

Gregory-Portland ISD

## Fall 2020 UIL Activities Plan



## Introduction

The following guidance, related to UIL activities, is based on the COVID-19 public health situation as we understand it today and applies to the 2020-21 school year. Changes to the COVID-19 public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance. Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to monitor Local, Regional and State conditions and modify processes as needed.

These guidelines were constructed based on guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL). The safety and well-being of our student athletes, staff, and community are of our utmost importance. These guidelines are put into place to ensure the health and safety of participants, staff and spectators at G-PISD hosted events.

Participation in extracurricular activities is completely voluntary. No participant will be shamed or affected in future competition if they chose to not participate in these extracurricular activities.

Dear Wildcat Family,

Welcome to the Fall 2020 UIL Season! We are ALL eager to see our students in action in an environment and program that is as SAFE and THOUGHTFUL as possible. We have carefully reviewed our options to design a plan that is specific and unique to our community and district needs, as well as local health conditions.

It is our responsibility to keep our students and staff as healthy as possible, while also contributing to keeping our greater community safe by minimizing the potential for the spread of COVID-19. Making these decisions was challenging, and we deeply thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and support.

Please contact the Athletic Director or appropriate activity sponsor for additional questions and clarifications. Please Stay Safe, Stay Strong, and Stay Together. We ARE Wildcat Pride!

Respectfully,

Michelle Cavazos, Ph.D.

PROUD Superintendent of Gregory-Portland ISD

## Standards Common to All Activities/Contests

### Face Coverings:

- Staff and students are required to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.
- All employees, parents, visitors, contractors, and students must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where extracurricular activities are being conducted when not actively practicing or playing in the contest. The following exceptions apply:
  - 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 swimming in a pool
  - Sport-specific participant guidelines listed within this document.

Face coverings include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. This policy includes visitors of all ages in common areas, and all participants as specified per event.

## Screening:

COVID-19 symptoms will include the following as defined by the Texas Education Agency when experienced in a way that is not normal for the individual:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degree Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

“Close contact” with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will be defined as:

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on, while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.
  - *if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.*

**Staff and Participant screening requirement may be met with an equivalent screening process during same day instructional activities. If documented screening has not occurred on the day of the event, schools must implement the below screening protocols before allowing staff to participate in UIL activities. Spectators must complete screening at the time of event independent of any prior screening that may have been completed.**

### Staff Screening:

All staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before beginning any workday/event day using the DrOwl smartphone app/QR code before entering facility.

Staff will report to the District immediately if they are experiencing symptoms, have been exposed via close contact, or are lab-confirmed COVID-19 and may not enter the facility. Re-entry criteria will follow those established in the G-PISD Re-Opening Health Plan.

### Participant Screening:

Parents, Coaches and Sponsors must ensure they do not send a student to participate in UIL activities if the student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, has been exposed via close contact, or is lab-confirmed COVID-19.

- A student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL activities.

### Spectator Screening:

Spectators will be screened using DrOwl Smartphone App/QR code at facility entrances. In absence of electronic screening, Staff will verbalize the listed screening and close contact questions before allowing admission.

### Protocol for Failed Screening or Symptomatic Participant

- Spectators shall be denied entry to facility
- Participants who show signs of COVID-19 shall be will be evaluated by athletic trainer and if needed immediately separated until picked up by family members. Trainer shall be equipped with gloves, eye protection and N95 mask when making this evaluation.
- Individuals who report feeling feverish will immediately have temperature taken. Activity level and weather conditions shall be considered.
- Administration will be notified.
- If person is deemed symptomatic, areas heavily used by the individual shall be closed for cleaning per District procedures.

### Monitoring Visiting Participants:

- Visiting staff must always arrange for participants to be visually monitored by a responsible adult.
- This includes potential unmonitored times which occur while a Coach is parking the bus or coaching other games.

# Daily Practice/Locker Room Standards

## Practices

- Practice times will be staggered to avoid large groups using common entrances/exits when possible.
- Grouping will be considered at every part of the practice plan to limit potential close contacts.
- Alternate fields and courts should be considered to allow greater spacing of participants.
- No spectators are allowed at practice as this would require additional staffing for screening/sanitizing.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be made available in appropriate areas and as stock allows.
- Coaches shall set a standard practice of sanitizing equipment at the end of each day of usage. Specific practices will be developed for items of high possibility of contamination such as balls, helmets, etc.

## Water

- Students shall bring their own container for water. It may be filled from appropriate fountains and/or water dispensers/containers provided by the athletic dept.

## Locker Rooms

- Locker room touch points will be disinfected a minimum of 2 times per day with restroom facilities receiving at least 3 treatments.
- If lockers are to be issued, consideration should be placed on grouping with participants with common positions in order to limit possible close contacts.
- Maximum spacing should be used if additional lockers are available.
- Coaches shall schedule shower times to be conducted with appropriate spacing.

## Laundry

- For the protection of staff, students will be required to strictly follow laundry protocols. Students failing to follow instructions regarding laundry will be required to take laundry home for cleaning.
- Staff performing laundry duties will wear gloves, face and face shield or goggles.
- All articles to be washed are to be carefully placed in assigned laundry bin. Items should not be left on the floor or thrown.

- Items will be re-distributed by staff wearing gloves and face covering. Coaches will carry out this task when Custodial Services scheduling does not allow.

# Event/Contest Facility Standards

## Hand Sanitizer

- Will be provided at all facility entrances. Use is strongly encouraged.

## Seating

- Ushers shall direct spectators to available seating areas.
- Seating will be marked with a minimum of 6 ft social distancing.
- Handrails, and other common surfaces will be disinfected prior to first event of the day. Spectators are encouraged to limit touch points while visiting G-PISD facilities.
- Spectators are to stay within their seating area unless traveling directly to or from restroom or concessions.

## Movements

Guests and participants are required to follow all posted and announced social distancing policies for the duration of their time in the facility.

- Spectators are not allowed to congregate in mixed groups including before/after an event.
- Spectators are required to leave the facility immediately following an event.
- If waiting to pick up a participant, they shall wait in vehicle to avoid congregation.
- Failure to abide by policies may result in removal from event site.
- Widespread failure to abide by policies may result in future events being held without spectators.

## Restrooms

Restrooms will be accessible during event. Custodial staff will sanitize with CDC-approved products before event and during as staffing allows.

Spectators shall:

- Make only necessary visits to the restroom
- Strictly obey posted capacities
- Wash hands for 20 seconds
- Return immediately to seating area.



## Concessions

No outside food or drinks are allowed.

Only single serving, hand-held, prepackaged items will be sold. Condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware will likely not be available. If so, it will only be upon request, and in single use, individually wrapped items handled by a server wearing appropriate PPE.

Staff will regularly clean and disinfect the food service counters and areas.

Contact will be limited between the individuals involved in food service and patrons as much as possible. Employees, contractors, and volunteers will follow proper food-handling protocols. Masks/face coverings and gloves are a requirement. Stadium concession stands may have up to 4 staff working inside concession stand. Gym stands may have 2 staff. If social distancing cannot be easily be maintained, this number must be reduced.

Before each event, screening shall occur for all staff, students and volunteers who will be involved in food service.

## Locker Rooms

Visiting team/group locker rooms shall be cleaned and sanitized by G-PISD before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Access is limited to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.

Hand sanitizer, soap and water, will be readily available in these areas.

All congregation areas shall be regularly cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.

Any equipment that will be kept in student lockers and/or in these areas shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas.

Home and visitor schools shall identify staff to monitor locker rooms and other areas where students may congregate to ensure effective use of safety 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.

Staff and students are required to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.

## **Student Groups Associated with a Contest or Activity**

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

The following guidelines will apply:

- The above-mentioned student groups will not travel to AWAY events.
- Student groups should always remain separate from the game or contest participants and spectators.
- Student groups will be required to wear face coverings as described in most current guidance, when not actively performing, cheering, etc.
- Groups will maintain 6ft social distancing whenever possible for all formations and routines.

## **Transportation**

Transportation to and from events will follow most current G-PISD transportation Guidelines.

- Buses will be sanitized after each trip using CDC approved products.
- Masks or face covering will be required of all riders for the duration of the trip.
- Maximum spacing will be utilized.
- For the purposes of UIL events, seating shall be organized considering grouping students appropriately (positional, etc.) to limit widespread exposure.
- Buses will be loaded from rear to front and unloaded from front to rear.

## **Student Pick-up following Event or Away game**

- Parents picking up students should wait in their vehicle.
- Students shall be appropriately spaced and refrain from close contact such as horseplay while waiting for pick up. Most spacing will occur along stretches of sidewalk.

# OUTDOOR EVENT/CONTEST PROCEDURES

## Football

### Ticketing

- **Three (3) tickets will be allocated per participant. *\*Updated October 6, 2020\****
- Any tickets not purchased by participant families will be made available to season ticket holders and general public at mid-week.
- Visitors will be limited to 125 pairs of tickets
- No Cheer, Band, or Drill Teams from visiting school will be allowed
- Scouts from the 2 schools that will play Gregory-Portland and opponent the following week will be allowed in.
- Varsity games will be live streamed. Details will be released through the G-PISD website as the season approaches.
- 2019 Season Ticket holders will have the ability to renew on a normal schedule for the 2021 Season.
- No District Passes will be allowed.

### Entry

- Spectators will enter be screened through the appropriate gate (home/visitor)
- Spectators are expected to follow guidelines set in above Event/Contest Facility Standards

### Exit

- Spectators will exit the same gates that they entered the Stadium. Face coverings and social distancing will be practiced as spectators leave the stadium.
- Parents will not be allowed to wait after the game to visit with their children who participated in the contest.
- All participants will 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 the fields at all before, during, or after contests and events.

## Visiting Team Arrival/Facility Entry

G-PISD Stadium Supervisor will designate an entrance separate that has been sanitized prior to arrival. Conditions permitting, visiting TEAM buses will use the South Entrance and grass parking lot. This entrance will only be used by visiting team and no other persons.



- Visiting team/group locker rooms will be cleaned and sanitized by GPISD before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. GPISD will limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.

## Pregame and Post Game Procedures

- Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials will be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
- Pregame 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.

## Band

There are no UIL/Pre-UIL Band Contests scheduled to occur at Gregory-Portland ISD in the Fall of 2020.

## Cheer

- Cheerleaders will remain in formation (two lines with arms-length apart) at all times.
- Masks will be worn when not actively cheering or dancing (in between cheers while watching game).
- Cheerleaders will not throw any spirit items into the stands.
- Cheerleaders will not use megaphones- for decorative purposes only
- Cheerleaders **will be** allowed to stunt/build if face masks are worn.
- 2 tickets will be allocated per participant

## Cross-Country

### Guests

- No guests will be allowed at any practices or weight room sessions.
- Meet spectators must maintain 6ft social distancing along the course. Crowding at any location including the finish line is strictly prohibited.

### Visiting Team Arrival/Facility Entry

- There will be no G-P facility entry by visiting teams other than the course itself.
- Schools will be instructed to their designated camp area.
- Athletes must wear masks unless warming up or competing.
- Athletes will immediately return to their designated team area. Loitering will be prohibited.

### Pre-meet Procedures

- All entries will be made online prior to meet arrival.
- Competing schools must provide water for their own athletes.
- Masks will be worn by all athletic staff associated with competing teams at all times.
- Coaches will direct athletes to designated team area.

### Meet Procedures

- Only 8 schools are allowed at each invitational meet. Only one division may compete. Only 10 runners may represent a team.

- Each team will be assigned a starting box.
- At sub-varsity meets, coaches will time their own athletes.
- At varsity meets, medals will be handed out at the finish line. Team awards will be mailed or presented to the coach. There will be no awards ceremonies.
- Competitor numbers will be recorded by the finish clerk to determine team winners. There will be no envelopes or finisher numbers.

## Post meet Procedures

- No loitering will be allowed. After cooling down, athletes must return to their buses.

## Tennis

### Guests

- **Three (3) tickets will be allocated per participant. *\*Updated October 6, 2020\****
- Spectators will be screened prior to entry.
- Spectators are expected to follow guidelines set in above Event/Contest Facility Standards.
- Spectators must bring their own chair and maintain 6ft spacing from other households.

### Visiting Team Arrival/Facility Entry

- There will be one entrance/ exit to the facility. It will be the gate facing the stadium parking lot.
- Bleachers will be designated for Home/ Visiting Teams only.

### Face Coverings

- Face coverings should be worn when arriving and leaving the facility, in common areas where social distancing cannot be adhered to, and inside areas (restrooms.)
- Face coverings do not have to be worn while actively participating in the event, or while eating or drinking.

### Pre-Match Procedures

- Teams will be assigned courts for match warm-up.
- Water/ ice will not be provided. Visitors must bring their own water.

### Match Procedures

- Only participants, officials, and school personnel will be allowed on the court.

- New balls will be provided for each match.
- Players will return used balls to a designated area.
- Players will substitute the traditional handshake with a “racquet /fist bump.”

### **Post-match Procedures**

- Spectators should exit the facility at the conclusion of the match.

# Indoor Event/Contest Procedures

## Volleyball

### Guests

- 2 guests will be allowed per participant
- Any tickets not purchased by participant families will be made available to the general public prior to the contest.
- Spectators will enter be screened prior to entry.
- Spectators are expected to follow guidelines set in above Event/Contest Facility Standards.
- Select Varsity games may be lived streamed.

### Face Coverings

Face coverings do not have to be worn while exercising or competing on the court, in the match. Face coverings must be worn by all team personnel (coaches, managers, players not in the match) while on the bench.

### Visiting Team Arrival/Facility Entry

G-PISD Coaches will designate an entrance that has been sanitized prior to arrival. If possible, this entrance will be separate from guests and home team.

### Team Benches

- Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. Prior to warm-ups, the home team will select bench (1-6-1) to be at the entire match, for all matches played on a given night.
- Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets.
- Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.

### Pre-match Conference

- Suspend roster submission at the pre-match conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- Limit the attendees to the head coach and one captain from each team and the R1 and R2



- Hold the conference at center court with the head coach, one captain and a referee on each side of the net

## Deciding Set Procedures

- Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 3 to 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive.
- Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set.

## Substitution Procedures

- Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line.

## Pre-match Ceremony

- Both teams (starting players and/or entire team) will line up on their respective end lines
- The R1 will whistle and motion for teams to advance to the attack line
- The R1 will whistle to release the players to line up in their starting positions

## Post-match Ceremony

- The R1 will display the end of set signal (signal 21)
- Using both open hands with arms extended, the R2 will point toward the attack lines.
- The teams will line up on their respective attack lines facing their opponents