

**FRIENDSWOOD ISD
HEALTH MITIGATION PROTOCOLS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

Are masks optional or required?

Optional. 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 their family, and we expect all staff, students and visitors to respect the choice of others.

I'm afraid my child will get "bullied" if he or she wears a mask and other kids don't.

We have communicated expectations to all staff to support students who mask and provide an environment in each classroom that honors that choice. Please address any concerns you have directly to your child's teacher.

What if my child (a student in FISD) has tested positive for COVID-19?

1. Contact your local healthcare provider.
2. Notify your child's school nurse.
3. Follow the [Health Mitigation Protocols](#).

What if I (staff member) test positive for COVID-19?

1. Contact your local healthcare provider.
2. Contact your supervisor and Executive Director of Safety and Operations, J.T. Patton, immediately.
3. Follow the [Health Mitigation Protocols](#).

What are the criteria for re-entry to campus or facility after testing positive for COVID-19?

COVID-19 Readmission Criteria: The Texas Department of State Health Services has announced the following: Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.

If symptomatic, an individual is excluded from school or an FISD facility until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, fever-free (for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication), and significant improvement in symptoms. Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested (returning on the 11th day).

(Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher. Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications.)

What happens if a student or employee cannot pass the self-screener for COVID-19?

The central message to all that will help make this year a success is do not come to school if you are sick. All individuals are responsible for ensuring that a daily health self-screening occurs before boarding school transportation or entering a facility (self-screening is no longer completed through skyward). Individuals that are ill and, or symptomatic, should stay home and consult their healthcare provider. All individuals should practice appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Staff should contact their supervisor and the Executive Director of Safety and Operations, J.T. Patton if they fail the screener.

Will close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case be notified?

All positive cases reported to the district are shared with public health authorities for their follow-up. The district will not be doing additional close contact tracing/notifications.

Beginning August 17, 2021, a COVID Dashboard will be posted and updated each Friday on the district website.

The schools will notify teachers, staff and families of all students in a classroom or extra-curricular activity if a test confirmed case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in those classrooms or cohorts. Upon notification, staff and students should monitor health conditions, follow directives from the local health department, and district health protocols.

Friendswood ISD will continue to collaborate with the Galveston County Health Department (GCHD) to monitor and mitigate COVID-19 and other communicable diseases affecting our community. FISD will monitor cases and stay in communication with the GCHD.

What do I do if I come in close and personal contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19?

An employee/student who has not been vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90-days and resides in the same residence as an individual who has been confirmed COVID+ should be quarantined for 10 days. If no symptoms arise or if no symptoms are present, an employee may return on day 8 with a negative COVID test on day 5.

An employee/student who has not been vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90-days and believe they have had close contact should quarantine for 10 days or may return on day 8 with a negative COVID test on day 5.

Staff who are vaccinated/recently recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90-days, who show no symptoms after close and personal contact, will continue to work, but will be tested on day 3 and day 7.

Staff will need to enter time off through Skyward Employee Access and use their allotted State or Local leave for days out due to quarantine.

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.

Is the District requiring employees to get vaccinated?

No. Whether or not to get vaccinated for COVID-19 is a personal choice for each employee and governmental entities are prohibited from requiring vaccination under FDA emergency authorization under Executive Order #38. The district will continue to provide vaccine clinics for students and staff throughout the school year.

Will the District be providing COVID-19 leave for STAFF absences?

Yes. The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to provide leave for COVID-19 positive employee cases for the 2021-2022 school year. To be eligible for this paid leave, an employee will be required to submit a COVID-19 positive test. The test results must have the employee's name listed for the leave to be approved. The request for time off, along with the required documentation, will be submitted through Skyward Employee Access and employees will be able to request up to a maximum of eight (8) days.

What are the plans for students to do school work if they are absent due to illness or quarantine?

Individual campuses will communicate with parents regarding how this process (including timelines) will work by August 16th, 2021. Please follow campus guidelines.

How will the district count absences for students who are quarantined or test positive for COVID-19?

Students who are quarantined due to household COVID-19 cases or close contact with an individual who has tested positive will be counted absent - excused. In this situation parents should notify the school nurse.

Students who are excluded from 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 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).

What about UIL participation?

Please see the most recent UIL guidance as of 8/9/2021: [2021-2022 COVID-19 UIL Risk Mitigation Guidelines](#) . Very important to note that student athletes and band members who have tested positive for COVID must have a doctor's release filed with the school prior to return to activity.

Where can I find the screener?

The FISD screener can be found on the front door of all district buildings and is also [linked here](#).

Will a home COVID-19 test be recognized by the school district?

No. At this point, a COVID test must be conducted at a medical facility, testing center or the FISD testing center (for employees only), and must contain the name of the employee/student in order to be accepted.

What will the district take into account when deciding to shut down a classroom or school for COVID positive cases?

Friendswood ISD reports all data related to any positive case to the Galveston County Health department on a daily basis. The District will be in contact with the Galveston County Health Department when there is a cluster of cases on a campus or in a classroom to determine the appropriate measures to take when there is evidence of community spread.