

Dear Parent, Guardian and Staff Members,

We are so excited about having our wonderful students back in school. As you know, there are a multitude of questions and concerns about the school policies regarding COVID-19 and the Delta variant. There is no ONE person that can explain exactly what is happening during these trying times, but we must have respect, compassion and care for one another. Below, you will see the policies we have set in place at this time.

Sarita Elementary COVID Protocols

FACE COVERINGS

Per Governor Abbott's executive order, face coverings (masks) are OPTIONAL for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings will not be required for staff, students or visitors. However, an individual may choose to wear a mask if desired, and additional masks will be available in the front office.

VACCINATIONS

Per Governor Abbott's executive order, school districts may not require students or staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The state of Texas has not added the COVID-19 vaccination to the required immunization list for students. School districts also cannot require students or staff to report vaccination status.

COVID-19 REPORTING/TRACKING

As partners working together to maintain a healthy school environment, we ask parents and employees to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the school district. Parents of students and employees should report positive cases to the school nurse. School district staff will not conduct close contact tracing and reviews. The school district will not require students and staff to quarantine due to exposure. The school district is still required, however, to report positive cases to local health authorities and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact the school nurse as soon as possible. Parents should not send students to school who have tested positive or who are symptomatic.

When the school district receives confirmation that a student or staff member who has been on campus or at school activities during his/her infectious period has tested positive for COVID-19, a notification will be sent out to the entire school campus (staff and parents).

Those who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and have significant improvement in symptoms. Those who suspect they could possibly have COVID-19 should take a test as soon as possible and isolate until test results are received. Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) take a subsequent COVID-19 PCR acute infection test (at a physician's office or approved testing location) at least 24 hours after the positive test and provide a negative test result on that subsequent test.

ABSENCES

If a student must isolate after testing positive for COVID-19, the school/teacher will provide makeup work in a similar manner as for students absent for other reasons.

Employee absences due to COVID will be handled by the Superintendent.

VISITORS & MEETINGS

Visitors will be allowed on campus according to standard rules and procedures and as capacity allows. Meetings will be allowed on campus and face coverings will be optional.

CLEANING/SANITATION PROTOCOLS

Frequent cleaning and sanitation will support a healthy learning environment for students and staff. KCWCSD will continue with cleaning and sanitation protocols in the building, around campus, and on buses. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings along with opportunities to wash hands frequently.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All extracurricular and co-curricular activities will resume with full capacity. Students nor spectators will be required to wear face coverings.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

For social-emotional support, please contact the school counselor, Mrs. Dupont.

If a student or employee has a health-related issue or concern, please contact the school nurse, Mrs. De Luna.

[Governor's Executive Order May 18, 2021](#)

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)

[Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#)