

## *COVID-19 Guidelines*

It is not new news when we state that we are in uncharted territory. COVID appears to be very contagious, can result in symptoms from none to life threatening, depending mostly on pre-existing conditions and appears to currently be in an upswing with regards to the number of people with COVID. Some of this increase may be due to the season which traditionally ushers in viral infections like the flu and colds, some of the increase may be due to advanced testing, some may be associated with false positive tests. However, the technical data points to a +99.8% survival rate for those who have tested positive for the virus. At this time, there doesn't seem to be a silver bullet that can be put in place with respect to personal health and PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) like masks, face shields and gloves, but more and more it is becoming evident that social isolation for children is NOT GOOD. With a lot of prayer & discussion on the Upward Leadership Team Level and Church Session, the Upward Team, with Session blessing, has decided to go forward with the 2021 season.

By now everyone is familiar with the routine... so I'll make this simple with the understanding you each are aware of what COVID-19 is about and the risks you assume associated with going out into public. Below are the base requirements for the program...

1. **REGISTRATION:** On-line registration and payment only. This will minimize contact with staff. If you would rather pay in person, call the church office and leave a message for Jackie, 724-356-4424.
2. **PICKING UP YOUR PLAYER AFTER PRACTICE/GAMES:** During practice nights, parents will be permitted in the building while waiting for their children, however, if you are not going to wait for your player, please be courteous, be at the church before the end of practice or game day to pick up your child to allow the coaches to get out and the next team to begin their practice or game.
3. **GAME DAY SEATING:** We do not intend to restrict the number of people who can attend the games, there will be a modified seating arrangement on game day to accommodate normal crowds and yet have social distancing.
4. **GAME DAY AND PRACTICE PROTOCOL:** During games and practices, we urge maintaining 6-foot distancing for spectators and non-players. Masks are mandatory for spectators.
5. **COACHES AND PLAYERS:** Due to the difficulty of relaying verbal commands, Refs, coaches and players will be mask optional during play.
6. **THE BUCK \$TOP:** Back by popular demand, the Buck \$top will be opened with 'no-touch' service: The Buck \$top Babes and Bubs will be wearing masks and gloves with money placed directly into a bucket for prepackaged food/drink/condiments; hotdogs and nachos are the exceptions
7. **CLEARING THE BUILDING AFTER GAMES:** We will review adding lag time between games to allow for spectators to enter and leave with 6-foot distancing in place and to prepare for the next game.
8. **IF YOU ARE SICK,** or have been in recent days, child or adult, we urge you to **STAY HOME**. It is not worth diminishing your health or spreading something to your friends and risking others health just for a game.

## **UPWARD COVID-19 GUIDELINES - continued**

Like the flu, no one wants COVID 19, it's a nasty bug, so, our goal, HUEPC, Hickory Upward Commissioners, players, parents, coaches, friends, is to have a safe, fun season that keeps all players, coaches, referees and spectators as safe as possible. No one can guarantee that any protocol put in place will be 100% successful, so we are starting at this point. Upward Commissioners and the Hickory United EPC Session will continue to monitor the situation and PA State guidelines and we will adjust the protocol accordingly.

With God's blessing, we will have a fun filled and exciting Upward Basketball season in 2021! Have a great Season and Remember to always look Upward!

Frank Strnisa  
Hickory United EPC Upward League Manager