



**WELLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

160 RUSK AVENUE \* PO BOX 469

WELLS, TEXAS 75976

936-867-4466 (PHONE) \* 936-867-4497 (FAX)

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COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Procedures at WELLS ISD

AUGUST 14, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we plan for returning to school at WELLS ISD, we recognize that this will be an unusual school year, but we remain committed to supporting your student's learning, as well as his or her safety. This document outlines the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified. We hope this transparency helps you to make a decision about your students on-campus attendance at WELLS ISD.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. For many children, there are distinct benefits to attending school in person, including instructional, social, and safety benefits. For these reasons, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has made a statement supporting on-campus instruction for students in the coming year.

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. The WELLS ISD strategy for opening and operating is outlined below. A more detailed plan can be found on our district website [www.wells.esc7.net](http://www.wells.esc7.net).

**Prevention**

To prevent COVID-positive individuals from entering our campuses, your student's school will have the following COVID-19 symptom screening procedures in place:

- All staff will be required to self-screen daily.
- All visitors will be required to screen upon arrival.
- Parents are asked to proactively identify when their student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed and to keep them home.

The student screening procedure will be as follows:

***Please screen your child prior to boarding the bus or arrival to school.***

Attached you will find more details including the questions you will need to ask. Information collected in these screens will not be retained if the screening is passed. If a parent indicates that a student is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms, the school will retain that information until the student meets the criteria for return to school.

## **Criteria for Return to School**

*Conditions for return to school after an individual shows symptoms or gets a positive test result:  
Either:*

- 24 hours with no fever; and
- Symptoms improved; and
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

*Or:*

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

## **Mitigation**

Our district will be taking the following steps across each of our campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- All adults in the building will wear masks.
- All students ages 10 and up will be required to wear masks, particularly when they are within six feet of one another, except when participating in activities that cannot be conducted with a mask on, such as eating, or unless it is not developmentally appropriate for the student to wear a mask.
- All students, of all ages, are required to wear a mask on the school buses. This is due to close contact with other students being almost unavoidable.

## **Response**

In the event of a COVID-positive case on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- All areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until disinfected.
- All teachers, staff, and families of all students in that school will be notified.
- The local health department will be notified.
- Students and staff meeting the close-contact definition will be notified.

We hope that this information gives you confidence in our systems and our ability to stop the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [info@wells.esc7.net](mailto:info@wells.esc7.net) or visit our website at [www.wells.esc7.net](http://www.wells.esc7.net)

While this will be a challenging year, we believe it can also be a great one, and we look forward to supporting your student in his or her learning journey.

Sincerely,

Jill Gaston  
Superintendent of Wells ISD