



2020 Texas FFA State Convention On-Site Health and Safety Protocols

The State FFA Convention and the state officer selection process are the capstone events for the Texas FFA Association each year. Due to the high-profile work of the state FFA officers, student nominating committee and the state FFA officer candidates, the association board of directors determined that the quality and integrity of the convention and state officer selection process is best upheld by being conducted in person. The 92nd State FFA Convention and the state officer selection process will take place in person **July 3-10, 2020**.

According to [orders from Governor Greg Abbott updated on June 3, 2020](#), youth clubs like the Texas FFA Association are now able to hold in-person meetings. The Governor's guidance document provided outlines that meetings held indoors should not exceed **50%** of the venue's occupancy limit. Youth clubs are asked to exercise best judgement when hosting meetings and to adhere to protocols which have been proven to limit the spread of COVID-19. The following protocols will be implemented during the in-person state FFA convention and state officer selection process.

Protocols for Texas FFA employees and state officers, as well as state officer selection process volunteers and student nominating committee include:

- All employees, volunteers, state FFA officers and nominating committee members staying in FFA managed housing will be roomed two individuals to a room in a double bedded room.
- All efforts will be made to limit the size of the group meeting in any meeting space. Within these groups, individuals will, to the extent possible, minimize in-person contact with others. Minimizing in-person contact includes maintaining 6 feet of separation from individuals. When maintaining 6 feet of separation is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as washing or sanitizing hands frequently, and avoiding sharing utensils or other common objects.
- To comply with city orders in Georgetown, TX issued to be effective July 3, 2020, all employees, volunteers, state FFA officers, and nominating committee members will be required to wear a face mask when in hotel common areas and meeting spaces with the exception of while actively eating or drinking, while on camera, or while exercising or engaging in physical activity outside.
- All employees, volunteers, state FFA officers, and nominating committee members will have their temperature taken using a contactless, infrared forehead thermometer upon arrival to the process as well as before entering any meeting, holding, preparation, performance, or interview space.
- All employees, volunteers, state FFA officers, and nominating committee members will be trained on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.

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- All employees, volunteers, state FFA officers, and nominating committee members will wash or sanitize their hands upon entering any meeting or interview area.
- All employees, volunteers, state officers and nominating committee members will maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as a face mask, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation will be rigorously practiced.

Protocols for state FFA officer candidates, state officer family members, invited guests, and chaperones include:

- All state FFA officer candidates will be roomed two candidates to a room, in a double bedded room.
- 6 feet of separation will be maintained during the interview process to minimize the chances of transmission of COVID-19. Officer family members, invited guests, and chaperones are to maintain 6 feet of separate when in hotel common areas and meeting space (when possible).
- The interview and preparation spaces will be cleaned and disinfected in between each candidate.
- Candidates, family members, invited guests, and chaperones will have their temperature taken using a contactless, infrared forehead thermometer before entering any meeting, holding, preparation, presentation, or interview space.
- Items that come into direct contact with candidates will be cleaned and/or disinfected between each use.
- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectants will be readily available in all meeting, holding, preparation, presentation, and interview space.
- Visible signage will be placed throughout the common areas under contract for the process to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- To comply with city orders in Georgetown, TX issued to be effective July 3, 2020, all state FFA officer candidates, family members, invited guests, and chaperones will be required to wear a face mask when in hotel common areas and meeting spaces with the exception of while actively eating or drinking, while on camera, or while exercising or engaging in physical activity outside. Candidates who desire to wear more personal protective equipment (PPE) including, but not limited to gloves, will not be penalized in the process. The National FFA Board of Directors, during a regular meeting on May 5, 2020 approved the following motion expanding official dress guidelines to accommodate PPE as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

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I move that based on the COVID-19 global pandemic the National FFA Organization Board of director supports the inclusion of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a part of the Official Dress Guidelines. This will allow leniency to state associations, local chapters, and FFA members to appropriately follow federal, state, and local PPE guidelines without penalty when participating in events and competitions that evaluate official dress as part of the scoring process.