



## GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

March 4, 2020

Via: Sent digitally

Dear Governor DeWine and Mayor Ginther,

I want to thank both of you for your work to protect the public's health this week. The Arnold Sports Festival has been successful in large part because of our fantastic partnership with state and local government. Over the past two days we have all dealt with the COVID-19 crisis the best way we can. I believe that going forward the only way we can be successful is if we are a team, working in sync.

Monday, our team communicated several times with Mayor Ginther and the public health commissioner. We ended the day with assurances that we would be moving forward and scheduled a press conference together for Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. we learned from the media that the press conference Bob Lorimer was scheduled to participate in was canceled. It was certainly not ideal to learn this from the media instead of from your teams, but having been involved in fires and swine flu outbreaks and every other type of disaster when I was governor, I understand that sometimes a crisis moves too fast to communicate with everyone.

Jim Lorimer, my partner in the sports festival, attempted to reach the mayor after the cancellation and had trouble getting in touch. Again, I understand that you were dealing with something unprecedented.

At 4:30 p.m. we learned that the press conference would go forward at 5:00 p.m.

At that point I was incredibly grateful that both of you returned Jim's call and conferenced me in to explain your communications with the CDC and your public health commissioners.

When you informed us that you had come to a decision with regard to new CDC guidelines and had conversations with health officials and medical experts that our expo was too great of a threat to public health due to 250,000 people coming together in one room, we felt it was important as good partners to immediately agree with your recommendation to cancel the expo and move forward with sports only. It is a decision that will cost us millions of dollars, but as I told you and as I said at the press conference, health will always be more important than money to me and to us. We are comfortable only continuing forward with sports events which attract much smaller crowds and we agreed with your advice to only have spectators attend the main evening Arnold Classic and Strongman.

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These decisions were all made incredibly quickly, in the 30 minutes before the press conference. This morning, with the chance to research more, we realized that other events in Ohio have been allowed to continue without limitations on attendees. March Madness games in Cleveland and Dayton will go forward as planned with tens of thousands of attendees. Cleveland Cavaliers and Columbus Blue Jackets games that attract nearly 20,000 attendees are going forward as planned. The Wizard World Comic-Con, an expo in Cleveland with 10,000-15,000 attendees, will be allowed to continue forward as far as we can tell.

Considering all of these events and our view that the Arnold Sports Festival, which produces 55 million dollars in revenue for the Columbus area, is important to inspire health and fitness, we will move forward with selling tickets for the sporting events. There is no explanation to allow all these other events with 20,000 fans to continue while not allowing us to sell tickets to a few thousand sports fans to watch our various different sports. We share your concern for public health and that is why we immediately agreed to cancel our expo. We have also stopped athletes from heavily impacted countries from competing. But 80% of our athletes are from Ohio and the surrounding area that is unimpacted. We want those athletes to have fans to cheer for them the same way you want the Cavaliers and the Blue Jackets and Ohio State to have fans to cheer for them.

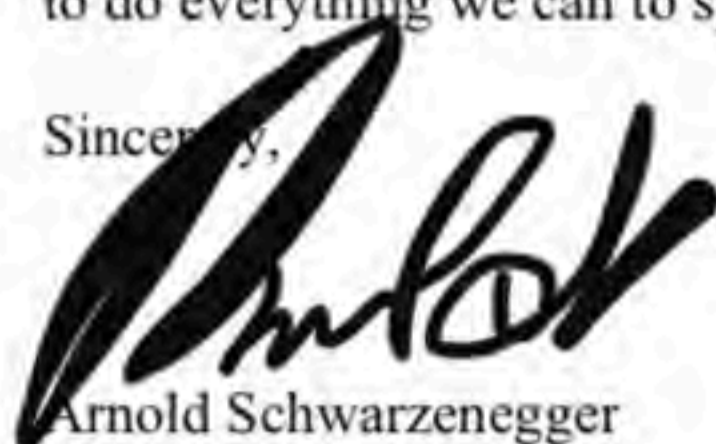
We are moving forward with this plan and will announce it at the press conference shortly.

And please know that you can communicate with us openly and honestly without fear. I want you to know that I consider you our partners and you have an open line to me at any point. Moving forward, I would like to avoid situations like yesterday that led to less than 30 minutes to make a huge decision like canceling the expo. By working together, we can assure our athletes can compete in front of their fans, friends and family. The expo is canceled, and I think we all agree that it was the real public health threat. It was an unprecedented and difficult decision to make but we agreed with your direction because we are all on the same side.

We are all on the same team. We all want to protect people from the coronavirus. We should be working hand in hand every step of the way because it is the only way we will all succeed.

I am proud of both of you for putting people's health first and I look forward to continuing to work together to do everything we can to spread the fitness crusade while keeping people safe this weekend.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger