

## **Williamsburg Independent School District Re-Opening Guidelines for 2021-2022**

Williamsburg Independent School District is committed to the safety of our students and staff. Williamsburg City School plans to begin school on August 25, 2021 with all students, every day. There will be two instructional options for families to choose for their students. Students will be able to learn in-seat with face to face instruction or students will be able to learn virtually through our Virtual Academy. The work through the virtual academy will be synchronous and the information can be found on the district webpage. This document will outline the protocols we are putting in place to prevent the spread of the virus. We can mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school learning and prevent the significant consequences of keeping students out of school and isolated by self-monitoring. It will take all of us working together to make this successful.

The following are the safety protocols that will be in place for the 2021-2022 school year. With information and circumstances changing and updating daily this guidance will continue to be updated.

- Masks will be worn while students/staff are on a school bus. The exception is a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and a person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- Social distance rules will be followed by the school.
- The entire facility will be sanitized every night and common-use areas like hallways and bathrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.
- Staff and students will be instructed on proper sanitation.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available at all entrances and in all hallways and hand sanitizer will be available in all room.
- Any student who presents with a temperature greater than 100.4, a cough, vomiting or diarrhea, or a new rash during the school day will be placed in isolation and a parent/guardian will pick the child up within the hour (other arrangements may be made if a parent has no transportation).
- If a staff or student tests positive for COVID-19, the school will work with the Whitley County Health Department to follow the recommended CDC guidelines and public health recommendation.
- Only essential visitors will be allowed to enter the building while students are on the premises.

Most of us are now quite familiar with the critical health and safety practices that reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These include thorough handwashing, use of masks/face coverings, physical distancing, reducing interaction between groups, staying home when sick, protecting those most vulnerable to the disease, and expanding testing and tracing capabilities, among others. Establishing a culture of health and safety in our school that focuses on regularly applying these important practices is more important than any one measure individually. It is going to take all of us to keep our students safe. Families also play a critical role in supporting the new culture of health and safety the school must establish. Most importantly, families can help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in their school communities by checking their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keeping them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Families can also contribute

by supporting the decisions made by the School District. The use of masks on the bus, arranging alternate transportation whenever possible, communicating with teachers and school leaders about their child(ren), and continuing to follow state guidance on health and safety for schools.

Williamsburg Independent School District believes that learning can occur every school day, no matter what the circumstances may be. There are 170 days of learning scheduled for the 2021-2022 school year. The pandemic has allowed our district the opportunity to educate our students outside the four walls of the school. The pandemic has also brought about intermittent school closers for the district. Intermittent closures for Williamsburg City School do not mean a break in instruction, these closures now are opportunities for remote leaning. Remote leaning is possible at Williamsburg City School because of the commitment of all stakeholders have made over the past two years. Times that school is not safe to be held in-person instruction, will now allow for remote learning to be conducted. Students will have the opportunity to learn remotely by participating in the same classes and lessons they would have if they were in-person at school. The school district will notify stakeholders through messaging and social media when remote learning is to occur. Our goal is to conduct in-person instruction as many days as possible but we want to make sure that we are keeping everyone in the building safe.

Williamsburg Independent School District will continue to update this guidance document. The district will announce the plan for masks in the school building after the August 10<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting.