



## 2021-2022 Health & Safety Plan

Wimberley ISD will welcome students back to campus for the first day of school on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. As we start this new school year, many of our operations and procedures will return to their pre-pandemic forms, however, other protocols developed over the last 1.5 years will stay in place. While it is not possible to eliminate all risks of furthering the spread of COVID-19, WISD will continue to work diligently to plan how we will maintain the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors in all of our buildings. Below is WISD's Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-22 school year. These procedures are subject to change as conditions warrant or based on updates provided by the state of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, or the Hays County Local Health Department.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The WISD COVID Task Force remains intact and continues to monitor and reassess all of our protocols. The Task Force reacts to guidance and recommendations from the Governor's office, the Texas Education Agency, and the Hays County Local Health Department. County, local, and district health data is also used to inform the Task Force's recommendations. These processes will continue throughout the school year.

### **INSTRUCTION DELIVERY METHOD**

All instruction offered to our students will be delivered in-person on our campuses. The state of Texas is currently not funding a remote learning option.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Per Texas Governor Greg Abbott's [Executive Order GA-38](#) school districts cannot mandate the wearing of face coverings for students or staff. For the 2021-22 school year all Wimberley ISD students and staff will have the choice whether they would like to wear a face covering or not, regardless of vaccination status. Campuses will have face coverings available for students or staff upon request.

## **CLASSROOM/BUILDING ENVIRONMENT**

A multi-layered mitigation strategy is the approach that will best support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

**Sanitation:** WISD will continue with enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols in its buildings and campuses. This includes the use of hospital-grade cleaners on common touch points throughout our buildings.

**Filtration:** Throughout the last school year Safe Breathing Zone Units were installed on campuses. These units combine ultraviolet light, bipolar ionization and HEPA filtration technologies to ensure classrooms, administrative and nurses offices, libraries, music rooms, and athletic halls will be supplied with a curtain of super filtered air. Last fall semester, needle-point ionization units were installed into all of the district's air units that serve large rooms, such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, and hallways.

**Spacing in Classrooms:** Per TEA, where feasible, campuses will support spacing techniques between students. Parents may also request desk shields for use by their student(s).

**Hygiene:** Hand sanitizer will be provided by the district for use by visitors, staff, and students. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently and use good hygiene practices when sneezing and/or coughing.

## **SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE PROCEDURES**

As has been the standard practice for years, our campus nurses monitor students displaying symptoms of any illness and/or infectious diseases.

## **POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES**

**Students or Staff that Test Positive:** In the case of a student or staff member that has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten (10) days have passed since a positive test.

If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual may obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, and present this note to their campus nurse.

**Absences and Attendance Guidelines:** WISD will follow the regular attendance policy for all student absences associated with COVID-19. Virtual learning is not an option offered at this time.

Staff members who test positive will not be permitted to be at work and will be required to use personal leave/local sick leave for these absences. The District will no longer provide a work from home option or paid sick leave associated with COVID-19.

**Case Reporting:** WISD asks parents and employees to report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to their campus nurse. District staff will not conduct school-based close-contact tracing. Campus nurses will share information with families of students who have notified WISD of a positive test including the [current CDC recommendations](#)

[for isolation and quarantine protocols](#). This information will be shared on a case-by-case basis.

Staff members should report positive COVID-19 test results to WISD HR Director Tracey Ramsey ([tracey.ramsey@wimberleyisd.net](mailto:tracey.ramsey@wimberleyisd.net)).

**Notifications:** Parents of elementary students will be notified of positive cases in their child's classroom. Parents of secondary students will be notified of positive cases by campus via a dashboard located at: [wimberleyisd.net/covid-19](http://wimberleyisd.net/covid-19). (Elementary cases will also be included on the dashboard.)

### **MEALS/WATER**

Regular meal service will continue and students will eat meals in the cafeteria or designated dining location(s). Staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home. Water fill stations will be provided at all campuses.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL EVENTS**

All field trips, gatherings, guest speakers, and special events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All extracurricular and athletic events will follow participation guidelines set by the UIL (University Interscholastic League) and/or the Texas Education Agency.

### **VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Per each campus principal's discretion, a limited number of visitors and volunteers will be permitted on campuses. Limitations may be imposed based on space accommodations or current conditions. Visitors must complete the Raptor COVID-19 Screener.

### **SAFETY DRILLS**

All campus safety drills will continue as required by state law.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

WISD employs school counselors and mental health professionals. These staff members are well trained to provide support and resources to address the trauma that students, families, and staff have experienced due to the pandemic.

Mental health professionals will focus on awareness of mental health, promote healthy coping skills, provide short-term counseling, and crisis intervention. Staff may provide assistance regarding situational concerns related to the pandemic such as anxiety, depression, grief and loss, or difficulty transitioning back to in person learning. Both counselors and mental health professionals will provide referrals to school and community resources that treat mental health issues (suicidal ideation, violence, abuse and depression) with the intent of removing barriers to learning and helping the student return to the classroom.