

## **Gladewater ISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan (updated September 6, 2021)**

Gladewater ISD will follow guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and state and local health agencies. This document will be updated as the situation evolves and guidance changes. Our priority is the safety of our students, staff, and community.

- Teachers and staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day including checking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to their principal/director if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending them to school. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the conditions for re-entry are met. Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present at school.
- GISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by the parent or guardian.
- GISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- If an individual who has been in a school or district facility is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, GISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.
- Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive orders regarding the wearing of masks. As of June 1, 2021 masks are optional for all students and staff. We highly encourage masks to be worn on the school bus and when social distancing of >3ft is not feasible.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands, practice respiratory etiquette (cover your cough), and follow all health and safety guidelines.
- GISD will continue to implement frequent cleaning and disinfection to support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.
- According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping individuals from getting COVID-19, especially severe illness and death. The CDC recommends everyone age 12 and older get vaccinated as soon as possible.

## **Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19:**

1. Any individuals who themselves either:

(a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus **until the school system screens the individual** to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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 either
  - (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
  - (b) receive a negative COVID test

\*\*\*Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

<https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission/>

## **COVID-19 Symptoms:**

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

### **Students Who Are Close Contacts: (Updated 9/6/2021)**

- Any individual that has had close contact to a positive case (within 6ft for >15min) should monitor for COVID symptoms for the next 10 days and seek medical advice and/or COVID testing if symptoms develop. Wearing a mask while around others is highly encouraged during the incubation period. Notify the school of a positive test result and/or if symptoms develop.
- School systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 investigations. Local public health entities have authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in cooperative efforts on that front. When GISD is made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system will notify the student's parents.
- Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. Parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms. Masking is highly encouraged during the incubation period to decrease the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others.
- School systems may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during the stay-at-home period if they are in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.
- For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Alternatively, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

### **Staff Who Are Close Contacts: (Updated 9/6/2021)**

- School systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 investigations. Employees are responsible for notifying HR if they have had close contact with an individual that tests positive for COVID-19.
- Per TEA, **staff who are not fully vaccinated** who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, are recommended to remain off campus during the stay-at-home period. If the staff member continues to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 10 days post-exposure. Check with your campus nurse for rapid testing.