EMAIL FROM WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, DR. GREG STERN

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| **Greg Stern MD** |

 | Mon, Aug 23, 10:09 PM (6 days ago) |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/images/cleardot.gifhttps://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/images/cleardot.gif |
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| to Health, Mark, Darin, Amy, Greg, Jennifer, Joelhttps://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/images/cleardot.gif |

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There appear to be discrepancies between the Secretary of Health's [order on face covering](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf) (the most recent modification  issued 8/19/21, 20-30.4) and the [DOH K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-105-K12Schools2021-2022.pdf) (7/2/21) and

 [Sports and Fitness Guidance during COVID-19](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-201-SportsFitnessGuidance.pdf) (7/2/21).  As you noted, the Secretary's orders state that masks are not required when actively training for or playing indoor sports, yet the K-12 Requirements and Sports Guidance documents categorize ice hockey as a high-contact indoor sports activity and state that face covering is required for all participants whether vaccinated or not.

I have asked DOH for clarification on this discrepancy and heard that they are aware of inconsistencies and are working to resolve them.

My recommendation is to follow the more protective recommendations/requirements in the 7/2/21 [school](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-105-K12Schools2021-2022.pdf) and [sports](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-201-SportsFitnessGuidance.pdf) documents given that delta has displaced all other variants/strains and is much more transmissible than the strains we were responding to previously, that children under 12 are all unvaccinated at this time, and that vaccinated persons who become infected can effectively transmit the virus to others.

I've copied this to staff who work with sport facilities and schools, to our communications lead, and to the physicians who will be replacing me next month when I retire.  We hope that DOH resolves these discrepancies soon. Please reply all if you have more questions.

**Greg Stern MD**

**Health Officer**

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**Whatcom County Health Department**

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