

Groesbeck ISD  
Return to School Safety Plan  
July 29, 2020



Groesbeck ISD is committed to the safety of our students, parents, teachers, and staff. We have crafted this plan to provide the best instructional environment coupled with safe practices as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). It is our goal that the 2020-2021 school year be one of learning and growth for all of our constituents.

Groesbeck ISD will begin classes with both in-person and remote instruction on August 12, 2020. We will follow the Board adopted 2020-2021 School Calendar to the extent possible while complying with any duly authorized public health notices. Families will have the opportunity to select whether their students will attend school on-campus or via remote instruction. Students who attend on-campus will have a full schedule of classes including reading/language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education/athletics, band/music, art, and elective classes as appropriate for the grade level. Attendance will be taken daily. Students who work remotely will be expected to spend about the same amount of time working on school at home as they would if they attended in person. Attendance will be taken each day for students working remotely. To be counted present, a student must complete daily assignments. Teachers will be monitoring student progress each day, and students will connect with teachers regularly. Remote instruction will rely a great deal on technology; so students who plan to work remotely need to have reliable access to the internet. If a student is attending remotely, he or she may choose to attend in person at the end of the grading period. For example, if a student begins the school year working remotely, he or she may begin coming to school in person at the end of the 1st nine week grading period.

Students who reside within the boundaries of Groesbeck ISD are entitled to enroll in Groesbeck ISD. Students who reside outside the boundaries of Groesbeck ISD may apply to be transfer students. Transfer student applications are available by calling 254-729-4100. All decisions regarding transfer students are made in compliance with Board of Trustees Policy FDA(LOCAL) which can be found on the Groesbeck ISD website, [www.groesbeckisd.net](http://www.groesbeckisd.net).

This document will explain the steps being taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, to respond to a lab-confirmed case of the COVID-19 virus, and to mitigate the likelihood that the COVID-19 virus will be spread inside the school. While we know that it is not possible to eliminate all the risks of contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus, there are specific steps that can be taken to keep our students, parents, teachers, and staff safe.

School leaders with input from staff, parents, and community members have compiled the components of this document. As the information about the COVID-19 virus changes and as updates from the CDC and TEA are provided, this plan could be modified. All changes will be disseminated to stakeholders through the Groesbeck ISD website and electronic communication channels. If you have questions or comments concerning the Return to School Safely Plan, you may contact Mr. Dayne Duncan, Groesbeck ISD Safe Schools Coordinator, at [d.dunca@groesbeckisd.net](mailto:d.dunca@groesbeckisd.net) or 254-729-4190.

## Definitions

Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on); or being within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset, or in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-10, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Screening is an activity that campuses conduct to identify and temporarily exclude from campus those who may have been exposed to COVID-19, in an effort to keep the virus out of campuses.

Case investigation is defined as discussions with a COVID-19 positive individual to determine who may have spread and/or been infected and how that may have occurred.

Contact tracing is the identification of individuals who have been exposed as close contacts to COVID-19 and are as a result possibly infected themselves, but pre-symptomatic.

Staying home allows individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to monitor their symptoms during the period in which they may be infectious. These individuals should separate themselves from others outside their home, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health entity.

Self-isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 (including those who are sick with the virus and those with no symptom) from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it is safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

### Symptoms of COVID-19

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection.

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

(Visit the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), for COVID-19 symptom updates.)

## Prevention

All teachers and staff will conduct a self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming on to campus/departments each day. The screener can be accessed at [https://www.groesbeckisd.net/364543\\_4](https://www.groesbeckisd.net/364543_4). The screening includes teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system 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. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have

had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

If a student has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, he or she may not attend school on campus, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the conditions for re-entry are met. Parents are also encouraged to opt for remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Groesbeck ISD staff may also conduct student screening for COVID-19 symptoms. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. Screening questions will be asked of a student's parent or guardian. Students who attend H.O. Whitehurst Elementary will have daily forehead temperature screenings.

Visitors will not be allowed on Groesbeck ISD campuses. Parents who drop-off and pick-up their student(s) must remain in the vehicle at all times. No visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with students, and no outside lunches may be dropped off at any campus. Parents who have business on their child's campus must call the campus and receive instructions from the school secretary concerning how to proceed. All parent meetings will be conducted electronically to the extent possible. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher anytime a question arises. Contact can be made through Groesbeck ISD email or campus telephone. If it is determined that a visitor must be allowed on campus, each visitor will be screened to determine if the visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or has had close-contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, the visitor will not be allowed on campus.

Students who have any COVID-19 symptoms will be immediately separated until he/she can be picked up by the parent/guardian. The area(s) the individual used will be disinfected as soon as feasible. Students who report feeling feverish will have an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Any individual (student, teacher, staff) who is either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experiences the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if the following conditions 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:
  - At least one day (24 hours has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and
  - At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

## **Response**

If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify the local health department and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

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

The school will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in the affected school if a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

## **Mitigation**

Each campus will have hand sanitizer available at each entrance. Additionally, all classrooms will have either hand sanitizer or a handwashing station with soap and water.

All students and staff will be encouraged to sanitize/wash hands frequently. Elementary students will have supervised handwashing/sanitizing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day. Secondary students will be provided time for handwashing/sanitizing during the day.

On the first day of instruction and regularly during the school year, students will be taught how to properly wash hands and how to properly cover coughs and sneezes. Students will be taught hygiene practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Campus restrooms will be disinfected at least three times each day. Entry doors will be disinfected at least four times each day. Areas used by groups of students will be disinfected between student groups, and commonly touched objects like doorknobs will be disinfected throughout the day. Cleaning and disinfecting products will meet guidelines for use in schools.

All adults and all students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above must wear face coverings (face masks covering the nose and mouth or face shields covering eyes, nose, and mouth) while in the school building, on a school bus, or participating in a school related activity unless specifically allowed to remove the face covering for the activity (e.g. physical exercise). Students who are exercising and have removed face coverings will remain at least six-feet apart.

Students will be separated as much as possible within classrooms. Elementary students will remain in the same classroom throughout the day with the exception of physical education or elective classes. Secondary students will follow their class schedule. Additional protections such as hallway patterns and social distancing will be enforced.

Specific drop-off and pick-up procedures will be put in place. Each campus will specify their procedures and will share them with students and families. Specific entrances will be designated for arrival and departure. All arrival and departure procedures will be posted on the campus websites.

Large groupings of students and assemblies will not occur. Students will not take field trips during the fall semester. Teachers and staff will not attend meetings or conferences that require overnight travel.

Water fountains within school buildings will be covered and not available. Students may bring water to school in a bottle with a lid. Students will be allowed to refill water bottles.

Elementary and middle school students will eat lunch in the classrooms. High school students will eat in designated locations that allow for social distancing. Students may purchase a lunch from the cafeteria or may bring a lunch with them to school. No outside lunches may be delivered to school. No microwaves will be available for students.

Transportation will be available for students. All students and staff must wear a face covering when on the bus. Students will be screened for fever when they get on the bus. To the extent possible, students will be separated when on the bus; family groups will be placed together. Students will enter and exit the bus in a manner to decrease person-to-person contact. All buses will be disinfected after each use.