



# California Interscholastic Federation

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To: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors  
From: Marie Ishida, Executive Director  
Subject: H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu)

The California Interscholastic Federation (State CIF) has received several inquiries related to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and its potential impact on upcoming State CIF Championships.

While we recognize the desire of schools and communities to have students participating in these events, the CIF places the safety and health of everyone involved – both participants and spectators – as our top priority. Toward that end, the State CIF Executive Committee has requested that staff distribute the following policy regarding the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and State CIF State Championships.

## **TEAM SPORTS**

Teams from schools that are closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) will not be allowed to participate in State CIF Championships (including regional play) until the school has been re-opened and classes resume (i.e. a school closed on Friday would not be considered re-opened until classes resume on Monday). In an effort to provide a participation opportunity for schools in this situation, the State CIF will allow a State CIF playoff game in a team sport to be conducted later than its originally scheduled date on the bracket, provided that the contest is played prior to the next round of play. If a contest is not able to be completed within these parameters, the contest will be considered a forfeit by the school closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) and the other school's team will advance in the bracket.

The State CIF Sports Medicine Committee has advised that under no circumstances should a school participate in more than two football games within any eight-day period (bylaw 1905). The potential risk to the health and safety of participants causes serious concerns for the Committee.

## **INDIVIDUAL SPORTS**

Students of schools that are closed due to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) will not be allowed to participate in high school athletics until the school has been re-opened and classes resume (i.e. a school closed on Friday would not be considered re-opened until classes resume on Monday). Due to the high number of individuals involved in these events, it is simply not possible to move and/or reschedule individual sport state championships on such short notice.

It is strongly suggested that sections, leagues and schools adopt this policy, or a similar one, in advance of facing these types of situations. The State CIF encourages schools and leagues to work together to balance the desire to have contests played while keeping the health and safety of participants and spectators at the forefront.

For the latest information on H1N1 please go to the California Department of Public Health web site:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/>