

TCSAAL COVID-19, 2021-2022 Guidelines

Before Heading to a TCSAAL Event

- Take temperature. 100.0° F or over, do not attend TCSAAL Event
- Pass a COVID 19 Symptom Check (see below)
- If player / coach / Admin / official is not feeling well in general, out of an abundance of caution, please stay home

COVID-19 Symptom Check (Adopted from UIL)

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 or 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

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.

Facility Preparation

- Benches and restrooms MUST be sanitized before the games begin.

Pre- Game Procedures

- All people that will need water must provide their own water bottle that is labeled with name.
- Coaches should ensure their team has hand sanitizer.
- Host facility should ensure there are hand washing / hand sanitizing stations.
- Officials should bring their own personal hand sanitizer.
- 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. No hand shaking or contact of any kind. No approaching each other. A display of sportsmanship can be done from safe distance.
- Masks should be encouraged to be worn.

FANS & SPECTATORS:

- TCSAAL encourages fans to wear masks at all indoor activities and at all outdoor activities when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- We encourage you to stream games online, and TCSAAL will plan to do so for the State Playoffs). Please note that TCSAAL only reviews film for sportsmanship issues. We do not review official's rulings.

COVID Protocols for TCSAAL Sanctioned Activities (Non TCSAAL Hosted Events)

- Host schools will have the ability to set their own COVID Standards for events they are hosting. We encourage schools to follow the TCSAAL Standards found below. Schools will need to fill out a competition COVID standards form for each activity. The information will be displayed on our website so visiting teams can see the COVID requirements. Schools will have the choice of requiring masks (except while participating in a physical activity) and limiting or not allowing fans. These forms can be found on your regional page for each activity.

Mask Protocol at TCSAAL hosted State and Regional Championship Playoff Events and other TCSAAL Hosted Events

Indoor Events

- All in attendance, including student athletes, coaches, officials and event staff, spectators and fans will be required to wear a mask/face covering at all times when not in the game. When on the sidelines, players are encouraged always have a face cover on. Coaches and team staff must keep their masks/face covers on at all times when at a TCSAAL event. Masks must cover mouth and nose at all times when being worn.

- The only exception to wearing a mask is any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering and has a medical note.

Outdoor Events

- All in attendance, including student athletes, coaches, officials and event staff will be encouraged to wear a mask/face covering at all times when social distancing is not possible.

Playoff Guidelines

- In general due to COVID TCSAAL will not have Tie-Breaker Games. Please see the handbook for TIE-Breaker Procedures.
- Exception: Limited tiebreakers may be sanctioned if the following parameters are met
 - Tiebreakers will only take place in situations where 3 or more teams are tied for 1st place after division ranking procedures are applied.
 - Tiebreakers will not be played for 2nd place rankings.
 - Tiebreakers are eligible only for Varsity districts.
 - Teams will be ranked according to TCSAAL division ranking criteria documented herein.
 - In the instance of more than 3 teams tied, the ranking procedure will be used to determine the top 3 teams for tiebreaker eligibility. Lower ranked teams will be eliminated from contention.
 - The lower 2 rankings of the 3 tied teams will participate in a tiebreaker game with the higher-ranking team advancing directly to the playoff tournament.

Tiebreaker game must be facilitated in accordance with TCSAAL COVID protocols and the other tiebreaker procedures, and policies documented within the *Handbook and this document*.

- Playoff Format (Higher tournament seed will host playoff games through the Regional Semi-Finals)
- TCSAAL may send a league Representatives to a game (regular season and playoffs) as deemed necessary.
- Regional Championships: TCSAAL will provide a facility for Regional Championship games and State Playoff Games.

Return to Play Guidelines

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (**COVID-19 Symptom Check** listed above) 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:
 1. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that is negative for COVID-19.
- In addition to the criteria and processes described above, a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in TCSAAL activities.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A TEAM CANT PLAY DUE TO COVID

- All regular season games must be completed by (usually the last Saturday of the regular season. See Specific Activity Date)
 - Any game that cannot be made up may be ruled a forfeit against the team that was unable to play. All teams must comply with reschedules within the regular season window when assigned by regional director.
- In the event that division games do not get played due to COVID-19 a team is still playoff eligible if they complete at least a majority of division games.
- If a division only has one team or less eligible based on the above for playoffs that team will be the 1 seed and the remaining team will be determined based on winning percentage.

Remote Learning Students

Students participating in remote learning offered by their school district, whether synchronous or asynchronous (as defined by TEA), may participate in TCSAAL activities if they meet all other TCSAAL eligibility requirements. Students must be enrolled in remote learning options through the school the student will represent. Schools may develop local policies with additional requirements for participation.

TCSAAL COVID-19 Guidelines & Updates

COVID-19 is an ever-changing situation, therefore TCSAAL will be re-evaluating and assessing best practices throughout the season. This document is subject to change at any time. Changes will be communicated via email and through our website.