

Grapeland ISD

Return to School Plan

2021 - 2022



Mr. Don Jackson
Superintendent of Grapeland ISD

Grades PK3 - 12

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Welcome Back

Grapeland ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 18, 2021. Despite the ongoing challenges with COVID-19, our campuses will continue to provide an excellent education to our students on campus this year. As the public health crisis continues, we have been planning for the opening of the 2021 - 2022 school year with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students, and community.



COVID-19 Response

The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Grapeland ISD website will provide you with the most up-to-date information.



Custodial Protocols

- All classrooms and restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Sanitizing of classrooms, common areas, and hallways will be conducted with EPA approved disinfectants daily.
- Custodial staff will continue to focus on cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces in offices, hallways, common areas, and restrooms during the school day.
- Students and staff will have access to hand sanitizer.



Protocols for Mask / Face Coverings

In accordance with Governor Abbott's most recent Executive Order GA-38, Grapeland ISD may not require the use of face coverings. Students and staff who wish to wear face coverings are certainly encouraged to do so.

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Transportation

The District's plan includes continuing to provide bus transportation to and from school to all families who desire it.

- Students are required to stay home if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- Students who wish to wear face coverings are certainly encouraged to do so.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on buses for students to use as they board.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between routes.



Before Arriving to School

The health and safety of GISD staff and students is a top priority. Students and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present any of the following symptoms that are not normal for them should stay home :

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 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

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Isolation Protocols

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.

Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

If an individual who has been in a school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the district will notify the local health department and the Department of State Health Services, 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).



Class Transitions

- Mask wearing is optional for students.
- Good hand hygiene is important for health and safety.
- Hand sanitizer will be available, but students are encouraged to have their own supply if possible for more frequent use.
- Students will be expected to not congregate in hallways/restrooms/etc.
- Students are expected to keep moving - no loitering.



UIL & Extracurricular Activities

- Practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from UIL and TEA.
- The most recent guidance from UIL is available at <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>

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Quarantine Protocols

- Close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated or individuals who have had COVID-19 within the last 3 months are not considered close contacts.
- Individuals who have been notified that they were in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 should monitor for symptoms and **may** opt to stay at home during the recommended stay-at-home period.
- If you choose to quarantine after being identified as close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19, please note the following:
 - Students may choose to quarantine after being in close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Students/Parents are encouraged to contact their teachers through email to receive makeup work during their absence.
 - Staff who choose to quarantine after being identified as close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 must notify their supervisor and follow Grapeland ISD procedures for leaves and absences in accordance with board policy and the GISD Employee Handbook.

Staff

- Paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave as afforded by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) through December 31, 2020, and as extended by the Grapeland ISD board of trustees expired on June 30, 2021.

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COVID-19 Return to Work / School Protocols

- In the event that an GISD teacher, staff, or student is confirmed positive for COVID-19, they must stay at home throughout the infectious period.
- In accordance with the [Department of State Health Services](#) (DSHS) rule, individuals who have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school as specified below:
 - COVID-19 *with Symptoms*:
 - At least 10 days have passed since their symptom onset and
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Other symptoms have improved

Note: loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

- COVID-19 *without Symptoms*:
 - 10 days have passed since a positive test sample was taken
- *If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive 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 to return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or*
 - (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or another site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.*