
Waco ISD COVID-19 Health Protocol

2020-2021

If a student reports to campus symptomatic:

- **If being dropped off by a parent:**
 - And experiencing the following: temperature over 100.0, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell, the student should not enter the building. They should immediately leave and contact their PCP (Primary Care Provider). Students with sore throat, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, runny or stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea **that is not normal for them** could be evaluated by the nurse in the morning isolation area. **Please note: students who are not feeling well should not report to campus.**
 - If a student is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 and has had close contact with someone who has tested positive in the last 14 days, they must not enter the building. They should notify their PCP immediately.
 - If elevated temperature is the only symptom, ask the parent to wait with the child for 5-10 minutes to see if the elevated body temperature is a result of the outside air temperature or temperature in the car (pull off to the side, circle back through the car line, sit in the shade, etc).
 - If after a cool down period, the temperature is still over 100.0, the parent will be asked to take the student home and contact their PCP, who will determine if testing is needed. Campus nurses will follow up with the family.
 - Please have temperature screeners document which students are being sent home and verify a working phone number so your nurse can reach out for details.
 - If the student is symptomatic, they must stay home a minimum of 10 days from when their symptoms began. After ten days, if the student does not have fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) and has improved symptoms, they can return. Negative tests are not required to end home isolation.

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- If the student wishes to return before the 10 day infectious period is over **AND** has not tested positive **AND** has not had a known exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, they must provide a written statement from a physician stating an alternate diagnosis.
 - If the student is in athletics, they must have a medical clearance to return to play per UIL rules.
 - **If the student rides the bus or walks to school without a parent:**
 - Take the student to the morning isolation area.
 - The nurse will triage students in order of arrival and determine who can go to class and who must be immediately picked up.
 - If there are a large number of students that need to be picked up, campus staff should help the nurse make phone calls to parents. Parents should pick up students as soon as possible, ideally within one hour. A reference script will be provided.
 - Once all students have left the morning isolation area, the area will be disinfected with an electrostatic sprayer using hospital grade disinfectant. This may be a holding area later in the day if a large number of students present with symptoms. The area will also be disinfected between students, in the middle of the day and after all students have left the building.
 - If the nurses office and/or isolation area have windows, please keep these windows open to allow outside air in. Bringing in outside air will decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19. All nurses offices will have medical grade air purifiers.

If the student becomes symptomatic during the school day:

- **Contact the nurse to inform her that you will be sending a student down with COVID-19 symptoms. The nurse will isolate the student, assess and use their nursing judgement to determine if the student needs to be immediately picked up.**
 - All students who are sent home for COVID-19 symptoms must isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms began. If a student wishes to return before the 10 day infectious period is over, they must provide a written doctor's release with an alternate diagnosis. If they have a known COVID-19 exposure, they must quarantine 14 days from their last exposure, regardless of testing results.
 - Students with fever, any respiratory symptoms, or loss of taste or smell will be considered COVID positive until proven otherwise. Students experiencing headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy

nose, fatigue or muscle pain will be investigated further by the campus nurse. The campus nurse will take into past medical history if available.

- Parents should provide the campus with correct phone numbers at all times. Parents should pick up their child as soon as possible, ideally, within one hour. Campus staff should not transport symptomatic students in their personal vehicles.
- Students who are being tested for COVID-19 cannot return to campus until their test results come back. If the results are negative and the student has not had a known exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, they can return before the 10 day period is up if they have a written physician's statement and alternate diagnosis. The physician may give a note to the parent to provide to the campus. The physician does not have to directly provide the documentation to the campus. All students with pending test results cannot report to campus until results are communicated to the campus nurse.
- Once the student leaves the clinic/isolation area, any surface the student touched will be disinfected.

If a student is exposed to COVID-19 outside of school:

- **Parents should immediately report a COVID-19 exposure to the school.**
 - The student should be isolated from other students until their parent arrives.
 - The student must quarantine for 14 days from their last close contact with the person who tested positive.
 - If the student does not experience symptoms of COVID-19, they will be allowed to return after their quarantine period is complete. A negative test is not required to return.
 - Others on the campus are not at risk of exposure to COVID-19 unless the student begins to show symptoms/test positive within two days of their last day on campus. An exposure to someone who was exposed to someone who tested positive is considered very little, to no identifiable risk of developing COVID-19.
- **If the student lives with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:**
 - If possible, the person who tested positive should be isolated from other individuals in the home. If they can isolate

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- themselves and have no further close contact, the student's 14 day quarantine will start on the date of the last close contact.
 - If the person who tested positive cannot isolate from the other individuals in the home, the student's 14 day quarantine will begin after that individual's infectious period is over, which is about 10 days. In order to end home isolation (no longer considered infectious/contagious), a person must meet the following criteria:
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms began **AND**
 - 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen **AND**
 - Symptoms improved
 - Once the individual who tested positive has met the above criteria, the other individuals in the home will begin their 14 day quarantine.
 - The campus nurse and health services department will help to verify these dates.
 - If there are other WISD students and/or employees living in the home, the campus nurses will collaborate in order to identify and quarantine all affected students and employees.

If a parent notifies the school that their child tested positive:

- **Elementary Response:**
 - Parents should immediately notify the campus if their child tests positive for COVID-19.
 - All students in an elementary class that have been within 6 feet for more than 15 cumulative minutes during the infectious period will be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to the student who tested positive. If we are unable to determine which students have been in close contact with a student who has tested positive, it is possible that the entire class could be quarantined. Campus staff will gather the following information; class size, room size and layout, distancing measures in place, time in the classroom, activities performed in the classroom and which students are seated directly around the student who tested positive. Waco ISD will contact trace to the best of our abilities and the Director of Health Services will give the information available to the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District for their final determination.

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- Be aware that this may affect more than the student's classroom. We will need to assess bus arrangements, any shared environments, campus staff that may have been within close contact and any district staff that is providing direct services to the student.
 - Seating charts and keeping students in the same small groups for all activities (including specials and lunch) will decrease their exposure risk.
 - All parents of students who have had close contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified immediately and students should be picked up within one hour.
 - Written notification will be provided to all students and staff members when a positive case is identified on campus. This notification contains general information on COVID-19, symptoms to watch for, and local resources. Individual student and staff member identities will not be released. Waco ISD will protect the privacy of all students and staff that test positive or are exposed to COVID-19.
 - All close contacts will receive a phone call detailing the date of exposure, quarantine requirements and symptoms to watch for. A written letter will also be provided.
 - If there are other WISD students living in the home, the campus nurses will collaborate in order to identify and quarantine all affected students.
 - Areas of the building that the individual who tested positive utilized will be deep cleaned within 24 hours. Waco ISD uses hospital grade disinfectant.
 - **Secondary Response:**
 - The campus staff will collect the following information; class size, room size and layout, distancing measures in place, time in classroom, activities performed in the classroom for each class period and extracurricular activity. Extracurricular activities will be closely investigated to ensure all students who may have had close contact are identified. The Director of Health Services will report this information to the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District and collaborate to determine which students and staff members will need to quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the individual who tested positive.
 - Be aware that this may affect more than the student's classroom. We will need to assess bus arrangements, any shared environments, campus staff that may have

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- been within close contact and any district staff that is providing direct services to the student.
- Seating charts will greatly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of contact tracing at the secondary level.
 - All parents of students who have had close contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified immediately and students should be picked up within one hour.
 - Written notification will be provided to all students and staff members when a positive case is identified on campus. This notification contains general information on COVID-19, symptoms to watch for, and local resources. Individual student and staff member identities will not be released. Waco ISD will protect the privacy of all students and staff that test positive or are exposed to COVID-19.
 - All close contacts will receive a phone call detailing the date of exposure, quarantine requirements and symptoms to watch for. A written letter will also be provided.
 - If there are other WISD students living in the home, the campus nurses will collaborate in order to identify and quarantine all affected students.
 - Areas of the building that the individual who tested positive utilized will be deep cleaned within 24 hours. Waco ISD uses hospital grade disinfectant.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is isolation?**
 - Isolation is separating an infected person from others. A person in isolation should maintain six feet of space from others, sleep in a separate room and use a separate bathroom when possible, avoid sharing food or drinks and wear a mask anytime they are around other people. The isolation period is a minimum of 10 days. Isolation can be ended when at least 10 days have passed since symptoms began AND the individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication AND has improved symptoms. A negative test is not required to end home isolation.
- **What is quarantine?**
 - Quarantine is separating individuals who currently appear healthy but who have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. The quarantine period is 14 days

from the last exposure to the individual who tested positive.
Quarantine cannot be ended early by testing.

- **What is an infectious period?**

- The infectious period begins 2 days before symptoms start and continues at least 10 days after symptoms appear. The infectious period is considered resolved after a minimum of 10 days have passed, the individual has not had fever in at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and their symptoms are improved. This is also known as the contagious period. This is when an individual with COVID-19 can transmit the virus to others.

- **What is the incubation period?**

- The incubation period takes place 2-14 days after exposure to COVID-19. Once exposed, an individual may begin showing symptoms as early as two days or as late as 14 days. 50% of cases will show symptoms in 5-7 days. 95% of cases will show symptoms by day 14.

- **What is close contact?**

- A close contact exposure is when someone has been around an individual that tested positive during the infectious period:
 - Physical contact: kissing
 - Making contact with secretions: being coughed or sneezed directly on or handling a tissue with secretions on it without wearing gloves and/or washing your hands, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes
 - Being less than 6 feet for more than 15 cumulative minutes **with or without a mask**
 - Sharing a space for a prolonged period of time

- **What is asymptomatic?**

- A person who tests positive for COVID-19 but does not have any symptoms. Individuals that are asymptomatic **can** spread the virus.

- **What is presymptomatic?**

- The period of times when a person is infectious but has not begun showing symptoms yet.

- **Which students should be sent to the nurse's office?**

- Any student that is displaying/complaining of symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Temperature over 100.0
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Sore throat

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- Runny or congested nose
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
 - Muscle aches
 - Fatigue
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Student who takes medication on campus - Nurse may also come to the classroom to administer medication.
 - Students with known medical conditions that require the nurse's assistance
 - Any suspected head injury - **Call the nurse to the classroom**
 - New or worsening injury
 - Allergic reactions
 - Burns
 - Seizures - **Call the nurse to the classroom**
 - Symptoms of high or low blood sugar - **Call the nurse to the classroom if the student is disoriented or acting out of character**
 - **Which students should remain in the classroom for assistance?**
 - Scratches/scrapes/blisters that can be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe and covered with a bandaid - **This will be provided to each teacher**
 - Loose teeth - Tooth treasure boxes/necklaces and gauze can be provided to teachers
 - Bathroom accidents if the student is able to clean themselves and change clothes in a private restroom.
 - Dresscode concerns
 - Bathroom needs/menstrual issues - Menstrual pads can be provided in the nurse's office, but will be given at the door as to not expose any students to COVID-19 unnecessarily. There should also be a secondary location on campus where a student can receive these items (consider placing them with the nurse backup). Students coming to the nurse's office to use the restroom should consider alternative locations unless a medical need has been identified or arrangements have been made to accommodate a student's physical or psychological needs.
 - Requesting peppermints or snacks
 - To take a nap
 - Anxiety/mental health needs - **Contact Counselor**
 - **How will we track this information?**
 - Health services is working with IT to develop the most efficient way to track this data. It will be available to campus administrative staff and need to know staff members only. We must remember that even though we are in a pandemic, we

must make every effort to protect our staff and student's confidential medical information.