June 04, 2020

RESCISSION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER REGARDING PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS

Whereas on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19;

Whereas on March 14, 2020, the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 were identified in Spokane County; and

Whereas a state of emergency within Spokane County due to COVID-19 was declared on March 20, 2020; and

Whereas on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a state of pandemic due to COVID-19; and

Whereas state law, RCW 70.05.070(2)-(3), requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

Whereas state regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control and containment control measures, including social distancing measures he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment;

Whereas, medical evidence and experience with this outbreak indicates prevention strategies, including physical distancing, personal hygiene practices, the wearing of facial coverings, and the avoidance of gathering in groups for periods greater than 15 minutes are most effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 within the community;

Whereas, the Local Health Officer, on March 19, 2020 issued an ORDER, requiring “public” playgrounds and playground equipment closed to public use;

The Local Health Officer has made the determination that rescinding this order and the use of public playgrounds and playground equipment represents a level of risk which can be mitigated by the above prevention strategies.
For purposes of this order, “public” playgrounds and playground equipment shall include equipment for use by children ages 6 months through 12 years in playground areas and equipment for all ages, such as outdoor workout activity stations, of:

Commercial (non-residential) child-care facilities;
Institutions;
Multiple family dwellings, such as apartment and condominium buildings;
Parks, such as city, state, and community (e.g., HOA) maintained parks;
Restaurants;
Resorts and recreational developments;
Schools; and
Other areas of public use.


The ORDER requiring “public” playgrounds and playground equipment closed to public use is rescinded as of June 04, 2020 but may be resumed if the situation evolves and public health needs warrant.
Signed and ordered this day of June 04, 2020, in Spokane, Washington, by

[Signature]
Dr. Robert Lutz, Health Officer