



# LAKEWOOD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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Parents of All Lakewood Student-Athletes,

Following updated communication received from Governor DeWine and OHSAA Commissioner Snodgrass, I would like to provide you with an update on the status of school and facility closures, as well as all OHSAA-sponsored sports offered by Lakewood Middle School and Lakewood High School:

- School closures throughout Ohio have been extended through May 1, 2020.
- All Lakewood Local School District facilities will remain closed and non-accessible by coaching staffs, students, parents, and outside groups through May 1, 2020. Only “essential staff” will be permitted on-site. The closed facilities include: Lakewood High School, both Jackson Intermediate School buildings and adjacent softball fields, Don Thorp baseball field, Lancer Stadium, Lakewood Athletic Complex, Lakewood Middle School and Hebron Elementary.
- The state-wide “No Contact Period” for coaches involved with all OHSAA-sponsored sports in Grades 7-12 has been extended through May 1, 2020. In short, no coach can be involved in the coaching of students on- or off-site as it relates to practices, scrimmages, games, meets, open gyms, conditioning, weightlifting, offseason sporting activities or the like.
- Coaches continue to be encouraged to reach out to students to check in on their mental and physical well-being, to answer any questions about the “No Contact Period,” and to offer training opportunities able to be completed from the safety of their own home. Staying in contact is important!
- **Practices** for spring sports and off-season conditioning for all other sports are permitted to resume on Saturday, May 2, 2020. Further details regarding when scrimmages, games and meets may start, as well as if an acclimation period will be required, will be announced once known. It remains my hope that we will be able to play abbreviated spring sport seasons into the summer; however, our continued battle against the spread of this virus will heavily dictate this option. I will communicate any updates when/as appropriate.

- Coaches are not permitted to hold student-athletes “accountable” for any athletic activities during this time; however, as is mentioned above, coaches are being encouraged to offer opportunities for athletes to stay in shape and healthy from the safety of their own home.
- “Social distancing” will be an important topic for coaches to address with athletes as well. Gathering with teammates to “work out” is not in-line with the current “Stay at Home” order to help curb this ever-growing virus. We need to continue to band together to fight the spread of this virus!
- In order to remain eligible to participate in high school spring sports, student-athletes need to steer clear of working with their summer travel teams. Working with a travel team can eliminate the student-athlete’s eligibility to play high school sports once we return this spring.
- Should the spring sports season be cancelled entirely, no student-athlete will be granted an additional year of eligibility. For our senior student-athletes, this is a very tough thing to comprehend; however, I ask you all to talk with your child(ren) regarding the “big picture” of ensuring health and safety for our community remains the top priority.
- The August 1, 2020 fall sports practice official start date remains set at this time. Detailed information will be provided when/if this changes.

It is my continued hope that our students are back in the classroom and their athletic venues as soon as is safely possible. With that said, we will continue to follow the instructions of Ohio Governor DeWine and OHSAA Commissioner Snodgrass as it relates to the health and safety of our student-athletes. Safety first!

Please reach out with questions as it relates to athletics or the use of the Lakewood Local School District facilities during this closure. With the facilities currently unavailable, I can be reached via e-mail at [saharris@laca.org](mailto:saharris@laca.org). You are also welcome to follow me on Twitter at @LWHSLancers for up-to-the-minute athletic updates.

It is my hope that you enjoy quality time with your loved ones by living your best life as a family! In this difficult time, there is one thing that is certain...  
**TOGETHER** we will conquer COVID-19!

**Go Lancers! Go Blue!**