



## Salado ISD Back to School COVID Protocols 2021-2022

**Is the school district required to report test confirmed cases of COVID-19 to any local or state agencies?**

Per TEA Public Health Guidance dated August 5, 2021:

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its 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).
2. 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.

**Will the district offer a remote option for my student?**

No. Governor Abbott's disaster declaration has expired. As a result, Salado ISD's remote learning option will no longer be available for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Will schools notify parents if individuals with test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been in school?**

Yes. While TEA no longer requires this type of notification, Salado ISD believes it is important to provide families with the information they need to make decisions in the best interests of their children.

**Will there continue to be contact tracing and quarantine requirements?**

Upon notification of a positive COVID case, campus nurses will conduct contact tracing and will then communicate with families to discuss quarantine options. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine. Students who are a close contact of a positive person will not be required to quarantine, but will have the option, based on parental discretion.



## **What should I do if my child is sick or tests positive for COVID-19?**

Students who are actively sick with COVID-19 and/or have received a positive test result must be excluded from school. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met.

## **Will my child's absence be excused?**

As with any illness, parents must provide the school with documentation of a positive test or a note from their medical provider in order for the absence to be excused as a medically related absence.

## **What should I do if my child is a close contact to a positive case?**

Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 should consider what is best for their family. Parents may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. 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. Alternately, students can end the optional stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result after the close contact exposure ends. Based on CDC guidelines, individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts.

## **Will face masks be optional or required for the 2021-2022 school year?**

Face masks are optional for any student or staff member. Per Executive Order GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask.

## **Will social distancing be required?**

No. Social distancing is encouraged, where applicable, but not required.

## **Will hand sanitizing and cleaning protocols still be in place this year?**

Yes. We will continue to allow time in the school day for handwashing and will continue to provide direction on appropriate respiratory etiquette and hand sanitizing. Campuses will post hygiene signage and reminders for students and staff. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available at all campuses for students, staff and visitors.



## **Will visitors be allowed on campus this year?**

Visitor access will be limited. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead and make an appointment if a meeting is necessary. As we begin the year, parents will not be allowed to eat in the lunchroom with their students. We will continue to closely monitor the situation in our area and may adjust this policy as the year progresses.

## **Does my student need to bring a water bottle to school?**

Yes. Students are encouraged to use the hydration stations to fill personal water bottles.

## **How will the campus monitor students for COVID-19 symptoms?**

As with any illness, we encourage our parents to monitor their students for any illness related symptoms. We encourage all of our parents to receive medical attention as needed. Should students exhibit symptoms while at school, they will be monitored by the school nurse. As with any illness, the school will require parents to pick students up if they are exhibiting the following symptoms: fever, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting.

## **Will my students or I be required to wear a mask or face covering at campus sporting events or activities?**

No. Face coverings are optional for participants and spectators at all UIL events and activities.

## **If I have further questions, who should I contact?**

Please contact your campus principal with any further questions.

As the health and safety for all students and staff remains a priority, Salado ISD will continue to monitor the local health situation and communicate any updates or modifications as necessary.