

# **GRAND SALINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# **ROADMAP FOR BACK TO SCHOOL**

Planning Guidance for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

9/3/2021

# Table of Contents

Roadmap Overview and Purpose	Page 3
Continuity of Services/Attendance and Enrollment	Page 3
Social and Emotional Learning	Page 4
Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School for On-Campus Activities and Instruction and UIL Activities	Page 4
Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19	Page 5
Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus	Page 5
Responding to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School	Page 5
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS FOR SCREENING	Page 6

## **Roadmap Overview and Purpose**

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and GSISD will do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our community safe. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for participating in on-campus activities and instruction.

## **Continuity of Services**

GSISD is committed to providing learning experiences for all students. The Continuity of Learning Services is designed to support the school community to ensure continuing learning experiences at home when needed. We believe there is no replacement for face to face learning but will provide instructional materials for individuals during lab-confirmed COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

## **Attendance and Enrollment**

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
2. GSISD will provide on-campus Face-to-Face instruction.

**On-Campus Instruction** - Student's will receive instruction in the classroom face-to face with the teacher and other students. Students who are on campus receiving instruction are considered enrolled when they are physically present for the first time during the official attendance period.

**Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school.**

## **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Children's emotions in school are connected to their learning and academic achievement. GSISD will provide programs to help students build important personal-interpersonal-emotional-behavioral and responsible decision-making-related competencies through targeted classroom lessons and schoolwide policies, programs, and practices infused into every part of the student's daily school experience.

### **Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School for On-Campus Learning**

1. All employees are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. A Self-screening protocol is at the end of this document. Teachers and staff must report to Campus Principal/Director/Human Resources if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below.
2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed below) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
3. Visitors to GSISD are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto the campus.
4. GSISD will have hand sanitizer at each entrance, in every classroom, cafeteria, library, lab, and on each bus.
5. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
6. The wearing of face masks is optional.

### **Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19**

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the conditions below for campus re-entry have been met:

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- Symptoms improved; and
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- A doctor's note allowing earlier return

If the individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 wants to return to campus before

completing the above stay at home period, he or she may either:

Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

OR

A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

### **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

1. GSISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
2. GSISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
3. Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

### **Students Who Are Close Contacts**

1. GSISD may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during the below stay-at-home period if the district is in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.
2. Independent of whether GSISD chooses to implement the above requirement, parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. In cases when it is permitted, parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.
3. For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.
4. Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

## Responding to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

7. If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID- 19, GSISD will notify the [local health department](#), in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act(FERPA).

8. GSISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

9. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, GSISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

10. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

### **MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School Operational Considerations:**

#### Health and Hygiene Practices:

- GSISD will attempt to have hand sanitizer at each entrance. GSISD will attempt to provide hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom.
- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors are encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors are encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, if these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 10 days post-exposure.

## **COVID 19 SYMPTOMS FOR SCREENING:**

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit

Loss of taste or smell

Cough

Difficulty breathing

Shortness of breath

Fatigue

Headache

Chills

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Shaking or exaggerated shivering

Significant muscle pain or ache

Diarrhea

Nausea or vomiting