

Dear Midlakes Reps, Coaches and Board,

We hope you are all as well as possible as we continue to try to navigate the uncertainty created by this virus and our state policy, which continues to focus on eliminating COVID-19 health impact as the prerequisite to “re-open.”

Our Board met to discuss the latest information and season options, so thank you again for your patience and any preparations you continue to make in case we are able to have a season in some form.

Here’s a quick summary of the contents:

1. Season options and decision date
2. State Petition
3. Season options poll – following this note
4. Club preparation requirements
5. Updated risk-focused data and emerging health studies relevant to swimmers and parents

1. Season options and decision date

We will make a **final decision by June 15th** on whether we can sponsor a season. We realize the State’s approach is uncertain, but our hope is that we may know enough to provide you with time to prepare and to fit a compressed season that also respects coach and volunteer time into a reasonable timeframe.

Here are the three Swimming scenarios:

- A. No Midlakes-sponsored season** if the Governor simply won’t allow it. To the extent clubs can open, we support your ability to do something, whether it’s “Swim Team-Lite,” internal meets, or other activities
- B. Season starts June 29th and runs for 6 weeks**, allowing for 1 practice week and 5 meet weeks. These would likely be adjusted-Dual meets to meet capacity constraints.
- C. Season starts by July 14th (or up to that date pending State policy) and runs for 5 weeks**, allowing for 5 meet weeks of adjusted-Dual meets. Clubs could start “practicing” informally assuming they can open prior to that.

Unfortunately, **there will be no Division or League Championships**, as the logistics and effort required are simply too much to ask, and the State will most likely not allow gatherings large enough.

While “virtual meets” are tempting, the logistics of using Meet and Team Manager technology are likely too formidable, and insurance costs wouldn’t be justified. If you want to try them, we would be happy to help figure it out – though alternative technology would be much more efficient.

2. State Petition

Please support the effort to petition Governor Inslee. Opening pools in Phase 2 may be the single-most important hurdle to having a Midlakes-sponsored season, because Phase 3 may simply be too late.

[Here is the Change.org petition site](#)

We encourage all clubs to share this petition with all of their members, not just swimming, diving, and water polo teams. If we can distribute this to all of our clubs’ members, the current 4,600 signatures could grow significantly.

3. Season options poll (following separately)

We will send a poll following this note. Assuming your pool can operate, will you please tell us, with the best indication you're able at this time, whether your club will participate or not in Options A, B, or C?

4. Club preparation requirements

Your club management likely knows this already, but each club must submit management plans to the State for approval to open. The timeline for this process is unclear, so please ensure your clubs are aware that it may take at least several days, if not longer.

From what we understand, clubs must also have a "Covid-trained" staff member on-deck in addition to lifeguards.

5. Updated risk information relevant to how Covid affects swim kids and parents

Many folks may still be worried about participating. We accept an enormity of risks in our everyday lives, so we'd like to provide helpful Covid-19 information more specific to our swimmers, coaches, and parents as it emerges.

Distancing measures have certainly helped, but given how state policy and media focus primarily on total death and case counts with little context and how bitter presidential election politics are impacting Covid-19 policy, we continue to look for relevant information from credible data, analytical and media sources.

Here are just a few elements. **We are not providing medical advice or creating our own data**, but do hope this provides some more understanding of risks, encouragement that assumptions about virus transmission among kids may be wrong, and information to make your own responsible decisions while being empathetic to those at higher risk.

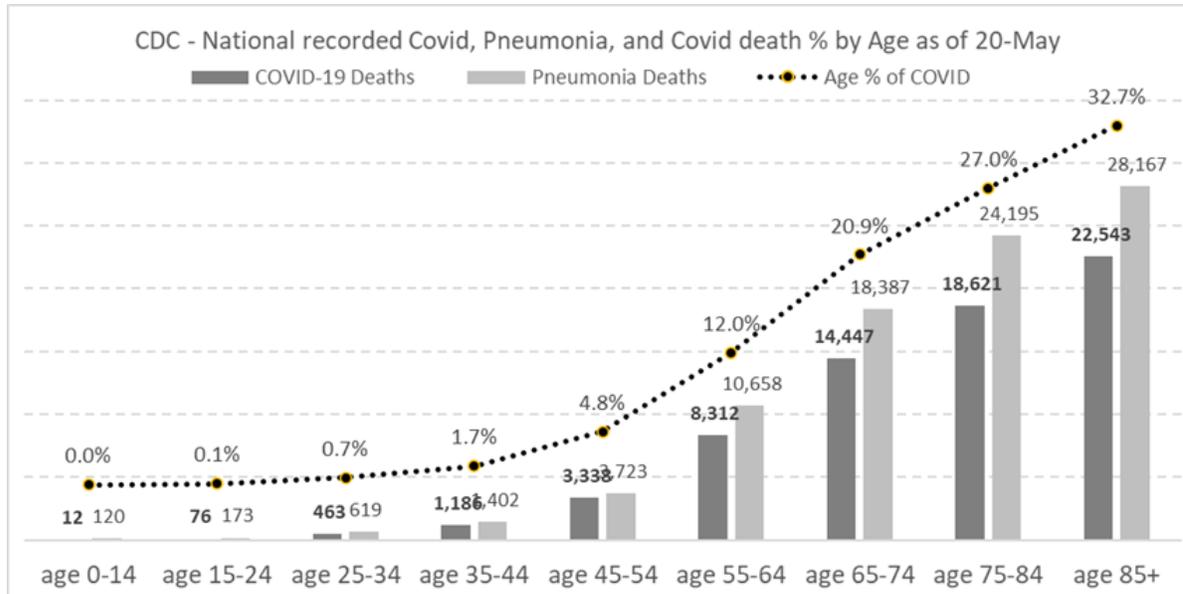
- Severe Covid-19 impact continues to be heavily concentrated in older populations with underlying health conditions, with low risk to swimmers (statistically zero) and slightly increasing for parent age groups. The goal of this is not to report counts, but share the relative impact on age groups.
 - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus>
 - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm

Washington DoH as of May 22

Age Group	Percent of Cases	Percent of Hospitalizations	Percent of Deaths
0-19	5%	1%	0%
20-39	31%	11%	1%
40-59	34%	26%	9%
60-79	21%	40%	38%
80+	9%	23%	52%

CDC - Washington recorded deaths as of 20-May

Age group	COVID-19 Deaths	All Cause Deaths	COVID % of All
age 0-14	-	133	0.0%
age 15-24	1	186	0.5%
age 25-34	-	325	0.0%
age 35-44	12	488	2.5%
age 45-54	30	947	3.2%
age 55-64	66	2,112	3.1%
age 65-74	147	3,593	4.1%
age 75-84	213	4,282	5.0%
age 85+	292	5,654	5.2%
Total WA	761	17,725	4.3%



- Child-specific studies provide insight that **kids may be unlikely to infect adults. This counters the assumption that kids going to swim practice will share the virus back to parents and other adults.**
 - [WSJ - The Evidence on Kids and Covid - May 20](#)
 - “...unlike with other respiratory viruses, children don’t appear to be large spreaders. Australia’s National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance tracked Covid-19 cases at 15 schools from March 1 to April 16. At the outset, 18 individuals were infected. **After six weeks only two of their 863 close contacts at the schools had become infected. There were no cases of students passing the virus to teachers.**”
 - [Covid Lessons from Iceland - May 18](#)
 - “[Iceland]...allowed younger children to continue going to school, with some restrictions... Citing research by deCODE Genetics...it’s **very unlikely that kids infect adults. “Indeed, it’s the other way around.”**”
- The CDC now states that **no evidence exists the virus can spread through pool water.**
 - [CDC guidance for pool management](#)
- The CDC continues to communicate that **the virus does spread from person-to-person, but may not spread easily on or from surfaces** (such as kickboards) – “It’s not new information; the agency has been saying this for months.”
 - [NYT - Coronavirus Does Not Spread Easily on Surfaces, CDC Says – May 22](#)
 - [CDC - How Covid Spreads page - updated May 22](#)

Again, we are not diminishing the impact on any given individual – only hoping to provide more context for decisions. Thank you for your patience as we continue to sort all this out, and feel free to share any further information or ideas!