

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Maintaining Health and Safety

Effective August 1, 2022, all previous COVID-19 protocols were replaced with the following protocols:

- Face coverings will not be required for staff or students.
- Campuses will work to ensure no student is treated differently as a result of their choice to wear a mask or not wear a mask.
- Visitors will be allowed on campus according to standard visiting rules.
- Staff and students will continue to be expected to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
- Staff will do their best to ensure student remains socially distanced when possible.
- Any student with disabilities will receive needed accommodations at any campus or district event.
- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected at the end of each school day using a quaternary disinfectant that is COVID-19-approved by the EPA.
- Waxahachie ISD facilities are equipped with heating and cooling and ventilation systems that cycle fresh air into the buildings 3-4 times throughout the day. This includes the use of high-grade filters to significantly reduce the number of particulates introduced into occupied spaces.
- Parents and employees will continue to be required to report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to campus administration or their supervisor

- Students who have or are suspected of having COVID-19 may not attend school. Exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:
 - For children with symptoms, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
 - Children who test positive for COVID-19, but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

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.

- Staff with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must quarantine for 5 days from the date of symptom onset or positive test if no symptoms. Staff who receive a negative test and are free of symptoms may return sooner than 5 days.
 - If an individual, who has been in a school, is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, WISD 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).
- Staff will not conduct close contact reviews and students and staff will not be required to quarantine for exposure.
- If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will conduct a clinical evaluation to determine if the symptoms are consistent with COVID-19. Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is defined as:
 1. new onset of at least two of the following symptoms: fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea OR

2. new onset of at least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

If a school nurse determines that the student or staff member is displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the individual will be separated from others and sent home.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

Waxahachie ISD recognizes that vaccines are an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Vaccine information and locations can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

Appropriate accommodations have been developed and implemented for children with disabilities with regard to health and safety throughout the pandemic. Our Special Populations department comprehensively evaluated student need and insured appropriate accommodations were in place for not only students with disabilities but all students with specialized health needs.

Continuity of Services Plan

The ESSER III Grant Program was authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in March 2021 to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools. School districts apply for funds and are awarded an entitlement based on their Title I student population.

Waxahachie ISD's entitlement is \$8,849,529. The preliminary spending plan includes allocations for student learning loss through tutoring, small group instruction, summer school and instructional materials as well as student mental health, staff retention and technology expansion. The Waxahachie ISD plan can be accessed at this link: <https://www.wisd.org/Page/1116>

Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

The continuity of services plan was developed with stakeholder input and prioritized according to survey feedback. Families, staff, and community members have the opportunity to comment and offer feedback on school reopening plans through scheduled community participation at monthly school board meetings. School reopening and health mitigation plans have been posted on the school division's website with contact information provided should the public have questions and/or concerns.

During the period of the ESSER III Grant Program (until September 2023), Waxahachie ISD will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Waxahachie ISD will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

The plan is posted at: <https://www.wisd.org/Page/1116>

The plan is also available in Spanish and may be orally translated for parents. Contact Lynda Solis, Director of Bilingual and ESL services, at 972-923-4727 for assistance.

Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting the Director of Special Populations at 972-923-4638.

Texas Education Agency School Health Operations Requirements

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>