

Wortham ISD Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2021-2022

Purpose

The purpose of the following information is to communicate and connect with all stakeholders regarding Wortham ISD's reentry plans for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan is fluid and subject to revision, update, and change based on the specific health conditions in the community. Additionally, this plan will be reviewed and updated every six months by a committee of stakeholders.

2021-2022 Health and Safety Measures

Infection Control

- **In light of the Governor's Executive Order GA-36, Wortham ISD has removed the mandate for all staff and students to wear face coverings.** Face coverings will be optional for staff and students unless the superintendent, in consultation with the public health department and TEA, deems face coverings necessary for the safety and health of the school district.
- Social Distancing indoors of at least 3 feet will be encouraged when appropriate and feasible.

Health Screenings

- Per Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, initial monitoring of symptoms begins at home. Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students before coming onto campus each day prior to sending their students to school. Individuals who are feeling ill, including symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, abdominal pain, fatigue, muscle

aches, or headache, should stay at home and consult with a medical professional regarding school participation and possible testing for COVID-19.

- Teachers and staff are required to self-monitor. The self-screening should include 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. 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.
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Upon signing in, visitors are attesting they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.

Campus Operations

Handwashing/Sanitizing

- Students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering a bus, building, classroom, and/or office. Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will be incorporated into daily schedules. Each classroom will have sanitizers. Buses, classrooms, and other common areas within the school will be thoroughly disinfected daily.
- Classrooms: Cleaning/sanitizing will be completed throughout the day. Teachers will accommodate to the best of their abilities to space students for physical distancing throughout the classroom, as feasible.

Cafeteria

- Cleaning/Sanitizing will be completed after each seating.
- Students will be seated within social distancing guidelines.
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches.

Gym/Athletics

- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, distancing of students, etc...
- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.

Playground

- Wortham Elementary will have a rotation schedule for recess.
- Teachers and other staff members will monitor and work with students to encourage and practice social distancing whenever feasible and appropriate.

Hallways/Restrooms

- Hallways and restrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.
- Staff will work together to efficiently transition the students between class periods to allow for social distancing when possible.
- Staff will work with students on safety measures during restroom breaks with a minimal number of students in the restroom. Maintenance staff will have scheduled cleaning throughout the day so that it is cleaned multiple times throughout the day.
- Staff will work to try to minimize group traffic at lockers where possible.

Water Fountains

- Because water fountains have shared surfaces, the majority of these dispensers will be disabled/turned off. However, each campus has a water bottle refill station for student and staff use. Students will be allowed to bring water bottles or clear plastic containers for water to classrooms. ONLY water is allowed in classrooms.

Band Hall

- During band, students will be appropriately spaced.
- Sanitation methods will be practiced before students enter the bandhall and following class.

Library

- Libraries will remain open with a minimal number of students in the library at one time.
- Library will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.
- Books that are returned will be kept on a cart. Books will be sanitized and then kept out of rotation for 2 days before being placed back on the shelf for student use.

Computer Labs

- Computers and tablets will be sanitized after each use.
- Students will be spaced appropriately throughout the room.

Buses/Transportation

- Student transportation will be provided for the 2021-2022 school year. Pick up and drop off times will remain the same.
- Ridership will likely remain at the typical district capacity.
- Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus.
- When feasible, students will be seated with family groups.
- Buses will be thoroughly sanitized after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces, such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.
- When possible, windows should be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

Learning Environments

- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students.
- Staff will have access to disinfectants to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Encourage outdoor ventilation when possible in learning spaces (i.e. open windows, doors, circulate air with a fan)

Students with Disabilities

- Special considerations may be required by students with developmental disabilities who have limited mobility. Accommodations and assistance will be provided to ensure those students are able to appropriately engage in preventative measures, such as
 - Reminders to socially distance, when possible and wash hands.
 - Supervision when engaging in mitigation protocols
 - Modeling or visual supports to assist students with understanding mitigation measures.

Visitors

- Upon signing in, visitors are attesting they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.

COVID-19 Prevention/Return to School Criteria

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in School

School Systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met.

1. If a student has a test-confirmed case of COVID-19, a parent/guardian must contact the school nurse and not send his/her student to school. If a staff member has a test-confirmed case of COVID-19, he/she must contact the campus principal and may not come to work.
2. Those who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate 10 days from the onset of symptoms, be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and have a significant improvement in symptoms. Those who suspect they could possibly have COVID-19 are encouraged to take a COVID-19 test and isolate until the results are received.
3. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its 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).
4. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form each Monday to include information for the prior seven days.

5. Although the Texas Education Agency does not require schools to conduct contact tracing, campus personnel will assist the nurse in identifying students who have been directly exposed to a positive case. As feasibly possible, parents/guardians will be notified if the campus has made a reasonable determination that their student was directly exposed. Certainly, this process will be more difficult at the secondary level as students change classes and interact with a larger group of students.
6. Parents who receive notification that their student was exposed are strongly encouraged to follow local quarantine guidelines. According to TEA, parents may opt to keep their student at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. TEA also references CDC guidelines, which state that there is not a need to isolate at home if your child has been fully COVID-19 vaccinated.

Wortham ISD will continue to encourage staff and age-eligible students to receive vaccinations and will publicize vaccinations clinics and options as they are available.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Feeling feverish or has a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache

- Diarrhea

2021-2022 Instructional Model

Wortham ISD is taking multiple precautions to protect both students and staff in school operations, and we firmly believe that students need to be face-to-face with their teachers for the best learning experiences. For these reasons, Wortham ISD will only offer in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year; we will not offer a full-time remote learning option. The rate of occurrence of COVID at school has been extremely low, and based on the results of our contact tracing this past year, the majority of the spread of COVID has been a result of activity outside of school. We feel that the best way to support and serve our students on all levels is with the on-campus instructional model.

On-Campus Instructional Model

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to-face learning on campus all day, every day.
- Teachers utilize the District curriculum and pacing guidelines through TEKS Resource System.
- Accommodations and support services are provided.
- Implementation of preventative safety measures occurs throughout the day.

Curriculum Resource	Primary Use in Material Design
TEKS Resource System	WISD will use the resources within TEKS RS to identify learning gaps, create quality lessons that are TEKS-based and student-centered, and utilize the performance assessments as a gauge for student understanding and growth toward mastery of grade-level standards. In addition, our teachers will use the Gap Implementation Tool to help identify potential gaps and adjust the scope and sequence to reflect the intentional planning to address gaps with students.
Other TEKS-based state adopted instructional materials	Wortham ISD will utilize and leverage other TEKS-based state-adopted materials, such as HMH, STEMScopes, Carnegie Learning, and Pearson to supplement and fulfill the learning requirements of the TEKS RS curriculum as noted in the Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) and Instructional Focus Document (IFD).
Supplemental Online TEKS-based instructional programs	Wortham ISD will also utilize supplemental programs to help us gauge academic progress, primarily in the areas of reading and math, such as Renaissance, Achieve 3000, Exact Path, and TexGuides.
Interim Assessments	Wortham ISD will administer the state interim assessments and will benchmark through other summative and formative means to gauge progress and growth of students.

Social and Emotional Support

WISD will address the mental and social-emotional health of students and staff by support in the following areas:

- Counseling/Guidance lessons
- Information for families on how to access resources for mental health and wellness
- Emotional support of our district counselor
- Lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure

Parent Communication

WISD is committed to providing families with clear and concise communication using the following platforms:

- Email/text messages
- Campus Facebook pages
- Website
- Remind messaging system