



## **FAQs | Frequently-Asked Questions**

### **“BACK TO SCHOOL” Safety & Instructional Plan**

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

Posted: 8.5.2021 @ 5 p.m.

## **COVID CASES & SAFETY - STUDENTS**

**\*New\***  
8.5.2021

### **Will there be more vaccination opportunities offered by the school district?**

We will offer as many as possible, contingent on partnerships with local agencies and providers in our area. The Department of Health Services (DSHS) has been providing vaccination opportunities for us as able, and when they are confirmed, we notify our parents/families and staff via District Update. You can find the most recent District Update(s) with information by release date at [www.g-pisd.org/update](http://www.g-pisd.org/update).

**\*New\***  
8.5.2021

### **With covid hospitalizations on the rise, how is GPISD stepping up its protective protocols?**

Thank you for this question, and we share the concern for all students and staff in light of current circumstances. As a result, we are implementing as many practices as possible to keep our schools as safe as possible. We continue to monitor data and trends in our local area, including this information, as received and verified from local health authorities. Information and guidance is also directly received from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for all public schools. Heightened sanitization/disinfection procedures, as well as best practices for social distancing, using desktop partitions – especially in elementary grade levels, encouraging the use of face masks (given the current order from the Governor’s office that no school can mandate face masks for all), and a number of other protocols are in place and listed in our “Back to School” Safety & Instructional Plan posted on the G-PISD website at [www.g-pisd.org/backtoschool](http://www.g-pisd.org/backtoschool).

### **What and how will the student continue their education while sick? At the beginning of the school year all students will be issued a chromebook for use throughout the year.**

Teacher will continue to utilize Microsoft Teams as the Learning Management System and will have the ability to communicate and share assignments with students who may feel well enough to complete work.

### **If a child becomes ill what will be the protocol for them to return?**

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment. As with all illnesses, students will be sent home if they have a fever of 100.0 or higher, are vomiting, or have diarrhea. Students will also be sent home if the nurse determines the symptoms may be attributed to COVID-19. When available, BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing may be performed by G-PISD nurses. Testing will be done at the discretion of the school nurse, with parent permission.

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) are diagnosed by a medical professional to have the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

If the individual has symptoms diagnosed as COVID-19 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) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>), or other site that comes back negative for COVID-19.

In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

## **COVID CASES & SAFETY - TEACHERS & STAFF**

### **Is there going to be some sort of checkup to adults? Temperature check or something?**

Staff will be required to self-screen before reporting to work.

## **COMMUNICATION regarding COVID CASES**

### **Will parents and family members continue to get email notification when there is a new case in our school?**

Confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 will be updated daily and will be accessible to the public on the G-PISD website at [www.g-pisd.org/COVIDcounts](http://www.g-pisd.org/COVIDcounts). Additionally, the district will release notification to families and staff once per month (at the end of the month).

## **MASKS**

### **Why is wearing masks optional?**

Executive Order GA-36 issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott (effective June 4, 2021), states: “no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor may be required to wear a face covering.” Additionally, Executive Order GA-38 issued July 29, 2021, reinforces this mandate, stating: “No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, and no governmental official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering.”

### **How will masks be addressed at the elementary level? What is the consequence for bullying associated with wearing masks?**

All students and staff in Gregory-Portland ISD will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks. We are promoting a culture of positive practice and support for all students and staff about the personal decision to wear (or not wear) a mask. Discipline will be practiced throughout the district in accordance with current procedures. For the latest, approved Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbooks for each campus, please visit [www.g-pisd.org/handbooks](http://www.g-pisd.org/handbooks).

## **MEET THE TEACHER / OPEN HOUSE(s)**

*\*Updated\**  
8.5.2021

### **Will there still be "Meet the Teacher" or some kind of open house at the schools before school starts?**

Yes, both “Meet the Teacher” and “Open House” events will be held at our campuses (see list below). Please keep in mind that “Meet the Teacher” and “Open House” events are optional for families; those with significant safety concerns can opt not to attend out of an abundance of caution. Campuses will be communicating more information about these events as we approach the beginning of the school year. **COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place, and all who attend are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to choose to wear a face mask.**

- **Elementary “Meet the Teacher”** - Tues., August 10th - 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at each of our four elementary schools (East Cliff, SFA, TMC, and WCA)
- **Elementary “Open House”** - Tues., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **G-P Middle School “Open House”** - Wed., August 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Gregory-Portland High School “Open House”** - Wed., August 25th - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (High School Supply lists will be shared with students teachers on the first day of class.)

## **REGISTRATION**

### **Is there going to be another online registration before school starts or was what we did before summer all we needed to do?**

Online registration for returning G-PISD students (as well as registration for new students residing within the district) is now open and available at [www.g-pisd.org/registration](http://www.g-pisd.org/registration).

**Can parents withdraw their children and homeschool in the middle of the year if they're not comfortable with the cases rising with vaccines not available for 12 yrs or younger?**

Yes, parents/legal guardians reserve the right to withdraw their child from any school district at will during any school year.

## **SAFETY PLAN**

**Is there a back-up (safety) plan with cases rising?**

G-PISD Administration remains in frequent communication with the San Patricio County Health Department. If necessary given the fluid situation, our plan may be adjusted to the degree allowable by law and as able based on various conditions/factors throughout the school year. These adjustments may, or may not, include adjustments to social distancing, spacing/grouping in classrooms and common areas, face covering requirements (should law change), etc.

## **STUDENT MEALS**

**Is there an option to have our elementary student eat lunch in their classrooms, instead of in the lunchroom with a large group of students?**

Social Distancing guidelines will be followed on campuses including in the cafeteria. At this time, we will not be utilizing classrooms during lunch periods, however we will continue to monitor the situation and update procedures as needed through consultation with our county health department and guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

## **CAMPUS-RELATED QUESTIONS**

**Will the students be going to the new Middle School on August 12<sup>th</sup>?**

Yes, all students will report by grade level to a holding area in the gyms. Teachers will meet students and escort them to their 1st period class.

## **ASK A QUESTION**

***Do you have an additional question?***

Please email us at [communications@g-pisd.org](mailto:communications@g-pisd.org). Questions will be posted here and dated each day, as they are received. Thank you!