

Hello. I am contacting you as a concerned county resident and RMSC parent. Swimming continues to be lumped into moderate-risk sports, and I implore you to advocate on behalf of your county's swimmers and RMSC children and families.

RMSC has a waiver in place. Our sport is safe and supervised, and there has been NO COVID SPREAD at our pools. Data shows it is safe. CE Elrich repeatedly states that we must "follow the data"— so yes, PLEASE do that on behalf of your county's swimmers.

As a reminder how the waiver was initially obtained in order to maintain the club swimming waiver to continue to allow for 4 swimmers per lane and maintain practice time:

--it is SAFE because there is no contact. kids wear masks on deck, they are in chlorine, they are under supervision of coaches well-trained in Covid safety protocols and precautions.

--As Robin Riley previously stated that there have been no shutdowns or pauses in county pools because of Covid since the waiver was granted, and that is because coaches and swimmers maintain strict safety protocols--we have shown that lap swimming and club swimming environment is safe.

--Do not take away swimming as part of a blanket set of restrictions; we have demonstrated that a safe environment CAN be maintained.

The safety precautions that have been in place for months are tried and true, and have proven that the spread of Covid is 100% preventable at swim practices. **This is not a social gathering or sporting event and should not be lumped into the same category.**

**The state has changed Lap Swimming to a Low Risk sport.** Lap swimming is inherently no contact, and therefore low risk. Additionally, the virus can not live in a chlorinated pool, so the environment therefore offers little to no risk to swimmers. Public policy should follow this data.

These children have lost so much. PLEASE allow them to continue to have this outlet for physical activity and mental health. Further limiting or shutting down something that had not contributed to the spread of Covid is senseless and short-sighted, and will be a death-blow for our children. There is no alternative for swimmers. They can not "kick the soccer ball in their back yard." No pools=no swimming.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/news/coronavirus-and-environmental-considerations-for-aquatic-sports/?fbclid=IwAR0ZxXwSIQLy1tdVmcqb9QYxRUH5fOdAdLgllCxLVWZFS5s4XfaBCtFAgTU>

Thank you in advance for your time and advocacy.

Hillary Coggeshall