



2020-2021 Coppell ISD Athletics/UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines



The following guidance related to UIL activities, based on the public health situation as we understand it today, applies to the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance is effective August 1, 2020. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance.

Given the varying numbers of COVID-19 cases across different areas of the state, and the vast geographic area in the state of Texas, UIL is presenting modifications for the 2020-21 school year that reflect the situation at this time. UIL will continue to work with state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any potential modifications that may become necessary. Schools should be prepared for the possibility of interruptions in contest schedules. District Executive Committees should work and plan to accommodate, as best possible, for these interruptions.

These guidelines are in addition to guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and intended to be implemented along with [TEA guidance](#), which applies to academic and extracurricular non-UIL activities. The information below includes a requirement for schools to develop a plan for mitigating risk of COVID-19 spread during UIL activities.

Athletic administration, trainers, and coordinators will serve as athletics compliance officer(s) to oversee effective use of these protocols. Schools must follow all requirements of state authorities in addition to the requirements below. They will communicate all situations with the athletic director and campus principal.

Face Coverings- Executive Order GA-29

[Executive Order GA-29](#), regarding face coverings, applies to all UIL activities effective July 3, 2020. This includes the 2020-2021 school year. As the public health situation changes, and/or if subsequent Executive Orders are issued by Governor Greg Abbott, these guidelines may be further modified.

For the purposes of this document, face coverings include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). Full-face shields may be added as a supplement to protect eyes, nose, and mouth but are not a substitute for a face covering or face mask.

All employees, parents, visitors, and students must wear face coverings upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or playing in the contest, unless an exception listed below applies. Per TEA guidance, in addition to the executive order, school systems may require the use of face masks or shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate. See District COVID-19 Safety Protocols in the [Return to School Guide](#) for additional information.

Exceptions to the Wearing of Face Coverings Include:

- Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
- While a person is consuming food or drink.
- While the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water.
- When a congregating group of persons maintains at least 6 feet of social distancing; or
- Any other reason or circumstance indicated under [Executive Order GA-29](#).

UIL Game and Stadium Reminders:

- Coaches should always have face coverings on unless they fall under one of the exceptions.



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- Players not actively participating in a contest should always have face coverings on unless they fall under one of the exceptions.
- Parents, visitors, spectators, media and students are required to have face coverings on at all times as described in [Executive Order GA-29](#) unless they fall under one of the exceptions list above in this section.
- Coaches and players should maintain 6 feet of distance from chain crew members.
- Face coverings should be of solid color and may have a school logo.
- There shall be NO postgame handshake between teams following the game.

Points of Emphasis concerning Spectators, Audiences, Fans and Media found in [UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines](#):

Schools may allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events within a maximum 50% capacity limitation, provided that appropriate spacing between spectators is maintained according to the protocol, and according to the following:

General Operational Guidelines

REQUIRED OF ALL SCHOOLS:

TEA requires all school systems to develop a plan for mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools. UIL guidelines require schools to include UIL activities for the 2020-2021 school year as part of this plan and carefully plan for mitigating risk of spread as students and staff participate in them. Schools must post these plans on the homepage of the school website or other easily accessible area of the school website. These plans do not require UIL or TEA approval.

Required Screening

Required Screening before attending or participating in activities:

Coppell ISD athletic coaches and athletic trainers must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in UIL activities or entering areas where UIL activities are being conducted. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include staff taking their own temperature. Staff must report to the school athletic trainer, athletic coordinator if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID19, and, if so, they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they are cleared to return by the Coppell ISD Human Resources department. Close contact is defined in this document later in this document.

Student athletes will have to prescreen before any athletic practice regardless of the time of day (school day or non-school day) and before any contest. Student Athletes will scan their current sport's QR code completing the screening questions on their device. Temperature checks will also be performed for high school athletes by a CISD staff member as part of those screenings, and temperature checks will take place for middle school and high school athletes before any contest. Data from those daily screenings will populate in a database accessible for athletic and campus administration for contact tracing as necessary.



Parents must ensure they do not send a student to participate in UIL activities if the student has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the below conditions for re-entry are met. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their student from inside areas where UIL activities are being conducted.

Visitors at UIL Activities

Before you go to a CISD campus, please use the following **Screening Guidelines**: Within the last 48 hours you should have No temp. of 100 degrees or higher; No sore throat; No new uncontrolled cough w/difficulty of breathing; No new onset of severe headache, esp. w/a fever; No diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, or abdominal pain; No new loss of taste or smell; No congestion or runny nose; No fatigue; No muscle or body aches; and No recent exposure to an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19. If you are experiencing any of the listed symptoms, you are not allowed on any CISD campus.

Masks are required to go to a CISD campus.

Social distancing of 6' between you and others outside your family is in place.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Close Contact

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.



Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School or in an Area Where UIL Activities Are being Conducted

If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities have been conducted is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its [local health department](#), in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any UIL activities. **If the person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 participated in a contest against another school(s), the school must notify other school(s) and sports/contest officials involved in the contest.** If our district receives information of this nature it will be communicated with Coppell ISD Health Services, Safety and Security, Athletic Director, Head Coach of that sport, Athletic Trainers, Athletic Coordinators, Principal and Human Resources.

Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings (Athletics, Drill and Cheer)

Locker room and shower facilities will be avoided in every reasonable circumstance, and when required athletes will stagger entry and when in use maintain social distancing.

Schools have made hand sanitizer, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.

Coppell ISD custodial staff will regularly and frequently clean and disinfect including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms. The Athletic Department will communicate with the campus head custodian a schedule of use of all athletic facilities such as but not limited to weight rooms, gyms, locker rooms, meetings rooms, training rooms, etc.

Any equipment that will be kept in student lockers and/or in these areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas. Work out clothing and accessories must be washed daily and will not remain in lockers overnight.

School staff will monitor locker rooms and other areas where students may congregate to ensure effective use of school protocols. When possible, schools should open windows and/or doors or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in these areas.

Locker rooms with multiple entrance/exits may be designated as one way in and one way out to avoid close contact while entering and exiting.

Schools must require staff and students to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities. Rotation schedule for student athletes will need to be created for entering and exiting facilities.



Athletic Training/Training Room Procedures and Expectations

The following will be adhered to by Coppell ISD student athletes and staff:

- Players bring their own towels
- AT/SAT must wear gloves if wiping sweat and fluids off the floor
- Injury ice as needed but not on court
- No extra traffic through training room
- No ice machine use for students or faculty
- Wipe down equipment and table after each use
- Athletes must use hand sanitizer before entering training room
- No Masks, No Service
- Limit number of athletes in room per the size
- Triage-in season athletes first
- No ice baths or whirlpools
- Stim pad usage protocol - One set of pads per person

Football Sub Varsity and Varsity

- 10-yard line to 10-yard line for social distancing
- AT/SAT refill water bottles for athletes only
- Reach out to opposing team's ATs about water & set up
- Time out, players get their water from a student trainer with separate water bottle for each player on the field
- Players use their own towel

Water for Practice and Games

Student athletes, coaches, managers, and trainers are expected to bring a water jug for use at all practices and games. Water refill stations will be available for each site and manned by a trainer or coach in glove and face covering for refills only. At no time should a student athlete refill their water jugs from a refill station by themselves.

Laundry and Towel Expectations

All afternoon practice athletic clothing and accessories will be taken home by student athletes on a daily basis for washing. Morning practice athletic clothing, accessories, towels, and game uniforms may be laundered on campus as per discretion of the coaching staff. Student athletes will need to supply their own towels for use of showering, practices, and games.

Practice and Rehearsal Activities

All surfaces in practice areas should be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.

Any equipment (balls, sleds, dummies, scrimmage vest, batting helmets, bats, any protective body gear, teaching equipment, batons, pits, mats, poles, etc.) should be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.

Middle schools have been given two 2-gallon sprayers and each high school sport program received at least one 2-gallon sprayer with larger team sports receiving multiple for equipment. One 2-gallon



sprayer will also remain in each middle school, the CHS gym area and CHS9 weight rooms, with two 2-gallon sprayers remaining in the field house weight room. These are to be used to disinfect the above equipment before, during and after work outs. The Athletic Department will communicate with their campus head custodian on refilling of supplies such as disinfectant, paper towels, hand sanitizer or any other supplies needed for cleaning.

Game, Contest, and Event Management

In addition to the above guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to games, scrimmages, and events:

Game Day Food

The UIL has allowed food and water to be given to players in a safe manner. Delivery of food will be set up with the head coach of that sport and the food business. Delivery of food such as the drop off site and time will be communicated with campus administration. Food delivery personnel will not enter the school. Only prewrapped food items are acceptable. Parents may drop off food for their student athlete but must be after the release of school, to athletics and not in the front office. Parents are not allowed in the building for deliveries. Students must come out to receive food from their parent after the release of school.

Transportation

Transportation for Coppell ISD athletics teams will follow procedures and protocols from [TEA guidance](#), Durham Transportation, and Coppell ISD policy. The following will be adhered to as per our COVID situation.

- A max of 1 athlete/person per seat
- Masks must always be worn by players, trainers, managers, and coaches while riding on Coppell ISD buses
- Load from back to front and unload from front to back
- Siblings can sit in the same seat
- Coach/driver will disinfect all bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, door handles and hand railing areas upon arrival to the game (after student athletes exit bus at venue) and returning the bus to the transportation lot or campus site. Buses will be supplied with cleaning agents through Durham Transportation. Coaches will need to communicate with Durham when disinfected, cleaning wipes, etc. need to be refilled for the bus.

Host Site Expectations

- The host site should designate a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group. The Athletic Department will need to set these drop off sites.
- Visiting team/group locker rooms should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. This will be done by the campus custodial staff. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.



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Campus athletic coordinator will communicate this schedule to campus head custodian for calendaring events.

- Before each game, contest, or event, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen all staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols. Link will be provided through Coppell ISD Safety and Security.
- Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be at least six feet from team/group areas such as team benches or performance areas. Where distancing is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as face coverings, implementing engineered controls such as physical barriers, or other risk mitigation efforts the school deems appropriate.
- Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned, and disinfected prior to and after use. This will be done by the Coppell ISD custodial staff. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.
- The host site should provide sports officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival. The Athletic Department and head coaches of the in-season sport will need to pre-plan and communicate this info to the appropriate people.
- Pre-game or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
- Pre-game and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
- All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans. Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events. The Athletic Department and head coach of that in-season sport will create and communicate out to opposing teams this info prior to the contest.

Student Groups Not Directly Involved in the Game or Contest

Student groups such as marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, student media, and other groups approved by the school district may attend and perform at games or contests in which they are not competing. Schools should consider limiting the number of participants to those essential to the performance.

These student groups should always remain separate from the game or contest participants. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.

Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.

Schools will limit the number of students and staff given access to the playing areas and ensure protocols for entering and exiting the playing areas are in place.

These students should always maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants, including when on the sideline.



Spectators, Audiences, Fans and Media

Schools may allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events within a maximum 50% capacity limitation, provided that appropriate spacing between spectators is maintained according to the protocol, and according to the following:

- Schools and/or host sites will post visible signs and/or messaging stating any individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should not enter the facility.
- Spectators, audiences, fans, and media are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Each school will have the opportunity to be hiring one extra game manager that will help with pre-vitals medical screening and answering and discussion of concerns for entry into the facilities.
- Sites are encouraged to utilize remote ticketing options to help manage capacity limitations within a maximum 50% occupancy. Paper tickets and programming should be minimized to help avoid transferable materials.
- Groups should always maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups, including the process of admission and seating. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- Schools should provide hand sanitizing stations and/or hand washing stations at entrances and inside the facility.
- Seating, handrails, and other common surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected prior to each game or contest.
- Press Box seating should include social distancing of at least six feet between individuals when possible.
- Schools should limit access to working media providing coverage of the event to ensure protocols are followed.
- Post-game interviews should be conducted while wearing face coverings and maintaining at least six feet of distance between the interviewer and individual being interviewed. This should be in a pre-designated area that is set by the Athletic Department.

Concession Stands and Food Service

For games, contests, and events that will include concession stands or other food service, the following guidelines apply:

- Staff, contractors, and volunteers involved in food service are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Sites should avoid leaving condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional tabletop items on unoccupied tables or at the counter. Sites should only provide condiments or flatware upon request, and in single use, individually wrapped items.
- Regularly clean and disinfect the food service counters and areas. Clean and disinfect dining areas (tables, etc.) after each patron departs.



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- Limit contact between the individuals involved in food service and patrons as much as possible. Have employees, contractors, and volunteers follow proper food-handling protocols.
- Before each game, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen staff, contractors, and volunteers who will be involved in food service prior to events. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.
- Serving of pre-packed food items is only allowed. No open food products which include food and drinks will be allowed for purchase.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish with a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting