



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

While we've had a successful start to the school year, the current number of community COVID cases throughout the state continues to remain high and threatens the ability of school districts to continue onsite operations long-term. We need to continue work hard on mitigating the risk of increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases within the school population to maintain a campus environment that is as safe as possible and to have a successful semester.

With the fall football season comes the traditional Homecoming activities. This type of event is of concern to both school and community health officials. Homecoming not only enhances campus activities but also promotes community socialization that increases the likelihood of virus transmission. Schools must take steps to reduce risks associated with traditional homecoming activities by doing the following:

- Cancel Homecoming dances and other homecoming school or community events that promote social gatherings
- No traditional homecoming parades are allowed; however, the district can host a caravan for homecoming royalty as long no more than one student (with family) occupies a single vehicle.
- Coronation ceremony for homecoming queen/king must follow all social distancing guidelines and should be livestreamed if conducted during the school day for those that cannot attend due to capacity issues
- Adhere to social distancing requirements at the football game and at all associated activities. Guidelines for High School large outdoor events
https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/venue_plans_school_sponsored_team_sports.pdf

We understand that this is a disappointment to students and families who are affected, but at this time, events where social distancing and mask-wearing do not occur run the risk of further spreading the disease and putting others at risk.