

Contest-Day Operations

The following items are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**:

Contest-Day Screening Procedures

- Individual schools should formulate Contest-Day screening procedures.
- Accepted Temperature less than 100.4° F. (be sure to check temperatures immediately upon arrival and before any warmup activities)
- Considering the potential for environmental factors causing an elevated temperature, should the temperature be elevated, it is appropriate to isolate the individual and recheck the temperature after 5-to-10 minutes of sitting in a cool environment.
- Symptom check (see “COVID-19 Symptoms” section).
- Note that due to the variability and potential unreliability of temperature checks, should give more consideration to symptom check.

Athletic Teams and School Personnel

- Prior to boarding the team travel bus(es), van(s), any form of school transportation, each individual student-athlete and staff member should be verbally screened by a staff member (usually a coach) and temperature recorded with appropriate action taken, as necessary. Each temperature should be taken prior to departure and upon arrival.
- If there is a potential or identified risk from screening, either based on symptoms or temperature level, the individual should wear a face covering and be sent immediately to a designated area for isolation and the school’s action plan implemented.
- Opposing teams on competition day will be notified of potential risk observed through screening to determine team competition status.
- Each case will be handled individually based on the adopted action plan by that school and preferably in consultation with the team physician or appropriate health care provider.
- It is highly recommended that COVID-19 testing should be performed when an individual has the signs or symptoms or other circumstances that suggest acute testing be performed.
- If there is a confirmed case, confirmed exposure, potential exposure or illness associated to COVID-19 – school administrators shall be notified to determine the best course of action.
- The screening process will continue or be revised as new processes are recommended or when the GHSA and its member schools return to normal operations.

Game Day Face Mask/Cloth Coverings

- It is highly recommended that face mask/cloth coverings should be worn when traveling to and from transportation vehicles and designated team facilities.

- It is highly recommended that face mask/cloth coverings should be worn properly (covering nose and mouth) when entering host facilities, including host team Athletic Training Room, and on the field of play during any pre-warm up walkthrough which does not require increased demand on the student-athletes' cardiorespiratory system (i.e. pre-game walking off the field in football).
- It is highly recommended that face mask/cloth coverings should be worn by student-athletes while on the sidelines/benches and not actively engaged in competition "field of play."
- Masks should not be shared.
- It is highly recommended that member schools implement an effective plan to allow student-athletes to wear face mask/cloth coverings while in bench areas but quickly remove face mask/cloth covering to enter "competition" and keeping individualized face mask/cloth coverings separate and isolated in a container or plastic bag when not in use. Officials/referees should utilize face mask/cloth coverings as long as this will not directly impede the effective completion of their duties and responsibilities.
- It is highly recommended that coaches and game day personnel (Sports Medicine staff, SID's, media, film crews, ball crews, etc.) should always utilize face mask/cloth coverings.
- Cloth face coverings should **never** be placed on:
 - Children under the age of 2; OR
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, OR
 - Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs

Sidelines and Benches

- Each sideline/bench should be furnished with enough hand sanitizing stations to satisfy the needs of sideline/bench capacity.
- All staff and sports medicine personnel should be capable of providing personal sanitation requests from student-athletes throughout competition.
- Teams should follow their Hydration plan throughout the course of competition – each member school is responsible for providing a plan for individualized hydration supplies for their student athletes on competition days. Bench water should be provided by host site, but the traveling team should supply its own coolers unless agreed upon by the host school.
- All benches should be wiped down using proper CDC-approved cleaning agents before and after competition. Wipe down bench spaces as frequently as possible throughout competition.
- Towels will not be provided by the host site. If student-athletes prefer the utilization of a towel during competition, they should provide their own towel and should not share their towel with other members of their team.
- Used towels should be placed immediately in an open bin container to avoid cross-contamination.
- Sideline personnel should be limited to participating athletes, coaches, medical staff and gameday staff; however, anyone on the sidelines or involved with the contest should adhere to these guidelines.

- When possible, benches and sidelines should provide adequate seating to allot for individualized seating for all student-athletes and members of the coaching staff for each team to allow for appropriate physical distancing when not on the field.
- Member schools should consider their safe and necessary sideline and bench capacity and determine enough home active roster numbers accordingly.

Game Day Venue Restrictions

- Local school administrators, in consultation with local health departments and health care professionals should determine what personnel (cheerleaders, band, mascots, dance team, etc.) should participate in events. It is strongly recommended to take into consideration the venue's ability to safely allow for and enforce proper physical distancing.
- The media accommodations will be handled by host school personnel.

Spectators

- GHSA member schools should follow the guidance of local, state, and federal recommendations as it pertains to spectator events and stadium capacity restrictions if such information becomes available.
- It is highly recommended that spectators have their temperature assessed prior to entering the competition venue and should be denied entry if higher than 100.4 degrees.
- It is highly recommended that spectators always wear a facemask/covering possible.
- Spectators should be restricted from direct competition areas and from visiting with student athletes and personnel before, during and after events.
- Spectators should always practice social distancing whenever possible. Household members are excluded.
- Local school administrators, in consultation with local health departments, should determine whether "to-go" meals for their student-athletes in individualized, single packaged containers should be permitted.

Concessions

- If sales at concession stands are permitted, they must follow state guidelines for "Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services"
- If sales at concession stands are permitted, concession workers should wear masks and gloves in accordance with state mandates.
- Any worker should be screened before they are permitted to perform work duties in the concession.
- If sales at concession stands are permitted, individuals in line for concessions should practice physical distancing.
- If sales at concession stands are permitted, precautions for social distancing should always be adhered to.