

August 9, 2021

Dear Families and Students,

We are excited to welcome everyone back for the 2021-22 school year! We will continue to celebrate our ability and dedication to keep our kids in school where they can thrive and grow!

I know there are many lingering and evolving questions regarding our school environment for 2021-22. We have received guidance from our state and local officials, and we have updated our Return to School COVID Plan, posted on our school website. I will cover here a few commonly asked questions. Read more in the complete plan at www.shallowaterisd.net.

Face Coverings are not required for staff, students, or visitors at this time, per Governor's Executive Order; however, any person's individual decision to wear a mask will be respected in our schools. The CDC continues to recommend that individuals two and older who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors.

Vaccinations - The Governor's Executive Order prohibits school districts from requiring students or staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and it has not been added to the required vaccinations list. School districts cannot require students or staff to report their vaccination status. Vaccination is widely recommended for all 12 and up as the best preventative measure. Vaccinations are free throughout Lubbock County.

Partnership in Reporting - We want to be good partners with you in maintaining a healthy school environment. We ask you to report positive cases in your home to the school nurse. In addition, we will continue to post reports of positive cases on our district website each day.

Quarantines for positive cases remain at 10 days from the onset of symptoms or a positive test. Per Texas Education Agency guidance, schools are not required to quarantine students for close contact, but parents may opt to do so.

Visitors will still be limited to invitation only to help control our distancing during the regular school day. Campuses will communicate about beginning of school activities and other times when you are welcome to visit. All after school activities are open.

We will continue extra sanitizing procedures and encouraging good hygiene practices. We are committed to working with you for the health and safety of our kids and staff to have another fantastic school year. Thank you for your support.

Anita Hebert, Superintendent of Schools

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