



GUIDE FOR THE 2021-2022

# SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN



## **Mission: “Developing the Whole Child”**

Goose Creek CISD develops and enhances each learner’s intellectual, social, and emotional well-being facilitated by a highly qualified team committed to Growth, Community, Collaboration, Innovation, Success and Determination.

LAST REVISED: 08/24/2021

# INTRODUCTION



**DR. RANDAL O'BRIEN**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Goose Creek CISD Families,

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, I want to personally thank you for your continued investment in our district. It is because of you that we are able to give our students the best there is to offer in education. The safety and security of our students and staff are of the utmost importance and we will continue to do what is best for them. For nearly two years, our district has operated following the Safe Return to Schools plan. This document, which is fluid, contains protocols set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and local health officials. We encourage all students and staff to follow the recommended safety guidelines that have been established. Though we have made the difficult decision to not offer virtual instruction this year, we are currently working on various instructional platforms and avenues to reach our students that may have fallen behind due to the pandemic and we are confident that we are prepared to offer a safe learning environment for our more than 23,000 students. Our Executive Council and the COVID-19 Taskforce meet regularly to discuss the pandemic and what

that means for the district. As conditions change with COVID-19, the Taskforce will update and modify our plan as needed.

Our district did an amazing job last school year communicating active COVID-19 cases via the COVID-19 Dashboard. We will continue to use our COVID Dashboard again this year as long as the need persists. The Dashboard will serve as our primary communication method for all COVID-related case notifications and will provide Campus Response Levels that reflect active positive cases throughout the district. The Dashboard will allow our families and staff to review the number of active COVID cases at each campus. All positive cases will be reported to our local and state health authorities. Our job is to provide the world with the next group of GCCISD GIANTS and with this plan and the buy-in from our stakeholders, I believe we can do just that.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randal O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "O".

**DR. RANDAL O'BRIEN**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## PURPOSE

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for Goose Creek CISD schools, staff, students, and families as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. The safety protocols from the 2020-2021 Safe Return to School Plan have been modified and adjusted based on several factors listed below. Goose Creek CISD will continue to work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), state and local health authorities, and the Texas Department of Health & Human Services (TDHHS) to take appropriate action. This plan may be expanded, modified, or eliminated based on COVID-19 activity in our community throughout the school year.

This plan is intended to meet the Texas Governor's Executive Orders, TEA guidelines, University Inter-Scholastic League (UIL) and all federal, state, and local public health department orders as best possible, while still providing in-person learning and participation in student programs.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE LEVELS



*This plan is subject to change based on revisions by state or local authorities.*

# PREVENTION PROTOCOLS

## SELF HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Attendance remains a priority for Goose Creek CISD. All enrolled students will attend school in person in 2021-2022. The Daily COVID-19 Self-Health Assessment should be completed before arriving to school/work each day. Students and staff who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will stay home and follow the guidelines in this plan. Campus nurses will continue to assess symptomatic students according to their protocols.



### DAILY COVID-19 SELF-HEALTH ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

- 1** Take your temperature each day before going to school/work. If you (or your child) have a fever, stay home. If you have no fever, proceed forward with the rest of the screening questions.
- 2** In the last 48 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms unrelated to any other medical conditions that you already have?
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Diarrhea
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Headache
  - Chills or shaking/exaggerated shivering
  - New or unexplained loss of taste or smell
  - New or unexplained difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  - New or unexplained fatigue
  - New or unexplained cough
  - New or unexplained significant muscle pain or aches
- 3** Students and staff who answered YES to any of the above should not return to school or work until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and symptoms have improved. Individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should consider isolating to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others. Other considerations and recommendations from health officials include testing and wearing a mask or face covering in public.

Furthermore, Goose Creek CISD Policy DBB (Local) permits the District to require medical documentation from an employee who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease.
- 4** Parents/Families should notify the school nurse if your child has a confirmed COVID-19 test for further instructions.

Staff should notify their supervisor if they tested positive for COVID-19, as well as Stephanie Myers, Director of Employee Health & Wellness.

Stephanie Myers • Phone: 281.707. 3601 • Email: stephanie.myers@gccisd.net



Scan the QR code or go to [www.gccisd.net/page/COVID-19-SafeReturn-202021](http://www.gccisd.net/page/COVID-19-SafeReturn-202021) to view the Self Health Assessment online.

# PREVENTION PROTOCOLS

## POSITIVE COVID TESTS AND REPORTING

Goose Creek CISD is required to report positive COVID cases to local and state health authorities.

### Students Who Test Positive For COVID-19

- ▶ Parents or family members should inform the campus nurse if their child has tested positive for COVID.
- ▶ Per the Texas Department of State Health Services, students who test positive for COVID will not attend face to face instruction until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- ▶ Students who test positive for COVID will be able to participate in Remote Conferencing Instruction during this time in order to be counted as present and stay up to date with their classes.
- ▶ Students who do not participate in Remote Conferencing Instruction will be counted absent.

### Staff Who Test Positive For COVID-19

- ▶ Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should report this to their supervisor and the Director of Employee Health & Wellness.
- ▶ Staff who test positive for COVID will be directed to isolate for 10 days since symptom onset.
- ▶ Staff members may return to work once the isolation period has ended, other symptoms have improved, and fever free for 24 hours.
- ▶ Goose Creek CISD Policy DBB (Local) permits the District to require medical documentation from an employee who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease. Staff must provide documentation of a positive COVID test to the supervisor and Director of Employee Health & Wellness.

### Direct Exposure to COVID-19

Individuals who have had close contact or exposure with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 may consider self-isolating for 10 days after the date of last contact as recommended by health authorities. Individuals should monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and consider wearing a face covering if choosing to return to work/school prior to the end of the 10 day quarantine period. Individuals may also consider testing for COVID-19. Students who have direct exposure to COVID in the household may qualify for Remote Conferencing Instruction. Documentation will be required. Goose Creek CISD will not implement contact tracing at this time.

### Case Reporting

Goose Creek CISD will provide communication regarding COVID cases using the COVID Dashboard. Families, staff, and students will be able to access the Dashboard to see the daily active COVID cases at each facility. The COVID Dashboard will also provide the Campus Response Levels similar to the previous year. The Dashboard will serve as the primary communication method for reporting active COVID cases to the community. Individualized notices of confirmed cases for classrooms or campuses may be sent if there has been evidence of direct exposure.



# PREVENTION PROTOCOLS



## FACE COVERINGS

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The Texas Education Agency reiterated that face coverings and masks are optional for the 2021-2022 school year at this time. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently recommending the use of masks due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. We encourage everyone who wishes to wear a face covering to do so, especially anyone who is not vaccinated. While we are all eager to reach the point in which masks are no longer needed, evidence still suggests that face coverings are effective in helping to prevent the spread of COVID. Students and staff may choose to add an extra layer of protection by wearing a face covering at school/work.

## DESK SHIELDS

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Desk shields will be optional for the 2021-2022 school year. Desk shields will be stored at each facility for possible use. Students and families/parents may request a desk shield in the classroom(s). Teachers and other employees may utilize desk shields on their own desks.

## VISITORS

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Visitors are allowed on campus for appointments and emergencies after passing the COVID assessment screening questionnaire. Virtual meetings may continue to be an option for parent conferences.

Parents and family members will not be permitted to eat lunch with their child on campus for the first grading period of school (9 weeks). Visitor access will be reassessed at each grading period to determine if this restriction will be removed based on active COVID cases at that time. Parents or family members will be permitted to drop off lunches in the front office.

Visitors will be permitted to attend specific campus events, such as UIL athletic competitions, fine arts performances, and open house. Visitor attendance to these types of events are voluntary in nature. In addition, parents or family members will be permitted to walk their child to class on the first day of school. Goose Creek CISD believes that providing this social emotional support, especially to young children, is important.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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Goose Creek CISD will continue to implement safety protocols to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. These safety protocols include the following:

- ▶ Hand sanitizers in all classrooms
- ▶ Cleaning supplies provided in classrooms
- ▶ Sanitize high touch surfaces throughout the day
- ▶ Sanitize/deep clean classrooms if there has been a known COVID exposure
- ▶ Educating students on proper use of water fountains; recommended staff monitoring of water fountains
- ▶ Buses will be sanitized between shifts

# RESOURCES

myGC > CALENDARS > DIRECTORY > NEWS HUB > PHOTO GALLERY > TAX OFFICE

SEARCH... 



**GOOSE CREEK**  
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL START TIMES

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

ABOUT US BOARD CAREERS DEPARTMENTS EMPLOYEES STUDENTS & PARENTS

▼ CAMPUSES



COVID-19 Safe Return to School Plan

## PURPOSE

Provide guidance for Goose Creek CISD schools, staff, students, and families as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. The safety protocols in the Safe Return to School Plan have been modified and adjusted based on several factors listed below. Goose Creek CISD will continue to work with the Texas Department of Health to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

### VIEW THE SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN ONLINE

Scan the QR code or go to [www.gccisd.net/page/COVID-19-SafeReturn-202021](http://www.gccisd.net/page/COVID-19-SafeReturn-202021) to view the Safe Return to School Plan online.



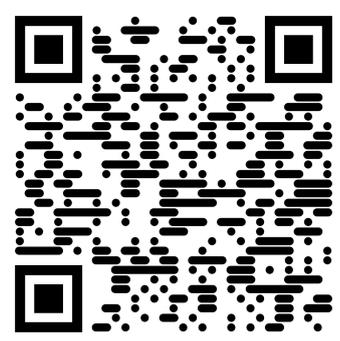
## RESOURCE LINKS



Texas Education Agency



Harris County Public Health



Center for Disease Control

HERE,  
WE GROW  
**GIANTS**



GOOSE CREEK CISD  DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD