

My name is Kevin Roessler I am the head coach of the Sterling Clinton SELECT 459 Phantoms, a U15 soccer team playing in the MYSL (Michigan Youth Soccer League). We are a small nonprofit soccer club with just one team. After reading through all of the requirements for the COVID-19 testing mandate issued by MDHHS forced upon our team, I was pretty sure our season was over. Under the mandate I would have been required to apply for a CLIA license and turn my home into a testing facility. I would have had to bring 16 boys into my house and test them for Covid-19. I also would have been required to purchase our own PPE and dispose of the tests through an outside biohazard removal company. After careful contemplation I decided against doing the testing out of my home. It was just too dangerous and costly. Out of desperation I contacted a neighboring club. They were a much larger club with approximately 200 soccer players. I told them our situation and out of the kindness of their heart they agreed to test our players. I offered to pay them 5 dollars a player per test to help offset some of their PPE and biohazard removal costs their club would incur. They did not have to help our team. We were very lucky. The only other way our team could have kept playing would have been to shift the burden of testing on to the parents. This would have required the parents to find their own testing and pay out of pocket up \$139.00 per test. Obviously if we would have gone this route many of my players would have forgone their soccer season which would have sidelined the entire team. I know of other clubs/ teams that were not as fortunate as us. Clubs/ teams that did shift the responsibility of testing on to the parents. Matter of fact I had one of my parents call me out of desperation to try and get her daughter tested for volleyball at the larger soccer club's facilities to avoid expensive testing. I was unfortunately unable to help her daughter.

At the heart of the matter playing youth sports is not a privilege it is a god given right. I would also like to state that the rights of culturally and economically disadvantaged children are at much greater risk. In the suburbs parents are trying to navigate the unlawful obstacles set forth by MDHHS. Some of them are finding volunteers to help with testing. Some are also paying out of pocket to keep their kids in youth sports. I ask the question who is helping the kids in the impoverished inner cities and rural areas? Who is volunteering to test these kids? Who is paying their expensive out of pocket testing fees? In a country that is striving for equality this is a very egregious example of how infringing on the rights of people can have significant and debilitating outcomes on society and especially the less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Kevin Roessler

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