

Version 2.22.22



## Gonzales ISD COVID-19 Response Plan

Many Tribes. One Nation.

Meeting People Where They Are.

### Introduction

Conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic are ever-changing. Gonzales ISD's COVID-19 Response Plan for 2021-2022 are fluid and will be continually evaluated and updated in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. The most updated information from Gonzales ISD will be published on our district website. In addition, the District will continue to notify families of any and all major updates that are published.

All employees and families should consider the [Center for Disease Control guidelines](#) which most recently recommends people wear face coverings indoors even if they have been vaccinated.

In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting school districts from requiring face coverings indoors after June 4, 2021. This executive order is in effect which means Gonzales ISD cannot require face coverings.

Gonzales ISD has developed this **Covid-19 Response Plan** for 2021-2022 to inform parents and students about their choices for the new school year. Gonzales ISD is fully prepared and committed to providing a high-quality, rigorous learning environment that focuses on students' safety, as well as their academic, social and emotional well-being.

Gonzales ISD is excited to welcome back all of our students for 100% on-campus learning this year. We are committed to meeting students, guardians, staff, and all stakeholders where they are to ensure student safety and success. Remote learning will not be an option this year. The district is reviewing the option of remote conferencing. This may be an option in the future.

## Health & Safety Protocols

### **Screening Protocols**

All students should be screened by their parents daily before coming to school. Staff will be responsible for screening themselves for COVID-19 symptoms daily.

### **Symptoms – COVID-19**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

### **Screening Protocols**

Students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms **in a way that is not usual to them** should seek medical attention and consider masking while symptoms persist. If you are running a fever or are feeling unwell, you should stay home and get well.

### **Protocol Scenarios**

**When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19:** If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual may return to school after 5 days has passed since the date the individual was tested as long as the individual has no symptoms. If an individual continues to have symptoms pass the 5 days after testing positive, the individual must continue to stay out until they have no symptoms. May wear mask as option to return earlier on voluntary basis only.

**When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 and has not been tested:** If an individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school or work before completing the above stay at home period, we recommend the individual seek medical attention for guidance and consider masking as a precaution.

**When an individual has had an exposure in the school setting or at home with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19:** The local health department recommends self-quarantine and monitoring for symptoms for anyone that has had exposure with someone with COVID-19. Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others. This means that you should stay home and not be around

other people outside your household or those with health concerns during this time. While quarantine is recommended, it is not required by our district at this time. GISD will honor all doctor's notes when advising quarantine.

**If staff at any time during the two weeks following exposure to COVID-19 develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, then you should let your supervisor know. Likewise, parents should notify their child's campus nurse.**

**Parents:** Please notify your child's teacher and the campus nurse if you plan to keep your student home to quarantine so that we may make alternate arrangements for homework to be sent home.

IF anyone chooses to quarantine, the following guidelines are suggested:

Option 1: If you choose not to test for COVID-19, you should quarantine for 5 full days from last exposure to the positive individual. You should remain asymptomatic for the entirety of the quarantine.

Option 2: If you choose to test for COVID-19, schedule the recommended Rapid Test or PCR COVID-19 test at least 2 days after exposure to the covid-positive person. If you test comes back negative and you remain symptom free, you may return.

**This district is not accepting home test for COVID-19.**

### **Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts (per TEA Health Guidance)**

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Staff may return when the re-entry conditions have been met.

For staff who are not fully vaccinated who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, it is recommended that the staff remain off campus during the stay-at-home period.

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, if these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 5 days post

exposure, with testing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day recommended.

### **Protocols for Campus Visitors**

All visitors must be screened to determine if the visitors 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. In addition, all visitors will be screened to determine if they have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Part of the screening process for all adult visitors will include temperature checks. Mask wearing is recommended for all visitors but not required by the district. **The schools will allow family members on campus on a limited basis for school programs and pep rallies.**

#### Prevention and Mitigation Chart

Prevention and Mitigation Practices	
<u>Arrival/Dismissal</u>	<p><u>Arrival</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parents should avoid early to drop-offs in the morning</li> <li>● Parents who are driving their children to school should remain in vehicles</li> <li>● Parents or older siblings who are walking their children to school will be asked to remain outside</li> <li>● Hand-sanitizer will be available inside the main entrance</li> <li>● Students will report to home-room, first period class, or other designated location according to campus procedures</li> </ul> <p><u>Dismissal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders or grade levels will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time</li> <li>● Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit</li> <li>● Parents picking up students during the day must call ahead so that students can be sent or accompanied to parent vehicles upon arrival</li> <li>● Early pick-ups will not be permitted one hour before the dismissal time, with the exception of required doctor appointments</li> </ul>
<u>Cafeteria: Breakfast &amp; Lunch</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Physical distance will be provided around each occupiable seat.</li> <li>● Hand sanitizer stations will be available in the cafeteria.</li> <li>● Signage and staff will reinforce physical distance and traffic patterns.</li> <li>● Eating in classrooms may be an option if we cannot safely distance children in the cafeteria.</li> <li>● Reference Child Nutrition in the Student Support Services section of this document for more information.</li> </ul>
<u>Classrooms</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each classroom will maintain flat surfaces and a clutter free environment for disinfecting</li> <li>● Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects during the instructional day</li> <li>● Teachers will:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Require hand hygiene when entering the classroom and after group activities</li> <li>○ Create physical distance between desks and tables as much as instructionally practical</li> <li>○ Establish appropriate student responsibilities to clean personal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>areas and materials/supplies, as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incorporate outdoor teaching when appropriate</li> <li>○ Where appropriate and feasible, keep classroom doors open to improve circulation and reduce the touching of door handles</li> <li>○ Limit the use of shared supplies and sanitize any shared supplies.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms are present.</li> </ul>
<u>Cleaning and Disinfecting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The District has ordered cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) also has procured supplies for school districts.</li> <li>● Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily.</li> <li>● All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.</li> <li>● Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.</li> </ul>
<u>Common Areas and Transitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staggered releases from each class may be organized to limit the number of students in the hallway during transitions. When transitioning between classes, students will travel corridors with as much distance as possible.</li> <li>● Campuses will develop visual reminders for students to maintain physical distance and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways.</li> <li>● Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible. One-way traffic throughout the campus corridors may be established if feasible.</li> <li>● Access to hand sanitizer will be provided in common areas and classrooms.</li> </ul>
<u>Extracurricular: Athletics</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/athletic activities.</li> <li>● Athletic events will follow participation guidelines set by the UIL.</li> <li>● Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol including group size, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, and locker room usage.</li> <li>● Hand sanitizing stations will be available in gym facilities, and equipment will be sanitized regularly.</li> <li>● Bus travel will follow the transportation guidelines provided by the District and TEA.</li> <li>● Postgame sign-out procedures for athletes will be communicated to parents prior to the beginning of each season.</li> </ul>
<u>Extracurricular: Fine Arts/Clubs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/fine arts activities.</li> <li>● Large group practice sessions, sectionals, and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines.</li> <li>● Concerts/performances may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the manner in which performances are conducted.</li> </ul>
<u>Face Coverings (to include cloth face covering, mask, shield)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● While mask is not required, they are encouraged to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the continuity of student learning and services.</li> </ul>
<u>Hand Washing and Sanitizing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus. Classrooms will have hand sanitizer and/or hand soap at sinks for hand washing.</li> <li>● Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands</li> <li>● Students will be instructed to use hand soap or hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom with periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.</li> <li>● Students will be instructed to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before and after eating and restroom breaks.</li> </ul>
<u>Health Screenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to coming to work, including checking temperature. Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not report to work, but should contact their health care provider and their supervisor.</li> <li>● Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19</li> </ul>

	<p>symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school or putting them on a school bus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parents' cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or family members in the same household who have been in direct contact with those with symptoms will be critical to keeping our children and staff safe and healthy.</li> </ul>
Hygiene and Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will receive instruction on the first day and during the first week of school on appropriate hygiene and mitigation strategies, including proper hand washing technique and respiratory etiquette.</li> <li>● Student and staff training will be reinforced frequently throughout the school year.</li> <li>● Signage will be placed in visible common areas and in classrooms with reminders about health and hygiene protocols and safety measures.</li> </ul>
Parent Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Parent meetings will be held onsite or online as determined by the campus</u></li> </ul>
Recess (exercise/play)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. To mitigate the risk of transmission, we will work to group students and limit the size of groups at recess at any given time.</li> <li>● Children will wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of recess.</li> </ul>
Student Health Services (nurse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students must be in compliance regarding immunizations prior to school starting.</li> <li>● Teachers and other adults will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms are present.</li> <li>● The campus nurse will educate teachers on what to look for in students and what types of issues require a referral to the nurse.</li> <li>● In the event a campus nurse is out, there will be a substitute nurse or other staff member/substitute trained to address COVID-19 issues and other illnesses.</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The district encourages the use of personal transportation, if possible.</li> <li>● Parents are required to screen children each day, including temperature check, before bringing them to the bus</li> <li>● Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus.</li> <li>● Mask are highly recommended on the bus but not required.</li> <li>● Students will have assigned seats using a seating chart.</li> <li>● Windows will be cracked to allow for air circulation on the bus when possible.</li> <li>● Buses will be disinfected after the morning route and again after the afternoon route using an approved disinfectant sprayer.</li> </ul>

## A Final Thought

GISD Parents, guardians, employees, and students have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and teamwork during these unprecedented times. This whole experience is in no way ideal, but, together, our community will do our best to put safety first and foremost. Through communication, teamwork, and flexibility, GISD will navigate the new normal. Many Tribes. One Nation. Meeting people where they are.

