



Safe Return Policy | Great Hearts Texas

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Great Hearts Texas maintains its commitment to quality classical education, with the health and safety of our students and staff as a top priority. The following Safe Return Policy promotes the health and safety of our students and staff as we fully return to in-person instruction.

- In accordance with Governor Abbot's Executive Order [GA-36](#), masks are optional for everyone on campus.
- Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a mask will be supported in doing so. Masks must continue to comply with our current uniform policy.
- Parents will be reminded to continue to screen their child for symptoms of COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses and not send students to school when they are exhibiting symptoms (please see our [Home Screening](#) criteria). Faculty and students should follow Great Hearts Texas' [Attendance Guidelines](#) for illness. Parents should screen their students each day for symptoms of contagious illness, including COVID-19.
- Students and staff members who test positive for Covid-19 must remain off campus until specific readmission criteria set by the Texas Department of State Health Services are met (please see readmission criteria [here](#)).
- Current air filtration systems put in place at the beginning of 20-21 school year will continue, which [have been shown](#) to have a positive impact on student attendance.
- Efforts to ensure proper handwashing and respiratory hygiene will continue, providing both students and staff instruction at the beginning of the school year as well as providing hand washing opportunities and frequent use of hand sanitizer.
- Rapid COVID-19 testing is available free of charge to any student or staff with COVID-like symptoms (while available) at the discretion of the campus RN.
- In accordance with TEA guidelines, Great Hearts Texas will no longer require social distancing as a result of classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, and lunchrooms returning to full capacity. However, individual campuses are providing distanced dining options (as they are capable according to their specific facilities). Desk Shields will also be removed due to lack of evidence for their effectiveness in reducing transmission.
- In the instance of a test-confirmed positive case, grades/sections of the positive individual will be notified.
- Great Hearts Texas will continue to conduct contact tracing and will notify parents if their student is identified as a close contact of a Covid-19 positive individual. While quarantining of *campus close contacts* will be optional, quarantining of *household close contacts* is required. A household close contact may return to campus at the same time as the infected individual, though we recommend testing of household close contacts prior to their return to campus.
- Great Hearts Texas retains the authority to quarantine sections, grade levels, or schools to reduce known spread.
- Positive cases of COVID-19 must continue to be reported to the school nurse who will report to the county health department as required by law.



- Per current TEA guidelines, test-confirmed positive cases of any staff, visitor or student must be submitted to Texas Department of State Health Services via this [online form](#). This should be done each week for any identified cases and is submitted by the district nurse.

These guidelines are subject to change in the event that local COVID-19 cases increase, or at the direction of state and local authorities. Modifications to these guidelines may be made at the discretion of individual campus covid response teams as conditions warrant. For questions or comments, please contact info@greatheartstx.org.

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