



May 22, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 Seniors and Families,

Bastrop ISD has developed a comprehensive Graduation Safety Plan that takes into consideration Governor Abbott's executive orders, the Texas Education Agency's guidance for outdoor graduation ceremonies, and BISTD's safety rules for Memorial Stadium during COVID-19.

Even with these safety measures in place, participating in an event of this nature has inherent risk and is voluntary. Our seniors and guests are encouraged to evaluate their own risk level and make the decision that is appropriate for them. **For graduating seniors or guests who are in a high risk category, we ask that you forego this event and stay safe at home.**

All graduates and guests are expected to follow the Graduation Safety Plan. Because this situation continues to be fluid, additional (and possibly different) directives may be provided before or on the day of graduation depending on circumstances. Your cooperation will enable us to create the safest environment possible. Our intent is not to limit your personal freedom but simply to create a fun yet safe graduation ceremony. Please be responsible and respectful and do your part to protect yourself and others!

All staff, seniors and guests will complete a self screener prior to entering the stadium for any new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19. Any person with these symptoms will not be eligible to participate or attend.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100°
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 if exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 14 days

In accordance with our local health authority, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must present documentation they are no longer positive or a risk to the public. Documentation must be in the form of a note from a physician that the person has had two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

While this year's commencement isn't what any of us expected, we have tried to create a memorable experience, keeping many of the traditional favorites about graduation while at the same time putting in place these important safety measures. We look forward to seeing you at Memorial Stadium for your 2020 graduation celebration!

Sincerely,

Barry Edwards
Superintendent



GRADUATION SAFETY PLAN

TOPIC	ANSWER
EVENT TICKETS	<p>Seniors from BHS and CCHS will receive 5 tickets. Seniors from CRCA and GHS will receive 10 tickets.</p> <p>Event tickets for guests are required. Guests without a ticket will not be admitted to the stadium. There are no exceptions.</p> <p>Seniors do not need a ticket. Schools will inform seniors when they can pick up tickets.</p>
ARRIVAL & PARKING FOR GUESTS	<p>Both entrance driveways will be open. The Visitor parking entrance is for guests assigned to the Visitor Side (graduates with last name A-L). The Home parking entrance is for guests assigned to the Home Side (graduates with last name M-Z.)</p> <p>CRCA and GHS guests will enter the Home parking entrance and the Home gates only. The visitor side will not be open for CRCA and GHS.</p>
ARRIVAL & PARKING FOR SENIORS	<p>Graduates with last name A-L should enter the Visitor parking entrance and park in the designated Student Lot at the back to be closest to their entrance gate.</p> <p>Graduates with last name M-Z should enter the Home parking entrance and park in the designated Student Lot at the back to be closed to their entrance gate.</p>
STADIUM ENTRY & EXIT (including release from stands)	<p>For BHS and CCHS, guests of a graduate whose last name is A-L must enter gates on the Visitor Side, and guests of a graduate whose last name is M-Z must enter gates on the Home Side.</p> <p>For CRCA and GHS, all guests will enter gates on the Home Side only.</p> <p>Once a guest arrives in the stadium, they will not be allowed to leave and re-enter.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the ceremony, and after all seniors have completed the recessional off the field, guests will be released from the stands in sections using a Press Box Announcement.</p> <p>When guests are released by section, they will exit the same gates they entered and proceed directly to their vehicle to meet up with their graduate.</p>
GATES	<p>Gates will open two hours prior to each ceremony. (Seniors are asked to arrive one hour prior to their ceremony. They should follow any guidance from their schools about arrival and what to bring.)</p>

GUEST SEATING	<p>Guests of graduates with last name A-L will sit on Visitor Side. Guests of graduates with last name M-Z will sit on Home Side. For CRCA and GHS, all guests will sit on the Home Side.</p> <p>In all cases, seating for groups of 5 will be premarked in the stands with blue tape. No more than 5 people may sit together. Guests may sit in any area premarked with blue tape.</p>
HEALTH SCREENING	<p>Seniors and BISD staff will complete and sign a self-screener before being allowed to enter the stadium. Nurses will be on hand for assistance.</p> <p>Guests must read and sign their event ticket prior to arriving at the gate as their official attestation that they do not have the symptoms listed. They must turn in the completed/signed ticket to the gate worker.</p>
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	<p>Concessions will not be available at commencement. Guests will be allowed to bring in one unopened bottle of water. Other containers will not be allowed into the stadium. Additional bottles of water will be available inside the stadium.</p>
MASKS/FACE COVERINGS	<p>Graduating seniors and BISD staff will be provided with a custom logo mask and will be required to wear the mask at all times. Seniors may remove their mask for the official photos on stage and post-stage. Seniors who have a speaking role will be able to remove their mask during the speech.</p> <p>For the safety of our families, we respectfully request that all guests bring their own masks and wear them throughout the duration of the event.</p>
PROCESSIONAL	<p>Because we do not want seniors congregating under the stands as they normally would, we will be lining them up spaced 6 feet apart on the inside and outside lanes of the track. They will be given a card with their location # when they pick up their tickets. This ensures they are in the right order to have their names called for graduation as well. They will enter the field as <i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> plays.</p>
FIELD SEATING FOR GRADUATES	<p>Chairs will be placed 6 feet apart. For BHS and CCHS this will take up much of the field.</p>
THROWING OF CAPS	<p>For the safety of all students, the graduate's personal cap may not be thrown. Instead, BISD has provided an extra cap for each graduate that will be under their seat on the field. At the appropriate time, this is the cap that may be thrown in the air. Graduates may not retrieve the cap thrown but instead must leave it on the ground. Stadium crews will gather the caps after guests have left the stadium.</p>
FIREWORKS (BHS and CCHS only)	<p>We will continue the tradition of fireworks after commencement for BHS and CCHS. However, congregating at center field will not be allowed. Graduates will stand or sit in their assigned location on the field to watch the fireworks display.</p>
RECESSIONAL	<p>Similar to the processional, <i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> will play for the recessional as graduates are dismissed by their rows from the field directly to the student parking lots. When all graduates have left the field, the guest stands will be released. This will be announced from the Press Box.</p>

FIELD ACCESS	Only graduating seniors, BISD personnel and law enforcement will be allowed on the field or inside the field gates. Under no circumstances will guests be allowed on the field or inside the field gates.
EVENT PROGRAMS	We will not hand out printed programs at the ceremony, however, an electronic version of the program will be available that guests can download prior to the event ceremony. One printed program will be given to graduates as a keepsake at a later time.
SANITIZER STATIONS	We will have hand sanitizer stations outside the stadium and at key locations inside the stadium. Bathrooms will also be equipped with hand soap for hand washing.
STAGE SEATING	Although our school board, as well as administrators from throughout the District desire to attend our graduation ceremonies, stage seating will be limited to two high school staff, district staff and board members.
LIVE STREAM	For guests who prefer the safety and comfort of home and for guests who are unable to attend a ceremony, a live stream will be available on the District website at bisdtx.org.
IN THE EVENT OF WEATHER	Should weather prohibit us from conducting a school's graduation ceremony, we will not reschedule the in-person event. The alternate plan will be the Virtual Graduation currently scheduled for June 20th.

MAP OF STADIUM

