

# MONTVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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June 15, 2020

To: Citizens of Montville

Re: Playgrounds and Recreational Fields

We have been informed by the Uncas Health District that community transmission of COVID-19 is currently minimal across the District. Testing of residents for COVID-19 has increased, and the proportion of test results that are positive is approximately 5% - below (better than) the goal of 10% set by the State DPH and WHO. In addition, our current understanding of transmission of COVID-19 is that outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities, and children are generally at lower risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

Recognizing the above facts, Uncas Health District and the Town of Montville are no longer recommending that playgrounds and recreational fields be closed to the public and will open as of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Though the risk of transmission of the virus is not zero in any setting where people may come in close contact with one another, the relatively low risk right now must be balanced against the need for youth in our community to engage in both physical and social activities for their health and wellbeing. Parent and caregivers must continue to use their judgement in determining whether to allow their children to engage in activities where there is potential for close contact to occur.

This notice does not supersede any of the Governor's executive order or DECD Sector Rules.

The Town of Montville and the Board of Education will open their playgrounds and recreational fields to the public following the recommendations below:

- Capacity limit should be posted and should be based on square footage of the play area and/or consistent with the Governor's Executive Order prohibitions on large gatherings so that children can safely maintain a 6-foot distance between other children and face coverings are appropriately worn.
- Signs will be posted that remind users of the equipment of the following:
  - Maintain a 6-foot distance from others as much as possible
  - Wear masks when a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained, unless wearing a mask would create a health hazard to the wearer. This includes heat-related illness.
  - Do not use the equipment if:

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- You are sick or
- In the past 10 days, tested positive for COVID-19 or were told by a health care provider that you have COVID-19 or
- Have been living with someone who has been sick with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks.
- Before AND after using the equipment:
  - Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or
  - Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Though transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated surfaces is less likely than from direct, close contact with an infected person; frequently touched objects like playground equipment can result in transmission of COVID-19. Users of the equipment should be made aware if the equipment is not cleaned or disinfected, and that use of the equipment is at their own risk.

These recommendations are subject to change due to an increase of illness identified in surveillance data and/or State guidance.