

Grapeland ISD

Extra-Curricular Guide COVID-19 Mitigation



2020-2021

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:

- ***Grapeland ISD personnel must adhere to all safety guidelines with fidelity.***

Remote Learning, Academic Eligibility, Credit Requirements

As schools prepare for a variety of learning options for the coming school year, UIL is providing the following information related to those options and UIL student eligibility.

- ***Students participating in remote learning offered by their school district, whether synchronous or asynchronous (as defined by TEA), may NOT participate in UIL activities as voted by our Board of Trustees in Grapeland ISD. Students must also meet all other UIL eligibility requirements.***
- Schools may develop local policies with additional requirements for participation. You can find more information related to the full-time student rule in the [UIL Constitution and Contest Rules](#).
- ***Students who are enrolled in dual credit courses and participate asynchronously in those courses will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.***
- ***Grapeland ISD will develop grading policies for remote learning options that outline the criteria for determining if a student is passing all courses at the end of grading and evaluation periods.*** Days when school is not in session should be treated as school holidays for purposes of determining academic eligibility for in-person learning. All students are academically eligible when school is not in session for a full calendar week or more. More information related to no pass-no play can be found in the [TEA-UIL Side by Side Manual](#).
- For the 2020-2021 school year, **UIL eligibility requirements for the first six weeks of school have been modified to allow a student to be eligible for the first six weeks if they accumulated at least two and a half credits since the start of the 2019-2020 school year.** Schools may impose additional requirements.

2020-2021 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. Schools should take their local context into account and follow all state requirements when considering UIL activities.**

It is recommended that each school identify a staff member or group of staff members to serve as compliance officer(s) to oversee effective use of these protocols. Schools must follow all requirements of state authorities in addition to the requirements below. ***The COVID Compliance Team for Grapeland ISD will be headed by Don Jackson, Terry Ward, Moises Santos, Kristy Word, Woodrow Jones, Will Kollet, Katie Doughty and Ginger Arbuckle.***

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.

1. For the purposes of 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. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. All employees, parents, visitors and students ten years of age or older must wear face coverings or face shields 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.
 - *Any student or staff member who repeatedly defies or refuses to wear a face covering should be documented and corrected.*
3. The face coverings requirements do not apply to a school in a county that meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of Executive Order GA-29, (20 or less active cases in Houston County) unless the local school system chooses to implement these requirements locally. Even in these circumstances, the wearing of face coverings or face shields is strongly encouraged.

Exceptions to the wearing of face coverings or face shields 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.**

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:

If staff have not been screened by the school for purposes of participating in instructional activities, schools must implement these **screening protocols before allowing staff to participate in UIL activities.**

- *All GISD staff and spectators will be screened before being allowed into UIL events. A team of screeners will be at each entrance. Tickets will be sold in advance and have screening questions on the back of each ticket. Temperatures may be checked at each gate.*

1. **Schools must require staff to 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 if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, 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 the 14-day incubation period has passed.** Close contact is defined in this document below.
 - *All reports of COVID Exposure must go to Nurse Kristi Word, -> Supt. Don Jackson -> Principal Katie Doughty -> Supervisor of Sport*
2. **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.
3. **Before visitors are allowed access to areas where UIL activities are being conducted, school systems must screen all visitors to determine if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms** (as listed in this document) or are lab-

confirmed with COVID-19, 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, school systems must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

4. Schools are permitted to prevent any individual who fails the screening criteria from being admitted into school facilities or sites where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as described below. Any individual for whom screening cannot be confirmed should be presumed symptomatic until confirmed otherwise.
 - ***Law enforcement will be present at all home games and be stationed at gates preceding the game.***

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - ***Nurse Word be in charge of transition to and from Covid exposure and infections.***
 - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, **such individual is assumed to have COVID-19**, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
 - **If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period**, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return

based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

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.

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. **Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is 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.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to 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

1. 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).
2. 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 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

3. 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.

- *Communication will be the key in staying within regulations and guidelines of our COVID procedures.*

COVID-19 Symptoms

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

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

- **Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees 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**

Screening Questionnaire Information

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

Performance Areas, Band Halls, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings

1. Schools should make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.
 - *Responsibility of Coaching staff...*
2. All congregate areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.
 - *Communicate all cleaning needs to cpeck@grapelandisd.net*
3. 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. Schools should develop a plan for managing the storage, cleaning and disinfecting, and redistribution of student equipment.
 - *Clean locker rooms will have to be a shared responsibility between players, coaches and custodians.*
4. Schools should consider identifying staff to 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.
 - *All locker rooms should be monitored until all students have exited.*
5. Schools must require staff and students 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.
 - *This regulation will need to be consistently enforced.*
6. As part of their overall plan, schools should develop a plan for mitigating risk of spreading COVID-19 when disinfecting, cleaning, and laundering items such as towels, practice clothes, and uniforms. This plan should include protocols for redistributing these items to students. Involved staff should be trained specifically on these protocols.
 - *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

Practice and Rehearsal Activities

In addition to the above general guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to practice activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

1. All surfaces in practice areas should be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
2. Any equipment should be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.
3. Schools may provide food, water or other drinks. If they provide these items, schools should do so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

Game, Contest, and Event Management

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

- *The Athletic Director and Head Coach should make a call to the opposing team(s) on Monday of the Game week to nail down particulars for tickets and game protocols or procedures.*

Teams and Participants

1. If the school is planning to offer transportation for students, schools should follow [TEA guidance](#) related to such transportation.
 - *Any special travel plans should be brought to Supt in advance so that arrangements can be made.*
2. Teams and participants are **required** to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
 - *Plans to be established by the head coach.*
3. 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.
4. **Visiting team /group locker rooms** should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. 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.

- *Please check visitor locker rooms for cleanliness before each event.*
-C. Peck

5. 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.

- *Game administrators will handle screening protocols.*
- *Planning meetings will be established in advance of hosting events.*

6. 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.

- *Creativity is encouraged in finding social distancing opportunities*

7. As previously indicated, water or other drinks and/or food may be provided. Schools or host sites should consider doing so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

8. Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.

9. The host site should provide sports and contest 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.

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

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

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

11. 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.

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

12. 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.

Student Groups not directly involved in the game or contest

Student groups such as marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, 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.

1. These student groups should remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
 - *Each student group will act as a separate entity with no interaction and constant social distancing.*
2. Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
3. Schools should consider limiting 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.
 - *There will be a station at ball games limiting field access.*
4. Fans and spectators should be located to provide at least 10 feet of distance from bands playing wind instruments from the stands.
 - *Bands may be located on track.*
5. These students should maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants at all times, including when on the sideline.
 - *Each student group will act as a separate entity with no interaction and constant social distancing.*

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:

- *We will have a press release to fans about event procedures.*
 - *Tickets will presale with each participant allowed two tickets*
1. Schools and/or host sites should 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.
 - *The Administration Office will take care of this duty.*
 2. Spectators, audiences, fans and media are required to wear face coverings as described in **Executive Order GA-29**.
 3. 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.
 - *Ticket sales will be handled by each school and the visiting team will pay for tickets sold to their fans.*
 4. If possible, set reserved times for entry to avoid mass arrivals.
 - *Admin will be on duty to discourage crowds of more than 10.*
 5. Groups should maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups at all times, 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.
 6. Schools should not allow seating in consecutive rows, and should block off seating to maintain a minimum six feet of distance between groups.
 7. Pathways for spectator ingress and egress should be clearly marked and unobstructed.
 - *Administrators on Duty along with press box public service announcements will guide the flow of traffic at games.*
 8. Schools should provide hand sanitizing stations and/or hand washing stations at entrances and inside the facility.
 9. Seating, hand rails, and other common surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected prior to each game or contest.

- *Custodian presence at games must be increased.*

10. Press Box seating should include social distancing of at least six feet between individuals when possible.

11. Schools should limit access to working media providing coverage of the event to ensure protocols are followed.

- *Administrators on duty will implement protocols.*

12. 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.

- *Plans to be established by the head coach.*

Concession Stands and Food Service

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

1. Staff, contractors, and volunteers involved in food service are required to wear face coverings as described in **Executive Order GA-29**.
2. Sites should avoid leaving condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on unoccupied tables or at the counter. Sites should only provide condiments or flatware upon request, and in single use, individually wrapped items.
3. Regularly clean and disinfect the food service counters and areas. Clean and disinfect dining areas (tables, etc.) after each patron departs.
4. 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.
5. 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.
 - *Plans will be made with Concessions to solve the crowding issues at the concession stand.*