

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact:**

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**Special Olympics PA's 51st Annual Area M Games Cancelled
Due to Modifications in Schedule**

(Norristown PA, March 13, 2020) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 51st Annual Area M Games has been cancelled as a result of schedule modifications related to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to growing concerns surrounding COVID-19, Messiah College made the decision to extend spring break for its students, begin online courses, and modify their campus schedule accordingly. This change in schedule will cancel the Area M Games planned to take place at the College on April 16th. Area M Games is a Track & Field and Swimming competition that hosts 1,300 athletes.

Serving a population where many are at a heightened risk (age, compromised immune systems, and/or medically fragile), Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) fully understands the College's decision place the safety and well-being of its students and employees at the forefront.

As SOPA and its partners navigate this constantly changing environment, it thanks the community for their patience and understanding. For more information, about Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Area M, please visit www.sopam.org.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's games to be held on April 15, 2021.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Area M

Special Olympics PA - Area M offers sports training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry and Northern York Counties. All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families, enabling everyone to experience the benefits of Special Olympics that extend well beyond the playing field. For more information, please visit www.sopam.org.

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 more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit www.specialolympicspa.org