



To: NJSIAA Member Schools

From: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer

Date: September 25, 2020

RE: NJ Department of Health Update

The New Jersey Department of Health has asked the NJSIAA to help them re-emphasize the importance of contact tracing and to pass on information about how the process works. We would appreciate you sharing this information with your coaches, student-athletes and parents.

Recently, local health departments have experienced difficulties during the contact tracing process, especially regarding student-athletes. These difficulties can lead to longer than necessary shutdowns of athletic programs. The quicker everyone responds and cooperates with the contact tracers, the sooner the local public health officials can make a final recommendation about the status of a team or program.

Here are a few reminders about contract tracing from the DOH:

1. Contract tracing information is confidential:
 - a. A person's name and COVID-19 status will never be shared.
 - b. Close contacts to be contacted will not be given the person's name.
2. Contact tracing is a key to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our communities healthy, especially among the high school-aged population, which is often asymptomatic.
3. Contact tracers work with local health departments. If a contact tracer calls, then it is imperative that the parent take the call and share accurate information as timely as possible. Otherwise, unnecessary delays in a resumption of activities may occur.

The DOH looks forward to future cooperation from everyone involved in interscholastic sports.