

GCISD 2021-2022 COVID-19 Protocols

The following COVID guidelines are subject to change based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tarrant County Public Health, the Texas Education Agency and state officials. GCISD continues to ask that parents and guardians report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to schools and public health authorities to help facilitate contact tracing and communication planning.

[En español](#)

REQUIRED COVID-19 Guidelines

Positive Cases

- In the case of a student or staff member who is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school or work when **all three** of the following criteria are met:

at least 24 hours passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications

the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)

at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Students and Staff with Symptoms

- According to the [CDC](#): Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same [three-step set of criteria](#) listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Visitors

- All visitors **must** screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering a campus or district facility.
- All visitors are **requested**, but are not required, to wear a **mask** and socially distance to the extent possible.
- Any visitor with possible symptoms of COVID-19 **must** remain off campus until they are fever free for 24 hours, are symptom free and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Any visitor who has had close contact should remain off campus for the 14-day period if they are not fully vaccinated or have had COVID-19 within the last three months.
- Additionally, the District has developed [a tiered system regarding visitors](#) in the building based on the community spread level determined by Tarrant County Public Health. Once this has been developed, it will be shared with parents and visitors.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- In general, cleaning surfaces once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may exist. Teachers have hand sanitizer in their classroom. Campuses and district facilities also have hand sanitizer in common areas. Cafeteria tables will be wiped with a disinfecting solution between lunch periods.
- All campuses will be misted with a disinfectant each evening.

- School buses will also be misted with a disinfectant each evening.
- The district's air conditioning and heating systems were cleaned during the summer and filters were replaced. Filters are also replaced quarterly.

Communication of Positive Cases (Updated September 29, 2021)

- When the District is notified of a test-confirmed case of COVID-19, campus nurses work diligently to notify all students and staff who are in class with the test-confirmed case of COVID-19 regarding a possible exposure, but the District will no longer individually contact students and staff who may have been exposed.
- There is then a follow up communication for the entire campus the next day that details the previous day's cases. Campus notifications for cases from Friday, Saturday and Sunday are sent the following Monday. The notification structure is set up this way to give the campus time to focus on contacting individuals who may have been exposed.
- For students and staff members that are tested at the GCISD COVID-19 Testing Center, that data is available to the District immediately, which expedites the contact tracing process.
- If you are tested at an alternative testing site, and the test results are positive, please notify the campus nurse immediately. In an instance where there is a delay in notifying the campus of a test-confirmed case, there will be a delay in the notification for contacts as well as the campus.
- **Staff and students may not be on campus while waiting on a test result.**
- The District will maintain a positive case log on its website; however, as quarantines are not required, that data will not be tracked or included.

Continued Mitigation Efforts

- According to the [CDC](#): People should practice handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses, including COVID-19.

Class Quarantines (Added September 8, 2021)

- As the District continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and our campuses, the following thresholds have been determined for implementing additional COVID protocols at the elementary school level:
 - If a classroom has a **10% positivity rate** for COVID-19, additional COVID protocols will be temporarily implemented including placing desks in rows facing the same direction, providing students with a desktop

divider for the classroom. Students will take their individual desktop divider with them to art, music and the cafeteria. Students will remain in cohorts to the extent possible in PE and recess to limit contacts.

- If a classroom has a **20% positivity rate** for COVID-19, the temporary COVID-19 protocols mentioned above will remain in place. Additionally, the District will review circumstances surrounding the positive cases to determine if quarantine is warranted.
- If a classroom has a **30% positivity rate** for COVID-19, students must quarantine for a designated period of time and will transition to remote learning.
- For secondary campuses, while we can determine classroom positivity rates, due to students changing classes at the middle and high schools we are unable to quarantine one class. The District will still notify contacts as well as the campus regarding a positive case.

RECOMMENDED COVID-19 Guidelines

Masks

- Given the [Governor's Executive Order](#), masks are optional for the State of Texas.
- [Due to the high community spread in Tarrant County](#), **masks are recommended** for our students, staff and families to prevent the further spread of the disease. This recommendation applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status.

Social Distancing

- GCISD will socially distance when feasible.

Possible Exposure and Quarantine (Update September 29, 2021)

- GCISD will notify all students and staff who are in class with a test-confirmed case of COVID-19 regarding a possible exposure, but the District will no longer individually contact students and staff who may have been exposed.
- For individuals that receive the letter, or those that are determined to be a close contact, **quarantine is not required**.

- During an August 5 Commissioner of Education conference call, a remote conference instructional method was presented for students that are home as a result of quarantine or required isolation. This is not a full-time remote learning option. [Complete information regarding Remote Conferencing in GCISD can be found online.](#)
- If you are a close contact and wish to remain at school or work, the District requests you wear a mask for 10 days.

Transportation

- Students are **encouraged** to wear a mask while riding on a school bus; however, it is not required.
- If a bus rider tests positive, the entire bus will be notified of a possible exposure.

Additional Information

GCISD COVID-19 Testing Center

- The GCISD testing center is open for students and staff who are currently experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- For detailed information on requirements: [GCISD COVID-19 Testing Center.](#)