

UHSAA Return-To-Play Protocol



General Advisement and Sport-by-Sport Specifics

UHSAA General Best Practices and Guidelines

- 1. No shaking hands before/after game.***
- 2. Players/coaches on bench/sideline are highly recommended to wear masks.***
- 3. Fans are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing isn't feasible.***
- 4. Understand and practice school/district and local health protocols for COVID-19 prevention and tracking.***
- 5. Place signage in facilities to inform participants/spectators on protocol and best practices.***
- 6. Any players, coaches, or spectators who are sick shall not be engaged in practices and/or contests.***

UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines

Football

- Limit the number of players to 50. Event size can exceed 50 participants if organizational oversight can be provided that ensures guidelines are followed. Complete the “Event Management Template” found in the Governor’s 4.8 plan. Every school would be required to have AT LEAST ONE ADMINISTRATOR AT THE VENUE BEFORE TEAMS ARRIVE FROM THEIR SCHOOL. TYPICALLY, ONE HOUR BEFORE GAME TIME.
- Try to limit travel as much as possible, but schools may need to bring multiple buses, allowing for appropriate social distancing, and temperature check all participants before arriving at the venue.
- Traveling for certain schools may result in athletes having to spend the night in a hotel, it would be the district, school, and coach’s responsibility to get appropriate lodging to allow for the required social distancing in determining how many athletes will be in the same room.
- Every football athlete, manager, coach, administrator, athletic director, media rep, football official, bus driver, UHSAA staff member needs to have symptom form completed, and temperature checked before traveling teams would be allowed to leave the school to travel to the competition site, and home teams would check athlete temperatures as the athletes arrive at the school and before they are allowed into the locker room. For those individuals who we consider support staff, temperature checks would occur at the venue (officials, administrators, media, game administration, and UHSAA staff).
- Fans: Size of crowd would be determined by current State and County Health Departments, and the Governor’s Plan.
- It is strongly recommended that fans follow the current social distancing guidelines and wear a mask.
- Coaches, athletes, and officials will stand 6’ apart while standing on the sidelines, with team box extending to the 10 yard lines and wearing masks while not in the game. Pre-game coin-toss would include one coach and one captain from each team, with a wave of sportsmanship after the game is concluded. Designate football as a handshake free zone with teammates, coaches, opposing team, and game officials.
- Hand sanitizer on each sideline at the 50-yard line so players can sanitize before they go into the game, and as soon as they are substituted.
- No team water bottles, athletes would need to bring their own, clearly marked, and set in their designated spot on the sideline in their 6’ area.
- All medical equipment, water bottles, water coolers, pinnies, and team balls will be sterilized before coming into the facility. Teams would be required to sanitize footballs and kicking tees/pad after change of possession, and after each kick or try.
- Host sites would need to sterilize all stadium press boxes, official’s locker room, sideline benches, goals, fences and railings that athletes and equipment might touch.
- Host sites would need to provide signage to remind and help individuals stand 6’ apart, and family groups to spread out, and wear masks so the kids can play.

Considerations for Parents

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),