



SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN 2023-2024



PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change. Waller ISD (WISD) works in collaboration with state and local officials to take care of its students and staff as well as ensure compliance.

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STUDENT/STAFF HEALTH & SAFETY

General

As prior to the COVID-19 pandemic all students, including children with disabilities, and staff are expected to self-screen for any communicable illness before coming to work or school. If a communicable illness is suspected, please consider being assessed by a medical professional before returning.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, if a child has a fever over 100.0 F, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea suppressing medications for 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse. More detailed information on student health procedures may be found in the [WISD Student Handbook](#) under the Absences/Attendance and Illnesses sections. Any illness-related absence should be reported to [the campus nurse](#).

COVID-19 Screening

All students, including children with disabilities, and staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 before coming to school or work each day. Symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Feeling feverish or a temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

If COVID-19 is suspected, please see a medical professional and report the illness to the [school nurse](#). Procedures will be followed per the [WISD Student Handbook](#) and this document.

COVID-19 Testing

Individuals who feel they need to be tested for COVID-19 should contact their medical provider or seek a local clinic for services. Most COVID-19 testing is conducted at no cost to the patient. For assistance finding a COVID-19 testing site, please contact a school nurse or [Texas Department of State Health Services COVID-19 Testing Information](#).

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Everyone age 5+ is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost. The vaccine is not required for WISD students or staff, however it is strongly encouraged for eligible individuals. The CDC has proven that the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing or drastically diminishing the effects of COVID-19. WISD occasionally works in collaboration with local providers to host in-district vaccination clinics. In-district vaccination clinics will be posted on [wallerisd.net](#) and [official WISD social media](#). To find current vaccine information and locate a provider, visit the [Texas Department of State Health Services COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) webpage. Please consult with your family physician to make the decision that is best for each eligible individual.

Illness Isolation

Any student or staff member who becomes ill or is suspected of being ill during the school day will report to the school nurse for evaluation. Illness procedures will be followed according to the WISD Student Handbook. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 school nurses will work in partnership with families and medical professionals to determine necessary contact tracing, quarantine days, and return to school date based on CDC, state, and local guidance.

Face Masks, PPE, & Social Distancing

Face masks are not required. As part of good practice, individuals are asked to maintain social distancing to the extent possible.

Arrival & Dismissal

- No loitering is allowed outside school buildings; please do not drop off students early.
- Any open doors will be monitored by staff to stop unauthorized access and monitor for threats.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged at all entrances/exits.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing & Respiratory Etiquette Expectations

Frequent hand washing/sanitizing will help ensure the health and wellness of the WISD family.

- Individuals will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Students will be reminded to wash or sanitize their hands during appropriate times of the school day.
- Thorough hand washing or sanitizing is required before and after eating and following restroom breaks.

Meals

- Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines from state and local officials.
- Breakfast is free for all students.
- Families may qualify for free or reduced price lunches by completing the [meal application online](#). For paper applications, questions, or assistance with Free or Reduced Meals please contact WISD School Nutrition Services at 936.931.2347 or rboleman@wallerisd.net.
- Reference [Visitor Health & Safety](#).

Drinking Water

For sanitary reasons, WISD recommends that all students and staff bring a large water bottle with a flip or screw-top lid to school/work each day. Bottle fillers will be turned on where available. Water fountains will be turned on for use as needed, however personal water bottles are preferred.

Activities & Events

- Field trips may be taken in compliance with the state and local guidelines.
 - Teachers and chaperones will encourage hand washing or provide hand sanitizer as appropriate.
- Students may participate in work-based learning in compliance with state and local guidelines.
- PTO events and fundraising will be allowed in compliance with health and safety information provided in this document.
- After-school clubs may be held in compliance with health and safety information provided in this document.
- Visitor attendance at school programs, class parties, meals, etc. is permitted in compliance with [Visitor Health & Safety](#).
- Practices and contests will be conducted following health and safety information provided in this document and in compliance with applicable UIL and TEA rules.
- Spectator/visitor attendance is permitted in compliance with [Visitor Health & Safety](#).

STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS & MENTAL HEALTH

The comprehensive needs of all students, including children with disabilities, is priority for WISD. This includes their physical health and wellness, mental health and wellness, and academic progress. All students have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and will require special attention to needs moving forward.

- WISD regularly reviews individual student data to determine needs for accelerated instruction plans for students.
- WISD will utilize intervention time, which is built into every school day on all campuses, as well as before and after school labs to assist students.
- WISD offers all students professional [counseling services](#) to students and families on all campuses.
- WISD offers all students and families the services of its two Community Youth Specialists who are professional social workers.
- WISD's Family Engagement Liaison works to partner with parents/guardians

and other family members to assist in serving the needs of the whole child.

STAFF MENTAL HEALTH

WISD offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to all employees. This service is designed to provide staff with confidential access to a licensed professional counselor that can help with stress, depression, anxiety, grief and loss as well as job stress and more. WISD staff can access this free service by calling 1.800.854.1446 or by visiting unum.com/lifebalance.

CLEANING & SANITIZING PROCEDURES

Frequent cleaning and sanitizing promotes a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. WISD provides frequent cleaning and sanitizing services for all facilities using antibacterial and antiviral products and medical-grade disinfectant.

Facilities & Equipment

- All used areas of facilities including classrooms, restrooms, offices, and common areas will be cleaned and sanitized as needed.
- All high-touch areas will be sanitized as needed throughout the day and each evening.
- Breakfast and lunch areas will be sanitized between each meal.
- Staff and students will have access to cleaning products to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects between use and as needed.
- In the event of a confirmed case of communicable illness including COVID-19, additional deep cleaning and sanitizing in areas visited by that individual will be completed as soon as possible.

Transportation

- When possible, buses will open windows to allow air to circulate.
- Drivers and riders will be encouraged to use provided hand sanitizer upon boarding a bus.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.

VISITOR HEALTH & SAFETY

General

Visitors will be allowed at all schools and offices during regular work/school days and during scheduled events (see event-specific information sent by your child's campus and/or teacher). All visitors are expected to self-screen for any communicable illness before coming to a WISD facility. If a communicable illness is suspected, please reschedule your visit. All visitors will be required to present a valid ID to check-in to campus and are asked to maintain social distancing to the extent possible during their visit. Hand sanitizer will be available at all visitor entrances. Appointments are recommended for meetings with campus staff.

Virtual meetings may be available for certain meetings such as parent/teacher conferences, ARDs, etc. If a virtual meeting is desired, please inquire with your child's teacher or campus administrator.

Ticketed Events

WISD's E-Ticketing system will be used for any event that requires a fee for entry including, but not limited to athletics, fine arts, etc. [Tickets must be purchased online.](#)

Free Events

Any free event at the elementary, junior high, or high school level will not require tickets. Guests will be allowed to enter on a first come, first-served basis while seats are available.