

**FRIENDSWOOD ISD
HEALTH MITIGATION PROTOCOLS
2021-2022**

General Protocols and Practices:

Masks

- According to Governor Abbott's current executive order, school districts are prohibited from requiring anyone to wear a mask or face covering. We encourage all families and employees to make the best decision for themselves, and we expect all staff, students and visitors to respect the choice of others.

Vaccines

- FISD does not have the authority to require vaccines for staff or students for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Galveston County Health District will provide vaccine opportunities for staff and students throughout the school year for those choosing to do so.

Students and Staff Who Have COVID-19

- Students and staff are excluded 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 Department of State and Health Services rules for re-entry are met.
 - If symptomatic, staff and students must be excluded until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.
 - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medication. Fever is a temperature of 100°F or higher.
- If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms on campus and the school nurse suspects COVID-19, the student will be excluded from school until the re-entry criteria can be met.
- FISD staff members must contact their supervisor and the Executive Director of Safety and Operations if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Parents are to contact the school nurse if their student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Positive COVID-19 cases (staff and students) will be reported to the local health department and the Texas Department of State Health Services as required by TEA.

Students and Staff Who Are Close Contacts

- As required, the Friendswood Independent School District will report any known COVID-19 cases to the local health authority and support local health authorities in any applicable contact tracing.
- Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the CDC recommended stay at home period (10 days unless vaccinated or recovered from COVID within 90 days) As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. Per the Texas Education Agency the data from 2020-21 shows very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults. As a result, school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing.

- Staff should contact the nurse or Executive Director of Safety and Operations for possible close and personal contact.

Communication:

- FISD will maintain a regularly updated district level covid dashboard regarding positive cases at the district and campus level for staff and students.
- At elementary and intermediate campuses where students are in a more contained homeroom setting, the campus will notify each individual classroom of a reported positive case.
- The junior high and high school will notify parents when a positive case is identified on campus.
- Upon notification, staff and students should monitor health conditions, follow directives from the local health department, and district health protocols.

Health and Hygiene Protocols and Practices:

- Facilities will not be modified to allow for physical distancing.
- Employees and visitors will self-screen before entering district buildings for COVID-19 symptoms. If symptoms are present per the screener, students and staff are required to follow FISD Health Protocols.
- Volunteers that support students and / or staff will be allowed on campus. Lunch visitors at the K-5 campuses will not be allowed on campus until the second week of September.
- FISD will continue to provide Covid-19 testing for all staff.
- Handwashing will continue to be a priority and it is recommended students, teachers, and staff dedicate intentional time for handwashing throughout the school day.
- Signage for proper hygiene etiquette and for COVID-19 self-screening will continue to be posted throughout district facilities.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility and throughout the buildings as well as on buses.
- Custodians will be staffed at the campuses to allow for daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces while students are present. Custodians will continue to clean campuses throughout the instructional day.
- Classrooms will be equipped with cleaning supplies for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the instructional day.
- Transportation staff will disinfect each bus after am/pm routes with disinfecting mister.
- HVAC systems have been adjusted to increase the intake of outside air.

Attendance

- Students quarantining due to household Covid-19 cases or close contact with an individual who has tested positive will be counted absent - excused.
- Students not attending school due to a lab confirmed positive Covid-19 test will be counted absent - excused. Again, parents are to contact their child's school nurse if this is the case.
- Perfect attendance will not be recognized this year as an award category. Final exemptions will not be related to attendance criteria in an effort to allow students the incentive to stay home if ill.
- FISD will not offer virtual at home learning this school year. School districts will receive funding only through students attending physically (in-person).

Coordination with Local Health Officials

- Fisd will continue to work with Galveston County and the Texas Education Agency to mitigate COVID. These efforts may include but are not limited to, updating policies needed, responding to contact tracing if requested, and facilitating community immunization sites.

Plans and procedures may be modified depending upon the number of positive Covid-19 cases on a certain campus/facility.