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June 26, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Portland and Deering High Schools To Resume In-Person Sports
Activities Starting Aug. 3**

With the approval of the SMAA and superintendents in Cumberland and York counties, Deering and Portland high schools will start in-person sports training Aug. 3. All high school Fall sports are slated to begin Aug. 17.

PORTLAND, Maine – Following a June 25 unanimous vote by the Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) and an agreement by superintendents in Cumberland and York counties, Deering and Portland High Schools plan to start in-person summer sports activities as of Aug. 3, 2020.

There will be more information released on these activities by July 15 by both the Portland and Deering athletic departments. This timeline will provide for a two-week, in-person fitness acclimatization period for all Portland Public Schools high school athletes from Aug. 3-Aug. 17, within guidelines from the Maine Center for Disease Control (Maine CDC) and the Maine Principals' Association (MPA). PPS high school coaches may continue to run virtual meetings/workouts until Aug. 3.

All Fall high school sports are currently scheduled to begin on Aug. 17.

For more information, contact Deering High School Athletic Director Michael Daly at dalym@portlandschools.org or Portland High School Athletic Director Rob O'Leary at olearr@portlandschools.org

*The **Portland Public Schools** is Maine's largest school district, with 6,750 students this year, and is also the most diverse. About one-third of the district's students – 35 percent – come from homes where languages other than English are spoken—a total of more than 60 languages. About 53 percent of the district's students are white and 47 percent are students of color. Approximately half of PPS students qualify for free or reduced school lunch.*

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