

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 Town Hall,

Hosts in attendance: Minister Schweitzer, and CMOH Dr. Deena Hinshaw.

Questions from The Tennis Academy:

- What was the purpose of declaring a state of public health emergency in Alberta the city of Calgary issued a local state of emergency on the 26 which means that CEPA has the authority to exercise any power or functions of the committee throughout the duration of the state of emergency status so what is the point of issuing the state of public health emergency in Alberta is there any shift in power or authority?
- We received information from SPAR stating that tennis singles play is acceptable as are semi-private lessons, provided it's with two members from the same household. There is more than enough space for a coach to be added safely into a semiprivate lesson. Additionally, some claim that a coach being present will ensure that players from different households adhere to ball sharing management (for example, players who bring their own balls might be more inclined to both touch the balls from another household and not sanitize their hands in between that point) so having a coach present could definitely provide a little bit more assurances in that regard.
- Tennis typically provides a separation of 20 feet between players even in doubles. We are a little bit confused by the fact that an indoor fitness centre has the same square footage as a tennis court but the fitness centre is permitted to have 15 to 20 people from different households while tennis clubs are restricted to just two players within the same surface area so it seems that the restrictions are not being applied evenly between activities or sport. If you could provide confirmation of this as well as some messaging that we can pass on to both staff and patrons so that we can all understand and move forward with these measures a little more confidently. Thank you.

Response to our Questions:

"Minister Schweitzer here, I'll jump in on the first one around the emergency declarations. When the pandemic first arrived we declared a state of emergency - that does trigger certain authorities under various pieces of legislation and provides enhanced powers to different arms of government. Given that we took that off over the summer months when the numbers came down we thought what the current situation and the heightened number of cases we thought that was prudent at this point time to bring back in and declare a state of emergency. Number one, it also triggers those authorities under various pieces of legislation that also provides us with various tools that we have. But the second part of it, as well, is we want the public to know how serious this situation is so we did send out and many of you would have received those text messages with the big alarm that comes along with it just to notify people of the emergency. That was on purpose we want to make sure we woke people up to the fact that they need to take these public health measures seriously and we must make sure people follow them and understand the gravity of our current situation so that's why we declared a state of emergency

because we are in one. And we are in one right now and we have to make sure people pay attention to what's going on.

I'll refer to Doctor Hinshaw on your commentary about personal balls versus the club ones and things like that."

Response from Dr. Hinshaw:

"Thanks for that so with respect to the order that was written so the order says that group physical activity is not allowed unless it's with people in the same household. It includes team sports, fitness classes, and training sessions however it does not prevent someone from participating in indoor activity with one other person so as you say there can be a coach who is working with an individual or a coach is working with two individuals or more where all those people are members of the same household. This does not apply in schools postsecondary or or in secondary or elementary schools because of the necessity of ensuring that those organizations can continue. Of course we recognise that right now grade 7 to 12 will be remote learning from now until Christmas but elementary schools are able to continue physical activity. And so I think that there is question about, first of all, why can a coach not be present with two other people who are not members of the same household and some of those points about perhaps assisting with making sure all the protocols are followed - that kind of thing. I'll again revert back to the statement that I made which is; what we're trying to do in this order is to clarify the expectation that when you have a coach or a trainer that they should only be working with one person at a time and unless those people are members of the same household in order to limit the number of potential close contacts that happen. And as I said earlier I recognized that both fitness centres and sports organizations have worked very hard to develop protocols and to make sure that they are followed at all times. Just because, you know, one particular organization maybe is following all the rules at all times doesn't necessarily mean that the organization down the street is doing the same. We're trying to make sure that we have additional resources in environmental public health to be able to provide education and reinforcement of the importance of the measures this order is designed to save our health care system. So some of the lines that are drawn, you pointed out the potentially concerning nature of the 25% in a fitness class whereas a Tennis Club is required to follow the restrictions on sports, and I absolutely can understand how concerning to you but at the end of the day again what we're trying to achieve is the greatest drop in in transmission while still allowing participation in physical activity and sports in a way that the least likely to cause transmission. I guess with respect to the tennis club and that 25% rule I guess that may be another question to take away and provide some additional guidance on because I don't think we're limiting the number of people that can be in tennis club anymore than that then the 25%. What we're saying is there's some additional restrictions on that coaching and the gameplay that cannot take place at the current time. So, again, recognizing that there's many people on

this call that very specific circumstances that we may not have contemplated, but we will take those away and hopefully get answers back to this group and put them on our website.”

There were no other questions from the Tennis Community, and we have not been able to access the responses that were promised to be delivered at a later date.