



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 2020 MedFest Cancelled Due to Health Concerns**

**(Norristown PA, March 18, 2020)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 2020 MedFest has been cancelled due to concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). With news about COVID-19 being declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine has canceled all non-curriculum related events scheduled to take place at the school until April 30th, which would include the MedFest. MedFest was scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton, PA. Individuals with intellectual disabilities would have received free sport medical screenings.

Serving a population where many are at a heightened risk (age, compromised immune systems, and/or medically fragile), Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) fully supports this decision and is working to ensure that all of the individuals who registered for the event will be able to receive a free primary screening through a local Geisinger provider.

As SOPA and its partners navigate this constantly changing environment, it thanks the community for their patience and understanding as it strives to make the best possible decisions with the safety and well-being of its constituents at the forefront. For more information, about Special Olympics Pennsylvania and its health programs, please visit [SpecialOlympicsPA.org/health-programs](https://SpecialOlympicsPA.org/health-programs).

#### ***About Special Olympics Pennsylvania***

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For 50 years, SOPA and its 54 local programs have used the power of sports to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable and civil society. SOPA is much more than a sports organization. Through its Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement and take on roles as Global Messengers (trained as public speakers for Special Olympics), athlete representatives, coaches, board members and more. SOPA also addresses major challenges facing its athletes including healthcare. Its Healthy Athletes program offers athletes free health screenings in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry assessments. Athletes are also taught how to live active lifestyles, eat healthy and more. Additionally, SOPA strives to create a unified world by promoting inclusion, uniting communities, and changing attitude. Through Unified Sports, SOPA brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities as equal teammates in training and competition, which promotes respect and acceptance, and facilitates meaningful relationships between people of all abilities. For more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org)