

GISD Updated Covid-19 Guidance 1/7/2022

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 10 days have passed after the day they tested positive. 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 after the day they tested positive. 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. Before returning, staff members will need to test at one of our two testing locations in the morning, before the start of the school day on the day they return, the third day, and the fifth day to meet the recommended requirements of the CDC and TEA. We will also ask staff members to wear a mask once they return for at least 5 days, as recommended by the updated CDC guidelines.

GISD testing locations are in the nurse's office on the Elementary campus and at the administration building. Staff members needing to test, please contact Nurse Barrett for testing procedures and entry protocol at the Elementary campus, or contact Mrs. Huff or Mr. Dillard for testing procedures and entry protocol to the administration building.

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. To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, school systems may provide and/or conduct recurring COVID-19 testing using rapid tests provided by the state or other sources. Testing is required for staff members suspected or confirmed with COVID-19. Testing can be conducted with students with parent permission or prior written permission of a parent or legal guardian. Parents requesting for their child to be tested need to contact the office personnel of your child's campus at (936)-642-1473 and ask to speak to Nurse Barrett.

Masks

Masks or face coverings (restatement of pre-August 19th guidance document) 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.