

GRAFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLDISTRICT

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan



Revised August 1, 2021

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-34, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-34 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Graford ISD Prevention and Response Protocol has been revised to reflect the contents of the TEA's School Health Operations Requirements, found at <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>.

This document takes effect August 1, 2021, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance.

This guidance addresses:

- On-campus instruction
- Administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses
- Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- Any other activities that teachers, staff, or students must complete

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, 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).
2. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-36 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-36.

School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Additionally, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC, see [here](#).

Facility Cleaning

Upgraded cleaning procedures will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Continuity of Service (academic, social, emotional, mental health, food services, and other needs)

All services will be face-to-face for all students beginning 8/18/2021.