



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FOOTBALL GAMES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics is comprised of 800 member pediatricians across the state and exists to obtain optimal health and well-being for all children in Alabama. The organization works hand in hand with the Alabama Department of Public Health and other state organizations to advocate for policies that are in the best interest of Alabama's children.

The following recommendations are proposed to enhance the safety of students, their families and the general public attending high school football events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. SPECTATORS:

- 1) Every spectator should wear a mask or facial covering at all times (while standing and sitting).
- 2) Spectators should not be allowed inside the fence.
- 3) Spectators should not be allowed on the field after the end of the game.
- 4) People older than 65 or those with high-risk conditions should avoid sporting events.
- 5) Only two spectators per student-participant should be allowed (this would decrease crowding at the game and allow for social distancing).
- 6) Tailgating should not be allowed (tailgating does not allow for social distancing).
- 7) Consider pre-purchasing of tickets online to minimize crowding at the entry points.
- 8) Consider staggering stadium/event entry/exit to decrease crowding and promote social distancing.

B. CONCESSIONS:

- 1) Every school should develop a COVID-19 plan for concessions, which should include requiring masks and gloves at all times for vendors, availability of hand sanitizer and the ability to reduce crowding and provide social distancing for customers, particularly at peak times. In order to limit food-handling and to speed up transactions, consider only allowing prepacked items and bottled drinks.
- 2) Mark spaces with 6 feet of separation for social distancing in concession areas and outside of restrooms.

C. BAND AND CHEERLEADERS:

- 1) Space band participants, especially those with wind instruments.
- 2) Require masks and distancing for band members (while not playing wind instruments) and cheerleaders.
- 3) If band members or cheerleaders are allowed to participate, they should do so only during home games. This decreases the risk of infection exposure to school participants during transportation and decreases crowding at the away location.
- 4) Home band performance on the field should be allowed only after the end of the game.

D. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME SCHOOL

- 1) Keep a transportation log to identify student/athletes who travel on the same bus to away games. If a student athlete who traveled in a vehicle is diagnosed and develops symptoms of COVID-19 within two days after the event, all student athletes and staff sharing the same vehicle should be placed under quarantine.
- 2) Social events or gatherings for team members outside of school facilities should not be allowed or encouraged. Social distancing and masking policies for student safety cannot be monitored in these settings.