

Garner ISD COVID-19 Health & Wellness Protocols

COVID-19 Exposure or Diagnosis

Students and Staff **MUST** go or stay home if:

- Lab diagnosed with COVID-19

Staff **MUST** and Students **ARE ENCOURAGED** to stay home if they have:

- Close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 by:
 - Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (ex: being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield) OR
 - Being within 6 ft. for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes while not wearing a mask or face shield

AND

- The contact occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. An individual is presumed infectious:
 - At least 2 days prior to onset of symptoms OR
 - If asymptomatic, 2 days prior to lab confirmed diagnosis

COVID-19 Symptoms – *“Experienced in a way that is not normal for the individual”*

Adults **MUST** self-screen (incl. temp check) and stay or go home

Parents self-screen their students & may request temp. check at bus pick-up or am drop off.

Students who exhibit any of these during the school day will be immediately separated from other students, screened, and sent home.

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough, Difficulty breathing or Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Chills, Shaking, or Exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle ache or pain
- Diarrhea

Conditions for Return

Any individual who is lab-diagnosed with COVID-19 OR

Any individual who is symptomatic but is not evaluated by medical professional or tested OR

Any staff member who is directly exposed to a person lab-confirmed to have COVID-19...

May return to campus when all 3 of the following criteria are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hrs) have passed since recovery & fever-free without medication
- Improvement of symptoms listed above
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Any individual who has symptoms and wants to return before completing the above stay at home period must:

- Obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis OR
- Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

Required Notice

- We must notify local health department in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of ADA and FERPA.
- We must notify all teachers, staff, and families if a lab-confirmed case is identified among any individuals who participate in any on-campus activities

Masks or Face Coverings

- Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. **Currently, everyone 10 and older must wear a mask** unless you have proof of a qualifying medical condition for exception. **Children under the age of 10 are not required to wear one.** Parents of a child who is not otherwise legally required to wear a face covering may require them to do so by completing a form detailing the level of commitment for their student's use of face coverings.
- **Once the legal mandate is removed, masks will be optional for everyone**, and parents may complete the optional request form for their student to wear one.
- Consequences for misbehavior, mishandling, or tampering with any PPE will apply. If a student refuses to comply with the current legal mandates or parents' directive after 1 warning, the student will be sent home and may complete the rest of the day's instruction using distance learning protocols.
- When it is impractical to wear masks such as during PE, lunch, and recess, we may allow students to remove their masks as long as they maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other students. They must keep the mask on when entering/exiting the facility and until safely arranged in the social distancing positions. Mrs. Shaw or Mrs. Hallmark must approve final determination of activities or situations deemed impractical to wear masks.

Hand sanitizing and washing

- Hand sanitizer will be available at each entrance.
- Classrooms with a sink will have antibacterial soap available.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and will be encouraged before room transitions.
- All restrooms will be equipped with antibacterial soap and hand sanitizer.
- Supervised handwashing for at least 20 seconds will occur before entering high traffic areas such as the Cafeteria, PE, and Art room.
- Students and staff are encouraged to cough or sneeze into tissues, and if not available, covered in their elbows. They are required to wash or sanitize hands afterward regardless.
- Staff will wash or sanitize hands when transitioning to a new group of students.

Food & Beverages

- Students may bring a water bottle labeled with their name for personal use.
- Meals will be served according to current health and safety requirements. Service times will be staggered to minimize waiting in line and crowding at tables. Students will be allowed to responsibly socialize and enjoy meals together. Outside overflow seating may be available, weather and supervisory staff permitting.

Cleaning

- Custodial schedules include multiple daily rounds of disinfectant/sanitation for high traffic/touch areas such as cafeteria tables, restrooms, handrails, door handles and door frames, library computers or shared technology, shared tables, and playground equipment.
- Any areas used by individuals showing COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be cleaned immediately.
- Areas of heavy use by individuals with lab-confirmed COVID-19 will be closed off until all non-porous surfaces are disinfected.
- Students will assist with cleaning their own supplies and work spaces as developmentally appropriate.
- All cleaning products will be stored and used safely.

School Supplies

- The standard \$25 school supply should be paid before school starts.
- Students will be issued their own set of standard supplies and are responsible to keep up with them when transitioning to different classes in grades 3-8. Individuals will be responsible for loss or damage.
- Any shared supplies that are used infrequently will be sanitized before and after use.

Other Operational Considerations

- Weather permitting, windows may be opened to improve air flow.
- We will continue to offer extracurricular and UIL activities in compliance with published regulations.
- Classes will be encouraged to utilize larger, alternative, or outdoor spaces for learning as available and appropriate. Mrs. Shaw will approve staff requests to reserve these areas in advance to ensure proper cleaning before and after their use.
- Outside organizations may continue to follow district Facility Request procedures. Additional guidelines, restrictions, and protocols may apply.

Minimizing Large Group Gathering

- Assemblies and pep rallies will be reconfigured to keep students in their regular class groupings, separated from others but still able to enjoy school wide camaraderie and excitement.
- Lunches and recess are staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria or on the playground.

Arrival and Dismissal

- Morning student drop-off is 7:30-7:45. PK-1st will go to their homerooms, 2nd-5th will have breakfast either in classrooms or the cafeteria, and 6th-8th will go directly to 1st period. No one may congregate in halls or in front of school. As buses arrive, they will immediately go where directed above. The tardy bell still rings at 7:50.
- During afternoon dismissal for car riders, classes will stay together, separated along front sidewalk. Bus riders will wait to be called to their bus: JH in Cafeteria; Elem in homerooms.

Communication

- On the first day a student attends school on campus, he or she will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and all mitigation practices adopted by Garner ISD.
- This plan and any updates will be posted on our website at www.garnerisd.net and Class Dojo.

Transportation

- Students are encouraged to be car riders whenever possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as students enter and exit the bus.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces, and will sit with windows open during day to maximize ventilation and air flow.
- Student refusal to comply with seat assignments or requests to distance from others will result in ONE warning and then temporary or permanent suspension from the bus.

Visitors

- Garner ISD will continue to welcome visitors according to local policies and procedures. All visitors are subject to current legal mandates regarding masks and all other Garner ISD health and wellness protocols, including symptom and temperature screening for adults.

Staffing

- Employees must continue to meet the work expectations set by Garner ISD, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.
- All school staff will be trained on these protocols and are expected and empowered to enforce them with all students. Concerns with adults' noncompliance should be reported immediately to Mrs. Shaw or Mrs. Hallmark.
- In-person meetings will be minimized and when deemed necessary will comply with all legal mandates and guidelines contained herein.

Thank you for helping us to enjoy school together again.

We have missed each other greatly and look forward to a year of
#garnergreatness!

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Diane Shaw, Principal dshaw@garnerisd.net

Rebecca Hallmark, Superintendent rhallmark@garnerisd.net