



Wildcats RETURN  
TO Play 2020

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPECTATIONS for WILDCAT RETURN TO PLAY 2020**

As is consistent with Hardee County's Return to School plan, all members of the Hardee County community have a shared responsibility to prevent the spread of illness. It is imperative that all members of our school community remain committed to the safety procedures listed in this and future communications to help keep students, staff, and faculty safe. All participants and spectators involved with HHS athletics must adhere to the following requirements as it applies to their role:

### **Follow Federal, State, and Local Orders**

All families are expected to adhere to the directives of applicable federal, state, and local government health departments regarding social distancing and other measures believed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **Stay Home When Sick**

If an individual is experiencing any symptoms of illness they may not attend practices or competitions.

### **COVID-19 Testing and Notification**

If a staff member or student athlete, or someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19, Hardee County Health Department, along with the AD (Stacie Harpe) and Assistant Principal (Suzanne Stagg) must be notified as soon as possible.

### **Away Travel for Band and Cheerleaders**

Travel for band and cheerleaders to away games will be handled on a game by game basis. Hardee High's Athletic Director and/or Principal Designee will communicate with the away team's Athletic Director and/or School Administration to determine the ability for these two groups to participate. As the visiting team, HHS will abide by the home team's guidelines for seating capacity, ticket allocations, etc. to determine if attendance for either of these groups is possible.

### **Face Masks/Shields**

As with social distancing, the wearing of face coverings is a necessary component of this plan. The expectation is that a face covering is required by all individuals who choose to participate in or attend school athletic events. Sport specific expectations for mask wearing can also be found in each sport's respective plan. In addition:

- All athletic staff will be expected to wear a protective face covering at all times.
- Posters will be placed at all athletic facilities to remind and encourage staff and students to stay home when sick, follow physical distancing protocols, wear a face covering and practice good personal hygiene.

## **Social Distancing**

- Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- No touch rule – athletes should refrain from high fives and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, officials, and fans.

## **Teams Transportation:**

- Hardee County schools bus rules will apply.
- Athletes and coaches will be required to wear a mask if six foot social distancing on the bus is not possible.

## **Gathering Size Limitations**

- As recommended by the NFHS, attendance at practices and competitions will be restricted. Spectators will not be allowed to watch practices.
- The capacity for spectators will be held at 50% seating in a sports facility, but is subject to change based on CDC guidelines, gathering limitations set by the city and state guidelines.
- It is recommended spectators conduct a self-symptom assessment on game day. Anyone experiencing symptoms must not attend an athletic event.
- Six-foot social distancing should be maintained between-individuals when possible.
- Fans are not permitted to congregate at the sports facility before, during, or after athletic contests. Fans may observe athletic events from designated seating areas only.
- Fans must exit the sports facility promptly following the athletic contest.
- Fans will not be allowed on the playing surface.
- The visiting team will be provided the number of tickets which will provide for 50% seating capacity for the visiting section of the sport facility utilized.
- Bleacher, Stadium and Gymnasium seating will permit size groups of no larger than 10 with at least 1 seat and 1 row between groups.
- Only essential personnel determined by school's administration will be allowed on the field or court of play.
- Announcement for spectators to follow CDC guidelines will be made frequently throughout the contest.

## **Concession Stands**

- Sales at concession must follow state guidelines for "Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services" as outlined in the current Governor's Executive Order
- Concession workers will be required to wear masks and gloves in accordance with state mandates.
- Any concession worker will be screened before they are permitted to perform work duties in the concession.
- Individuals in line for concessions should practice physical distancing and remain masked.

### **Press Box/Scorer's table**

- Only essential personnel (determined by the school administration) are permitted in the press box or at the scorer's table.
- No buffet style meals are permitted, pre-package meals only.
- Face coverings, covering the mouth and nose will always be worn; exceptions only for announcers
- All equipment and countertops will be sanitized before and after use.

### **Locker / Dressing Rooms**

The use of locker rooms will be modified to align with the current health and safety policies of the campus. Below are the current guidelines for usage:

- Locker/dressing rooms are allowed for sports practices.
- Locker Rooms will be for changing only.
- Enter and Exit into locker/dressing rooms will only be allowed through designated areas.
- Social distance whenever possible.
- A face mask, covering the mouth and nose will be required at all times.
- All personal items should be kept in the assigned changing area and brought home daily.
- Toiletries or personal hygiene items should not be shared.
- Showers and lockers will be available for use, following all CDC Guidelines.
- Locker rooms should be cleared and emptied 15 minutes after the completion of a practice or contest.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily (more frequently is recommended) along with shared objects between each use.
- Locker/dressing rooms shall be cleaned and sanitized daily when in use.
- Coaches will consider a rotating schedule for players in and out of the locker room (and training areas) to avoid potential congestion.
- Personal items brought to the athletic facility should be limited to those items necessary for that day's practice or competition. In addition, at no time should any personal items be shared with another student. This includes clothing, equipment and food/snacks
- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.

### **Hydration**

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) may be utilized under the supervision of a coach. If used, water stations must be cleaned and sanitized after every practice / contest

### **Team Meals**

- Boxed or sealed meals are acceptable. No buffet style meals are to be served. All meals provided to athletes/coaches must be prepared under restaurant guidelines, thus home cooked meals may not be served.

### **Sideline & Benches**

- Teammates are not to share water bottles throughout the course of competition.
- 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. 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.
- Sideline personnel will be limited to participating athletes, coaches, medical staff and game day staff.
- When possible, benches and sidelines should provide individualized seating for all student-athletes and members of the coaching staff to allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and/or sanitize their hands as often as possible.

**The Covid-19 pandemic is a fluid situation that schools and athletic teams will continue to navigate throughout the school year. The expectations outlined in this document are subject to change based on the most current information provided to the school from district, city, county, state and federal officials.**