

# **Whitewright Independent School District**

## **2021-2022 School Year Guidelines**

### **Covid Response and Protocols**

COVID 19 protocols and requirements for the 2021-2022 school year will be based on both Texas requirements and recommendations from public health experts. Whitewright ISD is planning for as normal a school year as is safely possible for our school community.

Whitewright ISD will offer face to face learning ***only*** for all students. Face masks will ***not*** be required but are encouraged. COVID 19 has affected everyone in some way, some more severely than others. A number of health and safety protocols will be in place to help prevent transmission of COVID. As we return to school, our goal is to work together to drive down the risk of disease transmission in our District. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide quality education to the students in Whitewright ISD.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

Parents, students, and staff should self-monitor for symptoms and NOT attend school activities if experiencing COVID 19 symptoms. Completion of a daily online health screener is not required but self screening is recommended. We continue to ask that parents and staff members continue to contact the school if they are experiencing COVID symptoms that have not been diagnosed by a healthcare provider as unrelated to COVID.

Students and staff will enter a quarantine period if they:

- Test Positive for COVID 19
- Are experiencing COVID 19 like symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis)
- If you are in a household where someone tests positive, the student or staff member may continue to attend school or work with a confirmed negative test every other day.

Close Contact Protocol changes if you meet the following criteria:

- People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID unless they have symptoms. If symptoms occur, they must quarantine.
- People who have had COVID within the last 3 months do NOT need to quarantine unless symptoms occur.

We ask that parents and staff members continue to contact the school if they are experiencing COVID 19 signs and symptoms. Parents will be notified directly if their student(s) have potentially been exposed to a positive case at Whitewright ISD. These students will NOT BE EXCLUDED from activities unless they are experiencing symptoms.

**Covid-19 Symptoms:** In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID, consider the following:

- 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
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

**Screening Staff and Students**

- Staff will self screen for COVID symptoms prior to each school day.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to screen their children for COVID symptoms each day prior to sending them to school. It is imperative that parents and guardians follow this protocol to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- When a student is experiencing COVID like symptoms, the district nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if the student needs to be sent home.

- Students and staff members who display symptoms will be requested to be tested for COVID. Students or staff members may return to school upon a negative test or an alternate diagnosis provided by a health care provider.
- In the case of an individual who has COVID symptoms refuses to be evaluated by a medical profession or tested for COVID, such individual is assumed to have COVID and the individual may return to school 10 days after self-quarantine as long as the individual is symptom free.
- The district will continue to offer free COVID testing by appointment only

## **Lab-Confirmed Positive Test of COVID**

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID will not be allowed on campus for 10 days after onset of symptoms.

- Remote Instruction is NOT available this year
- Following 10 days of self-quarantine, they may return to school if they have recovered and exhibit no symptoms.

Parents of students potentially exposed to a positive case at school events will be notified directly when possible. These students will NOT be excluded from school activities unless they are experiencing symptoms OR a parent chooses for their student to be excluded or quarantined.

## **DISINFECTING & SANITIZING**

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will support the health and wellness of students and staff.

- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the district
- Hand washing will be supervised for elementary students
- Staff will have access to disinfectants to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

## **Campus Cleaning & Disinfecting**

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

## **Daily Campus Cleaning**

- Each classroom will be disinfected daily.
- All restrooms will be disinfected throughout the day.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Campuses will continue frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Buildings will open at 7:30 a.m. for students who arrive early.
- Parents will NOT be allowed to walk their student into the building during the daily arrival schedule.
- All students will report to the cafeteria or designated areas prior to first period
- Buses will thoroughly be cleaned after each bus trip focusing on high-touch surfaces.

## **VISITORS ON CAMPUS**

- Parents and visitors will be allowed on campus for school scheduled meetings and events as appropriate and by appointment.
- Parents and visitors should self-screen before entering the campus.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk their student into the building during the daily arrival schedule.
- Parent groups such as PTO, Booster Club, and Youth Sports will be allowed to utilize the district facilities for meetings and activities during non-school hours with approval from administration.

## **FOOD SERVICE & WATER**

- Free breakfast and lunch will be offered every school day to all students.
- Parents or visitors will not be allowed during mealtimes.
- Students are encouraged to bring water bottles.
- Students will have access to coolers of water as needed.
- Water fountains will be accessible.

## FAQ (updated as needed)

1. Will an on-line option be available for students at Whitewright ISD? Only in person instruction will be available for students attending Whitewright ISD. We believe it is important for our students and teachers to connect in order to achieve the highest level of education possible.
2. Will masks be required for in person attendance? No. On June 5, 2021, Governor Abbott announced through an executive order that masks were no longer required in school districts.
3. Will there be restrictions on capacity at sporting events? No, there will be no capacity restrictions for the Fall of 2021-2022.
4. Will parents be allowed to visit their children at lunch or bring outside food and drinks? No, outside food and drink will not be allowed for safety reasons.
5. Will Whitewright ISD continue to offer free breakfast and lunch for all of their students? Yes, we are proud to announce that we will offer free lunch and breakfast for all students for the 2021-2022 school year. This is over a \$500.00 benefit if children eat both breakfast and lunch.
6. Will visitors be allowed on campus? At this time, visitors will be allowed by appointment only. Our goal is to keep all students and staff safe.
7. Will social distancing be required? Appropriate social distancing will be encouraged along with frequent hand washing and campus disinfection.

8. Will WWISD continue to require parents and employees to report positive cases? Yes. In order to curb the spread of the virus, we respectfully request reporting to our nurse.
9. Will WWISD conduct close contact tracing? No, contact tracing will not occur and close contacts will not be required to quarantine unless symptoms occur.
10. How long must a staff member or student quarantine with a positive case of COVID 19? The infected person must quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or a positive test.
11. My mother has tested positive for COVID 19 and I am a student. How long do I quarantine? Your quarantine period will coincide with the infected case. At the end of 10 days you may ask for a District administered test and if negative, return to school. Rapid testing must be performed at least once every other day for the next 10 days.
12. What if I stayed in a different place once I realized someone in my house was positive? If you stay in a different location after close contact, you may return to school but you must be tested at least once every other day for 10 days.
13. Does staying in my room count as isolation if I live with someone who has tested positive? Unfortunately, no. Your quarantine period would be as described in number 11 above.
14. If my child can show proof of vaccination, will they still be required to quarantine if they contract Covid 19? Yes, if your child has tested positive for Covid 19, they will be required to quarantine.

15. My child has recovered from Covid. Will they still be required to quarantine? Yes, if your child has contracted the virus again, they will be required to quarantine.
16. My child is a close contact to a family member that has tested positive and lives in the same household. Will they be required to quarantine? If your child has had their vaccination or has had Covid in the last 90 days, they will not be required to quarantine unless they are showing symptoms of the virus. Without the vaccine, they will be required to quarantine.