

Wink-Loving ISD

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

Wink-Loving I.S.D.'s 2022-2023 Health Mitigation Protocols

The health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community is our top priority. With the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the following ***Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan*** is in place across the District.

Executive Order GA-38 (GA-38), which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code, requires Texas public school systems to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the published guidance of the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This document constitutes TEA's guidance under GA-38 and takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance.

Public school systems are to operate in compliance with existing state laws and regulations, including all executive orders issued by the governor of Texas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that are currently in effect.

The following are examples of existing state laws and regulations applicable to the operations of Texas public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who have or are suspected of having COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus. As noted in the rule, exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:
 - For children with symptoms, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
 - Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.
- 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 conditions for re-entry are met.

TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding implementation of the state requirements referenced by this guidance.

This guidance is subject to change as new information becomes available.

Masks and Vaccines

- Masks are optional for staff, students, and visitors. We encourage all families and staff members to make the best decision for themselves in deciding whether to wear a face mask or not, and we expect all staff, students, and visitors to respect the choice of others. Please note, mask provisions of GA-38 are not being enforced as the result of ongoing litigation. Further guidance will be made available after the court issues are resolved.
- Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is a personal choice for everyone and we respect the rights of individuals to make their own decisions. Wink-Loving I.S.D. does not have the authority to require the COVID-19 vaccines for staff or students.

General Protocols and Practices

- Employees, students, and visitors shall self-screen for any symptoms before entering campuses or District buildings.
- Counselors will be available to address the staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- Contact tracing will not take place by school officials. Quarantines of non-infected students and staff will not be mandated, however, any student or staff member should stay home if ill.
- Parents should contact the school nurse if their student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- W.L.I.S.D. staff members must contact their supervisor if they test positive for COVID-19.

Attendance

- Students will need to attend school to receive instruction.
- Wink-Loving I.S.D. will not offer an optional virtual at-home learning this school year for all students.
- Students not attending school due to lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 results will be counted absent – excused.
- Quarantine due to household COVID-19 cases or close contact with a COVID-19 individual will be counted absent – excused.
- All attendance laws and requirements for students will be followed.

Students Who Are Close Contacts

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. Wink-Loving ISD will not conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system should notify the student's parents.

Health and Hygiene Protocols and Practices

- Handwashing will continue to be a priority and it is recommended that students, teachers, and staff dedicate intentional time for handwashing throughout the school day.
- Custodians will continue increased cleaning at the campus to allow for daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
- Custodians will continue to clean campuses throughout the instructional day; classrooms will be equipped with supplies for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the instructional day.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility and throughout the buildings as well as on our buses.

Outside Visitors

- Outside visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with their child in the lunchroom after the second week of school. Birthday treats will be passed out to the grade by staff in the lunchroom.
- Parents will be notified about class celebrations prior to the event. We will determine parent access prior to each event.
- Parents will not be allowed in the hallways or classrooms before, during or after school unless invited by a teacher or staff member.
- Students will be picked- up and dropped-off outside at their designated area during the school day.

Coordination with Local Health Officials

- Wink-Loving I.S.D. will continue to work with Winkler County, Area Health Agencies and the Texas Education Agency to mitigate COVID-19. These efforts may include but are not limited to updating guidelines/protocols as needed, responding to contact tracing if requested, and facilitating community immunization sites.

Additional Information

- Students will be allowed to bring their own water bottles to school.
- The U.I.L. has not given any restrictions for extracurricular events.
- There is no longer COVID leave for employees. That was a federal provision that has expired.
- Plans and procedures may be modified depending upon positive cases on campus.