



Wellman- Union Health and Safety Protocols 2021-22

As of January 3, 2022

This plan is based on the public health situation as we understand it today and takes effect immediately for the 2021-2022 school year. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this plan.

Wellman-Union ISD plans to return to 100% in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year starting August 18, 2021 and we are excited to welcome everyone back! At this time, no remote learning options will be offered and face coverings will be optional, regardless of vaccination status. Currently, per [Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order](#), Wellman-Union ISD can not legally require masks. The remote conferencing option will only be available if a student is in quarantine.

We will continue to monitor and reassess as conditions dictate. The District may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community. The following guidelines are in accordance with direction from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State of Texas.

Face Coverings

Masks Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38. School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Vaccinations

Per [Gov. Abbott's order](#), Wellman-Union ISD will not require students or staff to get vaccinated. At this time, the State of Texas has not added the COVID-19 vaccination to the required immunization list for students.

COVID-19 Reporting/Tracking

As partners working together to maintain a healthy school environment, we ask parents and employees to report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to the school district. Parents should report positive cases to the school nurse; employees should report to administration. Staff will not conduct close contact reviews.

Students Who Are Close Contacts

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are fully vaccinated may not need to follow the stay-at-home period.

As noted above, public health authorities will be notified of all positive cases in schools. While school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 case investigations, local public health entities have authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in cooperative efforts on that front. Participation by individuals in these investigations remains voluntary. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system must notify the student's parents.

School systems may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during the below stay-at-home period if they are in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.

Independent of whether a school system chooses to implement the above requirement, parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. In cases when it is permitted, parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 10-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on **Day 5** after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.

Alternatively, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

During the stay-at-home period, the school system may deliver remote instruction consistent with the practice of remote conferencing outlined in the proposed *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* (SAAH) rules.

12.3.1 Remote Conferencing—Regular Education Students If your school district provides instruction through remote conferencing to a regular education student, your district may count that instruction as classroom time for FSP funding purposes and count the student in attendance for FSP funding purposes, provided certain requirements are met.

These two requirements must be met:

1. The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.
2. The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year.

In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
- The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7.
- The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.

Students Who Have COVID-19

If a student has a confirmed case of COVID, please contact the school nurse. Please refrain from sending symptomatic or sick students to school. If staff have a confirmed case of COVID, please contact district administration. Staff should not report to work if they are sick or symptomatic.

As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the DSHS rule for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

During the exclusion period, the school system may deliver remote instruction consistent with the practice of remote conferencing outlined in the proposed *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* (SAAH) rules.

Per the CDC, those who test positive for COVID must **isolate for 5 days** from the date of the positive test. See “Absences” below.

Wellman-Union ISD will continue to send students home who have a fever, diarrhea, are vomiting, lose sense of taste or smell, or display significant symptoms of illness.

If an individual has tested positive for COVID 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 for return based on an alternative diagnosis, or (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID.

Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Staff may return when the re-entry conditions have been met, as described in the DSHS rule used for students.

For staff who are not fully vaccinated who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, it is recommended that the school system require that staff remain off campus during the stay-at-home period, but this is a local employment policy decision.

Absences for COVID

If a student must quarantine after testing positive for COVID, the school/teacher will implement the following:

- Provide synchronous instruction/remote conferencing

COVID-19 Testing

At this time, the District is not offering COVID-19 testing.

Visitors & Meetings

Visitors will be allowed on campus according to standard visiting rules. Please check in through the front office. Meetings will be allowed on campus without capacity restrictions and face coverings will not be required.

Cleaning/Sanitation Protocols

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. Wellman-Union ISD will continue with cleaning and sanitization protocols throughout the building. Sanitization procedures (Including disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer) will remain

throughout the building. The District has Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for students or staff upon request.

Extra-Curricular Activities

All extra-curricular activities will resume with no capacity or participation restrictions. Students and spectators will not be required to wear face coverings.

Resources & Support

As we transition to a less restrictive learning environment with 100% capacities in our schools, Wellman-Union ISD is committed to supporting our students and staff in their learning and working environments.

For social-emotional support, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Becker at mbecker@esc17.net

If a student has a health-related issue, please contact the school nurse Mrs. McCrary at vmccrary@esc17.net. Employees should contact district administration.

Board Reviewed August 9, 2021

