

Williamsburg Independent School District Guidance

The Williamsburg Independent School District will implement a variety of measures to help ensure the safety of our students and staff this school year. The decisions made will be in the best interest of all parties involved. As recommended, we will operate with a multi-layered strategy that will enable the district to keep all stakeholders as safe as possible while school is in session. 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 district will review the health and safety concerns within our school community in order to make informed and comprehensive decisions related to student instruction. The incident rate will be monitored and there will be monthly communication with the Whitley County Health Department.

1. Vaccination

- Williamsburg Independent School District will promote vaccinations to help increase the proportion of students (5 years of age or older), teachers, staff, and family members who are vaccinated.
- Williamsburg Independent School District will partner with the Dayspring Clinic to make vaccinations available to eligible staff and students.

2. Masks

- All persons 3 years old and older are required to wear masks or face coverings while indoors in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including school buses, unless otherwise exempted (e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability), regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors, though mask use may be considered in outdoor settings that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

3. Physical Distancing

- Williamsburg Independent School District will have areas in the school set up so that students can physical distance themselves at least 3 feet in the classrooms. Students will not be excluded from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement in each area in the school.
- Williamsburg Independent School District will utilize cohorts or pods as an additional strategy that facilitates more efficient contact tracing and minimizes opportunities for transmission, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing or when other layered prevention strategies are discontinued.

4. Screening testing

- Williamsburg Independent School District will communicate with the Whitley County Health Department to promptly identify cases. The district will also continue to utilize self-reporting from families and staff to help promptly identify and isolate cases.

5. Ventilation

- Williamsburg Independent School District has improved ventilation in the school building to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air. The district will utilize outdoor spaces, where possible.

6. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Williamsburg Independent School District will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. The district will ensure adequate supplies and opportunities for hand hygiene.

7. Isolation

- Ensure sick students, teachers, or staff stay home if they are having fever and/or symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 1. Fever ($>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$) or feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating)
 2. New cough
 3. Difficulty breathing
 4. Sore throat
 5. Muscle aches or body aches
 6. Vomiting or diarrhea
 7. New loss of taste or smell
- Williamsburg Independent School District will ensure persons who test positive for COVID-19 self-isolate away from school for 10 days after the start of their illness (or testing date) or otherwise follow the direction of the Whitley County Health Department about when it is safe for them to be around others.
- Sick persons will be directed to a health care provider to be tested and instructed to isolate at home until they receive their test result.

8. Quarantine and contact tracing

- Williamsburg Independent School District will work with the Whitley County Health Department to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious. In the school setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least 3 feet or further away from an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks and other prevention strategies were in place.
- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure occurred within or outside of the school setting. Quarantine may be discontinued when:
 1. After day 7 if the individual is symptom-free and receives a negative COVID-19 test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case. The last day of exposure is day 0.
 2. After day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom-free. Unvaccinated persons who have documented COVID-19 illness in the prior 3 months (with a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen test) do not need to quarantine if they are symptom-free. Results from antibody testing should not be used to assess for infection or for determining need to quarantine.
- Fully-vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms, but are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after an exposure.

9. Test to Stay

- Williamsburg Independent School District in collaboration with Dayspring Clinic will implement a Test to Stay program for a modified quarantine. The decision about implementation of modified quarantine was made with consultation from the Whitley County Health Department and data will be shared with the Whitley County Health Department weekly about the number of individuals participating in the program and the number who tested positive while participating. If an increase in positive cases occurs in the school setting, the Williamsburg Independent School District will consult with the Whitley County Health Department to determine if the Test to Stay modified quarantine should be discontinued and exposed unvaccinated individuals quarantined away from school.
- With the Test to Stay modified quarantine in place, the Williamsburg Independent School District will implement a universal masking program in the school for all students, teachers, and staff.
- Williamsburg Independent School District will ensure testing is conducted with voluntary informed consent from the appropriate person, parent, or guardian. If consent is withheld or cannot be obtained, exposed individuals are not candidates for this voluntary program and should quarantine per standard protocol. (see COVID-19 Test to Stay Consent 2022)

- Students eligible for the Test to Stay modified quarantine must have been exposed to the person with COVID-19 at school only. This strategy applies to school related exposures only and is not applicable to exposures that occur outside of school or in the community (e.g., in a household, sports team, social activity). For example, an unvaccinated student who is a household member of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is not eligible for the Test to Stay modified quarantine.
- Test to stay modified quarantine allows unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 at school to **continue with in-person instruction** with repeated negative COVID-19 testing. The test to stay modified quarantine program does not pertain to extra-curricular activities and students will fall under quarantine guidelines for these activities.
- When an exposed student does not participate in the program, the student must stay home and refrain from all extracurricular activities, including sports and other activities in the community setting.

10. Cleaning and disinfection

- Williamsburg Independent School District will improve facility cleaning to the greatest extent possible. In general, cleaning once a day is enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. High-touch, shared surfaces will be cleaned more frequently.