## Wylie ISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

### Reviewed and Updated August 2023

Wylie ISD continues to stay focused on keeping all of our students, staff and families safe. Below you will find an update to our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to update this document as needed and follow the health and safety rules and guidelines communicated from the Texas Education Agency. We will continue to have a Return to School plan until 2024 to comply with federal mandates.

#### Health and Safety Protocols-Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

#### Face Masks and COVID-19 Vaccinations

Masks and COVID-19 vaccinations will be optional for students, staff and visitors. On May 18, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting government entities, including school districts, from requiring face masks after June 4.

#### Positive Cases and Symptomatic Individuals (CDC COVID-19 Guidance)

- Families are expected to report positive student cases by reporting to the campus nurse.
- Positive students must isolate for 5 days following a positive test or onset of symptoms.
   They may return if all the following criteria are met:
  - 5 days have passed since symptoms began or if asymptomatic since positive test result, and
  - Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (acetaminophen, ibuprofen), and
  - Improvement in symptoms
- If a student is suspected of having COVID-19, they must be sent home and must isolate for 5 days after the onset of symptoms. They may return if one of the following criteria is met:
  - 5 day stay-at-home period, improvement in symptoms, and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, or
  - Obtain a negative COVID test, or
  - Alternate diagnosis from a medical professional
- Contract tracing will not take place by Wylie ISD, and students and staff will not be required to guarantine for exposure.

#### **Health & Safety Protocols**

We will continue our sanitization practices, which include enhanced cleaning of school buildings and buses. We will also promote frequent handwashing, sanitizer use, cough etiquette and other good hygiene practices. Campuses will continue to be provided hand sanitizer and additional cleaning supplies.

#### **COVID-19 Voluntary Testing Program**

Wylie ISD campuses are now able to conduct COVID testing on the individual campuses in the nurse's office. At this time, our district will not be offering curbside COVID testing as we did in previous years.

In the event your student presents to their campus nurse with multiple symptoms, the option to test by the nurse will be available.

Availability for testing is dependent on two factors:

- 1. A consent form must be filled out in Family Access before testing. Log in to Family Access and click on the button that says Online Forms.
- 2. Verbal consent must be given by parent/guardian at the time of the student clinic visit.

Please help us to keep our students and faculty healthy this school year by keeping your symptomatic student home. We do not want students sent to school to be tested. (Sep 2022) (Aug 2023)

#### Other Information

- Remote learning will not be offered this school year.
- We will continue to notify parents and staff of positive cases on campus through email and through our dashboard on the website (Aug 2022)
- Campuses will be open to visitors and volunteers as we resume standard operations.

Please know, should there be a need to make adjustments, you can be assured we will be ready and will keep you informed. More information about COVID-19, including FAQs, can be found on our website at <a href="https://www.wyliebulldogs.org/covid19">wyliebulldogs.org/covid19</a>.



# Wylie I.S.D. SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-24 It's Great To Be A Wylie Bulldog!



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Calendar Keys		
н	Student/Teacher Holidays: 9/4, 10/9, 11/20-24, 12/21-1/5, 3/11-15 3/29	
s	Staff Development Days 8/7-15, 5/24	
w	Student Holiday, Staff Development Day: 1/8, 2/16 (Waiver Day)	
ER	Student Early Release Days, Staff Development 12/20, 5/23	
SD	School Day	
A	WISD Closed - Alternative Staff Dev: 1/15, 2/19, 4/1 (Waiver Day)	
M	ay 24 - Graduation Day	

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2nd Six Weeks		Sept 25 - Nov 3	
3rd Six Weeks		Nov 6 - Dec 20	
4th Six Weeks		Jan 8 - Feb 16	
5th Six Weeks		Feb 19 - Apr 12	
6th	Six Weeks	Apr 15 - May 23	

For information on state testing dates, please consult the testing calendar that is located on the main page of our website. The calendar is based on a 435 minutes school day. We have enough minutes in the calendar to cover two bad weather days.

Calendar Information

#### **Teacher Contract Calendar**

Teachers are on an 187 day contract. The contract includes all days listed in this calendar plus five days in the summer that must be documented with the principal.

No evening activities will be scheduled on th lay before a STAAR/EOC test is given.

2/15/2023

www.wyliebulldogs.org

### **Continuity of Services Plan**

#### **Academic Instruction**

All instruction for WISD will be delivered on-campus, face-to-face. For specific questions about on-campus instruction at specific campuses, please contact the school's Principal.

#### **Transportation**

All transportation services will be available during the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend class at least 90% of the days the class is offered to receive credit. (Refer to the WISD student Handbook for additional attendance information)

#### **Food Services**

Last school year, a federal waiver and funding allowed Wylie ISD to provide free meals for all students. This waiver recently expired and the district will no longer be able to offer free meals for all students. Beginning this school year, students not participating in the free and reduced-meal program will be required to begin paying for meals again. (Aug 2023)

If you believe your family may qualify for free or reduced meals, we encourage you to fill out an application beginning August 1st. For more information on how to apply, please visit our food service website. (Aug 2022)

Wylie ISD Food Service Website

A school lunch includes a protein, whole grain, fruit, vegetable and milk. Menus are posted on our website or the Wylie ISD app.

#### Student and Employee Wellness Support

Wylie ISD counselors as well as licensed LSSPs are available on campuses to support students academically, socially and emotionally. Counselors are prepared to provide support for families and staff as well.

Our campuses partner with Communities in Schools. CIS engages students in learning through case management and whole school services. CIS site coordinators mentor children in need to ensure they have the proper support to succeed in life. CIS site coordinators ensure students have the physical and emotional resources with which to succeed in school. The CIS® evidence-based program provides academic and behavior support and directly responds to students' social and emotional needs. Case managed students receive targeted services based on identified needs in the areas of academic, behavioral, and attendance growth. The CIS® model directly addresses and supports all elements of a comprehensive school mental health system. In particular, CIS'® focus on placing well-trained professional staff on school campuses, actively connecting the school to community resources, conducting robust assessments of school needs and

resources, and providing a variety of supports within a multitiered system directly align with the identified comprehensive school mental health system elements.

### **COVID Response Plan FAQs**

#### Safety and Response

## If a student tests positive for COVID-19, can they come to school? (CDC COVID-19 Guidance) (August 2022)

Positive students must isolate for 5 days following a positive test or onset of symptoms. They may return if **all** the following criteria are met:

- 5 days have passed since symptoms began or if asymptomatic since positive test result, and
- Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (acetaminophen, ibuprofen), and
- o Improvement in symptoms

Students who are experiencing symptoms may be sent home and must isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms. They may return if one of the following criteria is met:

- 5 day stay-at-home period, or
- Obtain a negative COVID test, or
- Alternate diagnosis from a medical professional, AND
- Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (acetaminophen, ibuprofen), and
- Improvement in symptoms

Positive COVID-19 cases should be reported to your campus nurse. <u>Campus Nurse</u> Contact Information

#### How will guarantines and isolations work for 2023-2024? (August 2022)

Students and staff will not be required to quarantine for exposure. Students are not required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 and may attend school as long as they are not showing any symptoms of the disease.

Positive students will be required to isolate at home for at least 5 days from either positive test or onset of symptoms. Students must have improvement in symptoms and must be fever-free or without signs of a fever, diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours without the use of medications.

## If my student is sent to the nurse, can I request they administer a COVID test to my student? (August 2022)

Yes, if a student develops symptoms at school and is sent to the nurse, a student can receive a COVID test as long as there is parental consent on file. Do NOT send your child to school with symptoms to test. You can sign up for a COVID test to be

administered at the PAC. (August 2022) Please see our testing website for more information and how to complete a parent consent form. Wylie ISD COVID Testing Website (Aug 2023)

#### Will Wylie ISD accept a COVID-19 at-home test?

Wylie ISD will only accept COVID-19 test results from a medical provider or one administered through the school district. At-home test results will not be accepted by the district.

## If I, or someone in my home is positive for COVID-19, can I send my child to school?

Students are not required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 and may attend school as long as they are not showing any symptoms of the disease.

We ask that you closely monitor your child for any symptoms and recommend following the advice of your healthcare provider. Parents may also choose to keep students home to monitor for symptoms. If parents choose this optional quarantine, they should notify their campus as soon as possible.

#### Why are exposed students not required to stay at home?

We have not been given the authority to exclude students from their educational experience if they are not ill.

#### What social distancing efforts will be in place?

— When feasible, we will spread students out and utilize outdoor spaces. (August 2022)

#### Do staff and students need to complete daily self screening?

Daily self screening should be used as the method for parents and staff to report symptoms and positive cases.

#### Will we still actively promote hygiene protocols?

We will continue to actively promote frequent handwashing, sanitizer use, and cough etiquette.

#### How will we identify and respond to outbreaks?

We have a protocol in place for illness outbreaks. We work directly with the Taylor County Health Department for illness-specific guidance and follow CDC guidelines concerning outbreaks. .

#### Can we ask a campus to mask if they have several cases?

On May 18, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting government entities, including school districts, from requiring face masks after June 4, 2021.

#### What cleaning procedures will be in place?

We will continue to provide our normal daily cleaning services for spaces occupied by students and staff including disinfection of hard surfaces and high touch points using EPA N Listed products. Germblast also comes quarterly to deep clean the campuses.

#### Can you explain what safety measures will remain for this school year?

We will utilize a response plan should there be an escalation of positive cases on a campus, indicating transmission. In addition, we will continue our optional COVID-19 testing program in our district. Wylie ISD COVID-19 Optional Testing Program

#### Will you provide any PPE?

We will continue to provide hand sanitizer and additional cleaning supplies to campuses.

## If my child has been exposed to someone outside of school who is positive, do I need to report that?

You will only need to report your child's positive test results and/or symptoms to your campus nurse.

## Will parents be allowed in schools for events such as lunch, volunteering, and assemblies?

Yes. Parents and volunteers will be allowed in our buildings.

#### **Vaccinations**

#### Can we opt for our child to be in a class with a vaccinated teacher?

No. We are not able to share any medical records of our teachers

## Can we ask that our child's teacher, if they have chosen not to be vaccinated, to mask?

No. Masking is optional and to the discretion of the staff member and/or student/parent.

#### Will Wylie ISD require that I vaccinate my child?

No. We will not require any student, nor staff member to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### Does Wylie ISD have data about how many total employees are vaccinated?

No, we do not have the exact number of vaccinated staff members. Wylie ISD does not retain personal medical records of our staff.

#### Can Wylie ISD share how many students and their families are vaccinated?

We do not have a database with this information, nor can we require that this information be shared with the school district.

#### Can you require the COVID vaccine to all just like MMR, DPT, etc.?

The vaccine for COVID 19 is not on the required list of vaccines, as noted by the <u>Department of State Health Services</u>.

#### Continuity of Services/Remote Learning and Instruction

#### Will remote learning be offered this school year?

Remote learning will not be offered this school year. State lawmakers did not pass legislation that would fund remote instruction, therefore it will not be offered as a future learning option for the students in Wylie ISD.

## For students who have to isolate (Positive case or symptomatic), how will they receive instruction?

Individual campuses will work with students on getting classroom assignments.

- Is Remote Conferencing going to be implemented? (August 2022)
- Remote Conferencing will be used when needed.

#### **Employees**

#### May a teacher or staff member ask students to wear a mask in their classroom?

No, teachers and/or staff members may not ask a student to mask in their classroom. Masking is optional for both students and staff.

#### Will Wylie ISD require that I get vaccinated as an employee?

No, we will not require employees to get vaccinated.

#### If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, will they be required to use their days? Employees will need to use their local and state days.

As a reminder, employees can also sign up for the Sick Leave Bank which provides additional leave days in the event of catastrophic illness, surgery, or temporary disability due to an injury.

#### **Coordination with State and Local Health Officials**

Wylie ISD will remain in communication with local health and state officials concerning any changes or safety updates pertaining to COVID-19. These changes will be updated (when appropriate) and included in the six-month update.

#### Stakeholder Input

In compliance with the Interim Final Requirements, Wylie ISD sought stakeholder input for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan from all groups listed in the IFR, as represented within the school district's boundaries, including school board members, teachers, principals, staff and administrators, families and students and individuals representing underserved students such as special education and English language learning students. This information was received via email surveys, District Advisory Council meetings and opportunities for public comment at school board meetings during June 2021, July 2021, March 2022 and September 2022.

July 2021-Adjustments were made to our plan including continuing extensive sanitation practices and providing the COVID-19 testing program for all students and staff.

March 2022-No Revisions Made

August/September 2022-Revisions made and noted with date

August 2023-Revisions made and noted with date