

# Water Valley ISD Reopening Plan

## COVID-19

### Purpose

**This plan could change depending on guidance from TEA, CDC, and/or government officials.**

The COVID-19 Pandemic may continue to affect the school district throughout the 2020-21 school year. This plan is designed to guide the district through the opening of the school year and throughout the school year until the effects of the pandemic change. At any point during the school year, the plan could be amended based on the effects of the pandemic. The plan will be used as an informative tool for parents, students, and district employees. It will be posted on the district website, the Remind App and social media.

The plan addresses two main aspects in the functions of the school district. First, it addresses the instructional requirements as set forth by the Texas Education Agency and the Water Valley ISD school board. Second, it addresses the operational requirements and recommendations set forth by TEA. This plan was developed using resources and guidance from the following:

- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Governor's Office
- Texas School Safety Center
- Center for Disease Control
- Tom Green County Health Department

WVISD employees will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this plan and the practices adopted by WVISD.

DeeAnna Blanton, Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, will respond to any concerns with instruction.

Dane Hoover, Principal of Students and Operations, will respond to any concerns with operations including prevention, response and mitigation of COVID-19.

## **Instruction**

### **Attendance and Enrollment**

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
2. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
3. Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from Water Valley ISD. If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but only at the end of a grading period. The parent will need to request the change two weeks prior to the end of the grading period.
4. Please see WVISD 2020-2021 Remote Learning Plan at the end of this document.

## **Operation**

### **PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School including UIL venues**

1. WVISD teachers and staff must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. This will include taking their temperature. The symptoms are listed at the end of this plan. Teachers and staff must report to WVISD if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
2. Students must self-screen before they come on campus. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
3. Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up, visitors will not be allowed on campus unless there is an educational need. Visitors with an educational need will be screened outside the front door before they will be allowed inside the building. This will include a

temperature check. If a visitor has COVID-19 symptoms, is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the visitor will not be allowed on campus until they meet certain criteria. Parents will not be able to eat breakfast or lunch with their child.

### **Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- 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

### **Close Contact**

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close

contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

### **MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School**

#### **Facilities including those used for UIL events**

- WVISD will have hand sanitizer located at each entrance, each classroom and other common areas.
- On the first day of school, students will be provided instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices including how to wash hands for at least 20 seconds. Reminders will also be posted throughout the school.
- Students, teachers and staff will be encouraged to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- WVISD will institute more frequent cleaning and sanitizing practices, including additional cleaning and sanitizing by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- WVISD will institute practices that allow more air flow into the building while maintaining student safety.
- UIL facilities, including locker rooms, will be sanitized before and after events.

#### **Buses**

- School buses will have hand sanitizer on the bus near the entrance. Windows will be open to allow more air flow.
- Students will sit in their assigned seat. Families will sit together.
- Students will keep their face covering on while riding the bus. If a student does not have a face covering available, a disposable mask will be provided.
- School buses will be disinfected after each trip.
- When possible, families are encouraged to drop off/pick up students or carpool to reduce the possible virus exposure on buses due to the challenges of social distancing on the bus.
- Elementary students will be dropped off at the elementary bell tower.

- Junior High and High School students will be dropped off in front of the high school.

### Meals

- Per the governor's order, students will not have to wear a face covering while eating. They will need to wear it while in line immediately before and after eating.
- Elementary students will grab their breakfast as they enter the elementary school. They will then go to their classroom to eat. Reminder: The school day starts at 7:45 this year and ends at 3:45.
- Junior High and High School students will grab their breakfast from the cafeteria and go directly to their first period class.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. All lunch times will be staggered and we will utilize the middle gym for seating to maintain social distancing.

### Face Covering and Social Distancing

- WVISD is required to comply with the governor's executive orders regarding the wearing of face coverings.  
<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-29-use-of-face-coverings-during-COVID-19-IMAGE-07-02-2020.pdf>
- All employees and students 4th grade and up will have to wear a face covering according to the governor's order, UIL and TEA guidelines.
- **Any student claiming an exception to the governor's executive order will need to have a doctor's note excusing them from wearing a face covering.**
- Face coverings can be anything that covers both the mouth and nose. Examples are face masks, face shields, and gaiters.
- Students are encouraged to provide their own face covering. Choose one that is comfortable and convenient to put on and take off frequently. The school will be able to provide a disposable mask in the case a student forgets their face covering. The school may be able to provide one reusable mask if needed.
- Per TEA: It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields.

However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

- WVISD will encourage social distancing where feasible without disrupting the educational experience. When possible desks will be placed six feet apart. More frequent hand washing or sanitizing will be used when social distancing is not feasible.

### **PE/Recess/Electives/Assemblies**

- We will continue important activities related to recess, PE, and other electives with some modifications.
- Faculty and staff will make modifications to activities (when feasible) to increase social distancing.
- The district may limit or eliminate school-wide/grade-level assemblies and large gatherings of students.

### **Water Fountains**

- Water fountains will not be available this year. Students may bring water bottles. The school will look into ways to provide water for students in a safe and healthy way.

### **Response**

#### **If Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

1. If an individual who has been in WVISD buildings is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, WVISD 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).
2. WVISD must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

## **Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19**

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until WVISD screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - iii. at least ten days have passed since 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, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> that comes back negative for COVID-19.

## **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

- WVISD must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- WVISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

# Remote Learning Plan 2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 school year, families who have students that attend Water Valley ISD have the option of Remote Learning. This plan will outline the requirements and important information for Remote Learning.

## Who may choose Remote Learning?

- Any student in Kindergarten – 12th grade may choose remote learning.
- Once a family chooses remote learning, the student is locked into the format for the entire six weeks grading period. If they want to return to In-person learning, they must inform the school two weeks prior to the end of the current six weeks grading period.

## Requirements of Home Learning:

- **Curriculum** – For K-5th grade, the remote learning will be provided by either: Seesaw, Bright Thinker, or Texas Home Learning from TEA. This program will be monitored by an assigned teacher. For grades 6th-12th, remote learning will be provided by Bright Thinker and monitored by an assigned teacher. In order for remote learning to fully meet the needs of the students, they will need access to the internet to complete their assignments.
- **Attendance** – The minimum attendance for class credit rule of TEC, 25.092, will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote Learning attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement. Attendance will be documented in the Learning Management System and/or by completion and submission of daily assignments. For K-5th grade, students are required to complete a minimum of 3 hours per day of engagement to meet attendance requirements. In grades 6th-12th, students are required to complete a minimum of 4 hours per day of engagement to meet attendance requirements.
- **Grading** – The Grading policy as defined in the Water Valley ISD Student Handbook will be in effect for all remote learners and in person learners for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be required to complete all daily assignments, tests, and projects by their due dates in order to get full credit.

- **Teacher Contact** – Teachers will have set office hours they are available for remote learners. Those hours will be posted. Teachers will not be able to assist students outside of their available hours. Students will be provided with set times each day to check in with a teacher. During virtual meetings, students must adhere to dress code and student code of conduct. Students must attend virtual meetings with video turned on and interact with their supervising teacher.
- **Electives** – There will be a limited number of elective classes available to remote learners. Ag, Athletics, Theatre, Art (other than Art History) and BIM classes will not be available. Electives that may be available include:
  - 7th grade: Middle School Art, Career Prep
  - 8th grade: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, STAAR prep
  - 9th grade: Art History, Music Appreciation, STAAR prep
  - 10th grade: Art History, Music Appreciation, STAAR prep
  - 11th/12th grade: Art History, Music Appreciation, Business Management, Personal Finance
- **STAAR/EOC and Other Testing** – All STAAR and EOC tests will be required to be completed as well as any district mandated testing such as NWEA MAP, Amplify, and Interim assessments.
- **Completion Protocols** – Students not making progress, not completing academic assignments or option not to participate during the school year, will be eligible for summer school or virtual summer school. For promotion to the next grade level, students will need to have completed the requirements outlined in this grading policy. A Grade Placement Committee (GPC) will be formed for any student at risk for being retained.
- **Receiving and Returning School Work** – If the family is able to access the internet, effectively all activities should be done online, which will eliminate any public health risk associated with providing instructional support. There will NOT be delivery of materials during remote learning. Any resources needed will have to be picked up from the school.
- **Technology Devices** – Technology devices will be issued to families requesting a device and signing a district issued device agreement form. This form outlines the acceptance and agreement to adhere to the guidelines and responsibilities of the device protection plan. If the device is lost or deemed to be damaged due to negligence as defined by school administration, replacement and/or repair cost may be assessed.
- **Lunches** - Lunches will be provided for remote learners. **However, lunches will have to be picked up in front of the high school between 10:45 and 11:30.** Families

need to inform the school by August 14 if they will be needing lunches. Please send an email to [cheryl.schovajsa@wvisd.net](mailto:cheryl.schovajsa@wvisd.net) with the names and grade of your children needing meals.

- **Extra-Curricular** – Remote learners WILL NOT be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities (Athletics, FFA, OAP, Band, UIL, etc.). If a student chooses remote learning and returns to In-person learning, they may be required to complete additional requirements prior to being allowed to participate (i.e. make up trainings, practices, etc.).