

WHITNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

John McCullough
Superintendent

P.O. Box 518
Whitney, Texas 76692
(254) 694-2254 Fax (254) 694-4001

Melody Haley
Assistant Superintendent

Amy Leech – High School Principal
Russell Gauer – Intermediate Principal
Bob Kruse – DAEP Principal
Laura Hunt – Director of Curriculum
Mark Byrd – Athletic Director
Kristy Smith – Technology Director



Kendra Hensley – Middle School Principal
Amber Seely – Elementary Principal
Melissa Marbut – Director of Accountability
Brian Caperton – Director of Operations
Jeanne Thompson – District Nurse
Judy Bailey – Director of Food Service

WHITNEY ISD SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN FOR 2021-22

(UPDATED August 30, 2021)

The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on the guidance and recommendations from the CDC, the Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Education Agency. These guidelines may be amended if new information is received from any of these authorities. WISD will comply with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-36 and masks will not be required for students or staff. Students and staff will be allowed to wear masks if they choose to do so.

TYPE OF INSTRUCTION

Whitney ISD will only be offering traditional, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year.

PRACTICES TO PREVENT THE VIRUS FROM ENTERING THE SCHOOL

Screening

- Teachers and staff must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Teachers and staff must report to WISD if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or have been lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, they must report to WISD if they have had close contact with an individual who has been lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Parents must screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms daily to ensure they do not send a child on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or has been lab-confirmed with COVID-19. If a child has fever, they should not be sent to school. If a student is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, they will remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individual who is lab confirmed with COVID-19 or is experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until WISD screens the individual to determine if the below conditions for re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 1. At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
 2. The individual has improvement in symptoms; and
 3. At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19 and may not return to campus until the three step criteria for re-entry is met.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- WISD will immediately separate any student who shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Students must be picked up within one hour of being notified by the school nurse.
- WISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school as soon as feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Close Contact

In general, close contact is defined as 1) being directly exposed to infectious secretions from a person who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on) or 2) being within 3 feet in a classroom setting for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day with a person who is lab-confirmed. Either one defines close contact if it occurs during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. If WISD is made aware that an individual is determined to be a close contact, WISD will notify the individual and they will be given the option of quarantining for 10 days if they have not been fully vaccinated.

For staff members who are not fully vaccinated who meet the criteria for close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, it is recommended that the staff members remain off campus for the stay at home period. If these staff members continue to work on campus, rapid testing will be performed using an Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Test at least once every other day until the end of Day 10.

Based on the recommendations from the Texas Department of State Health Services, if an individual is considered a close contact due to someone in the immediate household being lab-confirmed with COVID-19, that person will be required to quarantine for 10 days unless they have been fully vaccinated.

RESPONDING TO A LAB CONFIRMED CASE

- If an individual who has been at school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, WISD will notify the Department of State Health Services in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Consistent with notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with confidentiality requirements, WISD will notify the teachers, staff, and families at the affected campus if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among the students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on campus activity.

PRACTICES TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 INSIDE THE SCHOOL

Health and Hygiene Practices

- All campuses will have hand sanitizer at each entrance
- Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands frequently.
- Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbow.
- All campuses will have additional cleaning and disinfecting if a lab-confirmed case is reported on campus.
- Desks and tables will be socially distanced as much as possible based on the size of the classroom.

Food Service

- All food service staff will have their temperatures taken daily and recorded by the manager on duty.
- Tables will be socially distanced as much as possible and some of the tables will have Plexiglas installed to allow only 4 students at each table if students prefer those accommodations.
- Social distancing decals will be placed on the floor.
- Tables and serving lines will be disinfected between lunch periods
- All meals will be served in closed containers and all condiments and milk will be handed out by the servers.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch.

This plan will be reviewed every six months and updated as needed.

Si lo requiere, la traducció'n en Espanol estara'n desponible. Llama 254-294-2254 if you need it, the translation in Spanish will be available . Call 254-694-2254

WISD conducted meaningful consultation with required stakeholders.