

**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; however, the District encourages students and staff to wear masks in indoor spaces and on buses. All staff, students and visitors are expected 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.
- Per UIL guidelines, students who participate in marching band or athletics who test positive for COVID 19 must have a signed doctor's release to participate.

*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.
- Per TEA, parents may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay at home period (10 days unless vaccinated or recovered from COVID within 90 days) if the student is determined to be a close contact of an individual with COVID-19. In cases when it is permitted, parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms. 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 TEA, parents must keep their students at home during the recommended stay at home period (10 days unless vaccinated or recovered from COVID within 90 days) if the student has had close contact within the same household. 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.
- Students and staff who are in quarantine for close and personal contact must quarantine for 10 days or be tested on day 5 to return on day 8 if no symptoms are present. 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 are to contact their supervisor and the Executive Director of Safety and Operations regarding possible close and personal contact.
- Parents of students who are quarantined for close and person contact will contact their school nurse. Pre-K-Grade 5 should also contact their child's teacher.

#### *Communication:*

- FISD will maintain a district level covid dashboard regarding positive cases at the district and campus level for staff and students. The dashboard will be updated each school day.
- 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.

#### *Health and Hygiene Protocols and Practices:*

- Facilities will not be modified to allow for physical distancing.
- Employees, students, 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 able to pass the posted health screener will be allowed on campus. Lunch visitors at all campuses are suspended until further notice.
- 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, especially following recess.
- 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.
- Deep cleaning will occur at each campus once each week and daily in each area that reaches the 15% positivity threshold.

- 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).
- Non-UIL events with large numbers of students gathered together before, during, or after the school day (i.e. pep rally, assembly, STEAM day, etc.) will be evaluated by location of the event (outdoors vs. indoors), the number of positive cases on campus (under 2.5%), and the positivity rate in the City of Friendswood.
- Non-UIL large parent events held before or after school will be evaluated by location of the event (outdoors vs. indoors), the number of positive cases on campus (under 2.5%) and within FISD, and the positivity rate in the City of Friendswood.

*Enhanced Mitigation Protocols:* When more than 15% of the students in a classroom or extra curricular group are identified as active COVID positives, enhanced health protocols should be initiated by the teacher and supported by campus administration until active case count drops to zero within the classroom/group.

#### Elementary (PK -5)

- Masks are highly recommended (staff and students)
- Utilize outdoor spaces for instruction when possible.
- Student desks distanced from others as much as possible. Areas where tables are present should be distanced from other tables and students assigned seats with a consistent group.
- Student group activities such as bringing students into large groups onto the carpet should be eliminated, reduced in size, or conducted in a shorter period of time.
- At the elementary level, efforts should be made to keep the individual class from mixing with other classes during recess, physical education, and other specials.
- Keep distance between students as much as possible and within reason.
- Parents have the option of keeping their child at home for the quarantine period (see close contacts in Health Mitigation Protocols) anytime they are notified of a positive case in their child's class.
- Daily deep cleaning of classroom space by FISD Maintenance.
- Continued and focused hand washing breaks throughout the school day and hygiene emphasized.

#### Secondary: Extracurricular groups

- Utilize outdoor spaces for activities and instruction when possible.
- Maintain student distance as much as possible.
- Keep distance between students as much as possible and within reason

- Masks are highly recommended (staff and students)
- Parents have the option of keeping their child at home for the quarantine period (see close contacts in Health Mitigation Protocols) anytime they are notified of a positive case in their child's group.
- Continued deep cleaning of affected areas and equipment.

*Parameters for closures:* Closures are processed in coordination with the Galveston County Health Department (GCHD). Closures are based on specific circumstances within the classroom /campus such as the timeframe between positive cases and evidence of community spread within the school setting. Generally, Friendswood ISD will utilize the following criteria:

- Elementary Classrooms (PK-5): When more than 15% of the students in a classroom are identified as active COVID positives, enhanced health protocols should be initiated by the teacher and supported by campus administration (see enhanced health protocols). Elementary classroom closure will occur when active cases or presumed positive cases grow over 30% in a classroom (i.e. on the 7th case in a classroom of 22 students and one teacher).
- Secondary Extracurricular Groups: When more than 15% of the students in an extracurricular group are identified as active COVID positives, enhanced health protocols should be initiated by the coach / sponsor and supported by campus administration (see enhanced health protocols). When active student cases grow over the 15% threshold, FISD will coordinate with the Galveston County Health Department on future closures based on the current circumstances surrounding the situation, the number of students in the group, and evidence of rapid community spread within the group/time period.
- Campuses: Friendswood ISD will work closely with the Galveston County Health Department to determine the threshold for closure of a campus. There are many factors to consider when closures are considered - staffing issues, rate of community spread, time between cases, calendar timeline, etc. As a result, each case will be considered individually.

*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, 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 specific campus/facility.