GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2020-123
December 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Modified Requirements Relating to Physical Activity to Combat Escalation of COVID-19 Pandemic During Phase Two

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, Pub. L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 790, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22 (2016 Repl.); in accordance with the Coronavirus Support Second Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective August 19, 2020, D.C. Act 23-405, the Public Health Emergency Authority Additional Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective October 5, 2020, D.C. Act 23-411, and any substantially similar subsequent emergency or temporary legislation; section 5 of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective March 5, 1981, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304 (2018 Repl.); section 5a of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective October 17, 2002, D.C. Law 14-194, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01 (2018 Repl.); the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2020, effective October 9, 2020, D.C. Act 23-334, 67 DCR 12236; section 1 of An Act To Authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations to prevent and control the spread of communicable and preventable diseases ("Communicable and Preventable Diseases Act"), approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat. 1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq.* (2018 Repl.); and in accordance with Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-050, dated March 20, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-063, dated April 15, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-066, May 13, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-067, dated May 27, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-079, dated July 22, 2020, and Mayor's Order 2020-103, dated October 7, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. BACKGROUND

1. This Order incorporates the findings of prior Mayor's Orders relating to COVID-19.

2. Community transmission of COVID-19 is escalating throughout the District and is exploding in many parts of the country. Reinforcement to encourage community responsibility and compliance with health and safety rules is necessary. Flu season, holiday gatherings, and greater indoor activity during winter are anticipated to cause even more cases of COVID-19 and increased stress on our hospital system's capacity. Immediate further action on the part of our residents, employers, and visitors, and further restrictions on activities that are conducive to the rapid spread of the disease are warranted.

3. The District's cumulative positive COVID-19 cases now total 23,319, and 701 District residents have lost their lives to COVID-19 to date.

4. Recreation and physical health are essential to maintain; however, certain forms of recreation can pose dangers of COVID-19 to the athletes, and the experience across the country has shown that the risks are not just from on the field of play, but also from the activities of teammates off the field.

5. This Order adds to the restrictions imposed by Mayor's Order 2020-119, which suspended indoor group exercise classes at gyms and recreation centers, and limited outdoor exercise classes to twenty-five (25) persons, and it modifies requirements regarding to organized sports, and physical activity.

II. HIGH CONTACT SPORTS

1. High-contact sports as defined by the Department of Health (DOH or DC Health) (basketball, boxing, football, hockey, lacrosse, martial arts, rugby, soccer and wrestling) are prohibited in the District of Columbia, with the exception that universities or professional leagues may continue to organize and administer practices and competitions for their athletes who engage in high-contact sports, pursuant to a health and safety plan approved by its accrediting or governing body and under such further conditions as may be imposed by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).

2. Existing Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") permits may be used for non-contact drills and workouts only, for youth younger than high school aged. Any entity holding an existing DPR permit for sports involving physical contact with another player or athlete may only use the permit for the purpose of conducting no-contact drills and workouts during the duration of this Order, for children younger than high school, or for adults.

3. Youths who are middle school and younger may continue to participate in organized drills and clinics for high-contact sports, provided the athletes are cohorted in groups of no more than twelve (12), the cohorts do not mix, players within the cohorts maintain social distance from each other and the coaches or trainers, and the activities do not involve any actual physical contact with one another.

III. HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS RESTRICTIONS

1. High school extra-curricular youth sports activities and competitions are suspended for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), public charter schools, private schools, and parochial schools.

2. Recreation centers and sports clubs shall also suspend sports and organized athletic recreation activities (such as yoga and Zumba), including practices, clinics, and competitions for high school-aged athletes.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS RESTRICTIONS

1. Physical education classes shall not involve activities where students might come within six feet of one another.

2. Properly cohorted and social distanced, physical education classes and activities permitted on DPR fields may include more persons than the limits for a single outdoor class (twenty-five persons outdoors; ten indoors).

3. DPR shall suspend the issuance of new permits for organized sports and team play on DPR fields.

4. Persons may continue to use DPR fields for individual exercise or casual, non-league, non-high-contact games and activities, provided they adhere to guidance relating to social distancing and such other rules as may be imposed by DOH or other District agencies or regulatory bodies. Organizations that do not participate in a league shall adhere not only to this rule, but to the mass gathering rules as well.

5. Youths who are middle school and younger may continue to participate in organized drills and clinics for high-contact sports, provided the athletes are cohorted in groups of no more than twelve, the cohorts do not mix, players within the cohorts maintain social distance from each other and the coaches or trainers, and the activities do not involve any actual physical contact with one another.

6. DPR may set additional conditions on permits it has already issued to set limits or new, smaller limits, on the total number of persons allowed to participate at any one time, and to set other conditions aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

V. ENFORCEMENT

1. Any individual or entity that knowingly violates this Order may be subject to civil and administrative penalties authorized by law, including sanctions or penalties for violating D.C. Official Code § 7-2307, including civil fines or summary suspension or revocation of licenses.

2. The District of Columbia reserves the right to exercise provisions of the Communicable and Preventable Diseases Act, approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat.

1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq.*, if warranted, and to issue regulations providing for civil and criminal penalties and injunctive relief for violations of this Order.

VI. SUPERSESSION

This Order supersedes any Mayor's Order or guidance issued by a District agency issued during the COVID-19 public health emergency to the extent of any inconsistency.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This Order shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020, and shall continue to be in effect through December 31, 2020, or until the date to which the COVID-19 public health emergency is extended, whichever is later.

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST: Kimberly A. Bassett
KIMBERLY A. BASSETT
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA