely

Abby Bailes

President NWNC



Link to the

rules: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_YouthSports.pdf

Relevant Excerpt from Rules are quoted below, with **red text for emphasis.

"Require Screening Testing for COVID-19

- The virus that causes COVID-19 may infect any members of the youth sports league, even fully vaccinated members, although it is more likely to infect unvaccinated persons. Any infected person can potentially transmit the virus to others. One strategy to accurately identify infected individuals and then quickly isolate them is routine periodic screening testing for COVID-19 with a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) such as PCR, or an Antigen (Ag) test. General guidance and recommendations about testing including the types of tests available can be accessed at our Testing Information for Patients page. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER Appendix S: Protocol for Organized Youth Sports Page 4 of 6 Revised 8/26/2021
- At the current time with high community transmission occurring in **Los Angeles County, routine testing is required for all athletes and staff participating in moderate or high-risk sports, regardless of vaccination status**. See Table below for examples of sports in different risk categories.
- **Required testing cadence is minimum once per week.**
- **Testing two times per week is strongly recommended for unvaccinated participants and staff.**
- **In addition, testing must be performed within 72 hours of any inter-team competition and results must be available before the competition begins or the athlete or staff member may not be present at the competition."**