

GISD 2023-2024 Covid-19 Guidance

Updated 8/29/2023

Students

School systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and school systems must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for a student is as follows:

Children who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset. Before returning to school, students must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Staff Members

Staff members who have COVID-19 are similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. The readmission criteria for a staff member is as follows:

Staff members may not return to school until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset. Before returning to school, staff members must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Parents

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met.

Masks

Masks or face coverings Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38. School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Exposure / Close Contact

Currently, the CDC defines a “Close Contact” as someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. At this time, there are no quarantine requirements from GISD for individuals who are considered a “close contact”. However, school administrators can exclude any student or staff member from attendance if they are exhibiting symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19. GISD does recommend that individuals who are identified as close contacts should follow CDC recommendations to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. Recommendations for close contacts are to quarantine or self-isolate, get tested, and wear well-fitting masks after exposure to COVID-19.