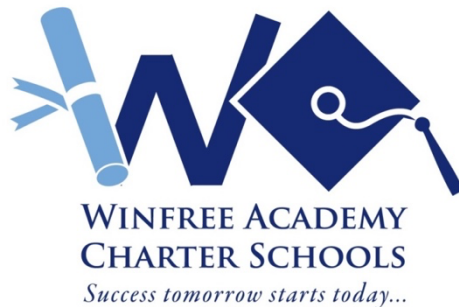


Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

<https://www.winfreeacademy.com/>



****Information included in this plan are subject to change as required by the State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, Dallas County Public Health, Denton County Public Health, Tarrant County Public Health and other governing authorities as environmental conditions change.*

Updated 8/9/2022

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – Continuity of Services Plan Overview

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law, which allotted the U.S. Department of Education an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies for providing local education agencies with emergency funds to address the impact of COVID-19 on schools across the country.

Included in this overview is Winfree Academy Charter Schools' plan for the safe return of all learners on August 8, 2022 as well as our strategic response to provide a continuity of services for all learners. This plan complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act, the ESSER II and ESSER III grant terms established by the U.S. Department of Education.

To guide the development of this plan, local education agencies were required to seek input from learners, families, staff, and community stakeholders using a variety of methods for engagement. Upon review and analysis of all the information collected through stakeholder input, Winfree Academy Charter Schools identified and prioritized needs to direct the additional funds, specifically related to COVID-19 recovery and in the areas of: student learning loss, operational & facility improvements, and health & safety. These priorities are the foundation within WACS' ESSER grants submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

Winfree Academy Charter Schools will continue to review and revise this Continuity of Services plan every six months as required by the ARP Act. *(Revised 7/27/21, 10/11/21, 1/10/22, 8/9/22)*

ACADEMIC RECOVERY

WACS has prioritized instructional needs related to the academic recovery from loss outcomes due to COVID-19 and will use funds provided by the ARP Act and ESSER grants with terms established by the U.S. Department of Education solely for this identified purpose.

The key strategies identified for ESSER use of funds are:

- Planning/implementing activities related to extended learning opportunities (tutoring, after-school, summer programming)
- Providing resources for social & emotional support
- Address learning loss through evidence-based activities & high-quality assessments
- Planning/implementing activities to address the unique needs of disadvantaged groups
- Purchase instructional technology to provide a multi-layered instructional program to support robust instructional model(s)

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Health & Safety Resources

WACS will continue to reference the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health officials to guide and support our planning for the return of learners and staff to campus.

Resources for Schools:

- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - for Schools](#)
- [Texas Education Agency - COVID-19 Support & Guidance](#)

Health & Safety Training

WACS employees are expected to complete annual compliance trainings including safety training. Individuals on campus will be encouraged to follow suggested hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted by WACS. Posters and other print resources, created by the CDC, will be placed throughout all facilities as visual reminders of safe and healthy practices.

WACS Health & Safety Policy:

COVID-19

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. In accordance with local government orders and guidance, it is the policy of Winfree Academy Charter Schools to implement the following:

1. Face coverings

Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. For all persons, including employees, students, visitors, and contractors who enter Winfree Academy Charter Schools premises, the use of face masks is optional.

2. Social distancing

Social distancing practices within all facilities will continue where applicable, in communal areas, and as appropriate.

3. Hand hygiene

To prevent the spread of germs, frequent hand hygiene will be encouraged. Hand sanitizing stations will be provided in high traffic areas of the campus, such as the lobby, classrooms, and other commonly used spaces.

4. Cleaning practices

Winfree Academy Charter Schools will implement cleaning practices daily, and sanitizing services will be provided as needed with appointed staff.

5. Symptomatic Individuals

Staff members, students, visitors, and contractors experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, as identified by the CDC, should not enter any Winfree Academy Charter Schools premises or facility. Individuals who are sick should notify their campus or supervisor prior to reporting to school.

Notice and Signage

Notice of this Health and Safety Policy will be posted in a conspicuous location of all Winfree Academy Charter Schools facilities, including entry points.

*****Section F – Student Operations, Health Revised August 9, 2022***

Preventative Strategies

Self-Screening

Individuals are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before going to campus and should not come to school if they are ill. Those who are running a fever of 100.0° F or higher should stay at home and will not be permitted on campus.

Communication

Winfree Academy Charter Schools will utilize multiple strategies to communicate to our school community, based on local guidelines, to keep lab-confirmed individuals off campus and reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

Inquiries and Concerns

Parents, guardians, and learners are encouraged to contact their campus principal with any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19. Contact information for all campus principals may be found at www.winfreeacademy.com.

Staff may contact the District Emergency Management Coordinator (DEMC) at 972-869-3250 x128 or by email via djelkin@wacsd.com or the Winfree Academy Charter Schools Task Force via TaskForce@wacsd.com.

Updates

As applicable, information will be sent to parents/guardians, students and staff via School Messenger. Information will be posted on our website at www.winfreeacademy.com.

The following COVID-19 related forms and links for learners and staff are posted on our website at [Health & Safety](#):

- [WACS Learner COVID-19 Report](#)
- [WACS Permission Slip for COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [WACS Staff COVID-19 Report](#)

Visitors

WACS is a closed campus to walk-in visitors. Scheduled visitors are asked to self-screen prior to accessing WACS facilities.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

In the lobby of all WACS facilities, disposable face masks and gloves will be available for employees and visitors. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available in shared areas.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Symptoms

Individuals experiencing these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**CDC 3/22/22*

Testing

WACS offers free COVID-19 Rapid Testing for staff and learners by appointment. To schedule an appointment, individuals must register at least 12 hours in advance and follow the steps below:

- COVID-19 Rapid Test Reservation here: <https://calendly.com/wacstaskforce/rapidtest2021>
- **Learner Consent Form** for Optional COVID-19 Rapid Testing is required & must be completed by the Parent/Guardian/Adult Learner and is on file with WACS Task Force.
- Location: 1555 Valwood Parkway, Carrollton, TX 75006
- Testing hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:30 - 8:30 am

Vaccination

Individuals are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines when they have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for them, when eligible. Visit our website for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine. [CDC Vaccination Information](#)

COVID-19 Response

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). WACS will use the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule for school readmission. [DSHS School Readmission Criteria](#)

School Readmission Criteria

WACS will exclude students from attending school in person who have COVID-19 and will immediately notify parents if the exposure is determined to have happened while on campus. Exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:

- For individuals with symptoms, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and *fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

Parents must ensure they do not send learners to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met.

**Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.*

Close Contact Stay-At-Home Period

Prohibiting learners from campus due to close contact exposure is no longer a required action for schools. However, parents of learners or staff determined to be close contacts of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 individual may opt to keep their learner or themselves at home during the recommended stay-at-home period

For individuals who voluntarily quarantine, the stay-at-home period can end for those experiencing no symptoms on Day 5 after the close contact exposure. **Certain conditions apply and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.*

Remote Conferencing

Until the COVID-19 infection rate reaches a pre-determined threshold, WACS will not serve lab-confirmed COVID-19 learners virtually via Remote Instruction. Instead, the learner will be absent from school until their readmission criteria is met.

***WACS will monitor the state, local, and county spread, should the COVID-19 active infection rate reach Phase 1 within the school community. Informed by the **Mitigation Strategies by Risk-Level**, WACS may or may not make the decision to provide virtual instruction via Remote Conferencing for learners who test positive for COVID-19. When a risk-level above Phase 1 is determined, this information will be communicated to the school community, and the risk-level approach, as locally defined, will be implemented.*

Sick at School

Should a learner disclose an illness while at school, a temperature check will be conducted. If the learner has fever of 100 °F or higher, arrangements will be made for the learner to go home until *fever free.

**Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.*

Access Control

Along with being a closed campus to walk-in visitors, the implementation of access control will allow for limited access to each WACS campus.

- All exterior doors will remain locked throughout the day with the main entry door controlled by the access system.
- Employees will be issued key fobs that are programmed to allow staff entry on specific days and times.
- All other access will be processed through the entry intercom and controlled by the Attendance Clerk.
- Staff will use radios to allow for increased & effective communication & attention on the safety of learners throughout the day.
- When possible, separate entry/exits will be used during the arrival and dismissal of learners.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES BY RISK-LEVEL

WACS monitors both local and county spread by campus and will implement a tiered approach to make decisions on mitigation efforts within each WACS facility. If the infection rate achieves Phase 1 or Phase 2, the impacted campuses will receive notice and the identified campus(es) will remain in that phase for no less than ten (10) days.

	Phase 0 0-6% Active Cases	Phase 1 7%-10% Active Cases	Phase 2 >10% Active Cases
MASKS	Optional	Recommended	Strongly Recommended
PHYSICAL DISTANCE	No	Suggested 3ft between learners	6ft between learners as applicable
HEALTH SCREEN	Encouraged to be conducted prior to school.	Encouraged to be conducted prior to school. Periodic temperature checks on campus.	Daily self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms conducted at home & reinforced on campus. Daily temperature checks.
COHORTING	Restroom & dismissal as applicable.	Restroom & dismissal	Restroom, arrival/dismissal, & focused instruction
CLASSROOM DESIGN	Learners arranged necessary for classroom instruction.	Learners arranged necessary for classroom instruction.	6ft between tables to the greatest extent possible
VISITORS	Closed to walk-in visitors but allowed when scheduled & subject to Visitor 12-Step Process.	Closed to walk-in visitors.	Only essential visitors are allowed at WACS facilities.
SANITATION	Daily	Daily & high-traffic areas	Daily, high-traffic areas, & response-strategy
CONTACT TRACING	Local health department	Local health department	Case study w/ each positive case.
QUARANTINE	Not required	Not required	Not required
REMOTE CONFERENCING	No	Monitoring & determination may be made to offer RC.	Monitoring & determination may be made to offer RC.
COMMUNICATION	WACS will notify the appropriate local health department of lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81. Communicable Diseases.		
	It will be the responsibility of the local health department to contact trace, identify and contact those individuals that are considered a close contact		
	Upon notice of a positive case on campus, WACS will notify the staff and families of the impacted campus.		
	Individuals may access the WACS COVID-19 Dashboard to the active COVID-19 positive cases within WACS facilities.		
<i>*Revised for 2022-2023</i>			