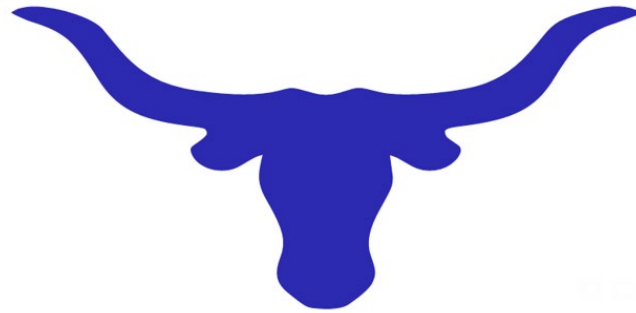


George West Independent School District  
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan  
May 29, 2021



**GEORGE WEST**  
Independent School District

The George West Independent School District reminds all stakeholders that this plan may be changed on short notice due to continuous guidance from the Center for Disease Control, local and state Health Departments, and the Texas Education Agency.

## *Health Screening and Prevention*

Safety and wellness of our staff and students is our number one priority. As such, there will be a number of procedural and systemic changes to how we operate.

- COVID Symptom Screening may be conducted for students and staff.
- Temperature checks may be conducted for students before boarding buses or entering buildings.
- Students or parents failing a COVID screening will **not** be allowed to enter a district building or bus.
- Parents will be contacted if students' temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Parents shall inform school when students or family members have symptoms.
- Staff Screening (Including self-screening, reporting and monitoring by administrator) will be conducted.
- Staff shall inform district when students or family members have symptoms.
- Appropriate protocols will be followed when symptoms are reported.
- [GWISD COVID-Exposure-Process-Map](#)
- Visitors to campuses will be limited to essential needs.
- Masks or face shields will be optional for all staff. Students' wearing of masks/shields will be optional.

intermittent handwashing will be practiced.

- Frequent Sanitizing and Cleaning by custodial staff

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening\\_America\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)

### Screening Questions:

**\*Do you have COVID 19 symptoms?**

Have you had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID 19?

<b>District Contacts for COVID-19</b>		
Primary School	Mrs. Christina Cortez	361-449-1914 ext. 5
Elementary School	Mrs. Ashley Lowe	361-449-1914 ext. 4
Junior High School	Mrs. Ashley Lowe	361-449-1914 ext. 3
High School	Mrs. Joy Beverly	361-449-1914 ext. 2
District	Mrs. Rachael Clayton	361-449-1914 ext. 1062
District	Dr. Roland Quesada	361-449-1914 ext. 1000

**\*Watch for COVID-19 Symptoms**

As you are aware, the symptoms for COVID-19 consist of a long list of very common symptoms that are consistent with many other illnesses. Please see the attached Wellness Survey for School Attendance. This survey outlines the TEA listed symptoms for COVID-19. This survey is to be completed by a parent or guardian for each student in the household. If these symptoms are present, please contact the school and do not send your child to school that day.

If any of these symptoms develop throughout the school day, your child will be sent to the Nurse’s Office for further evaluation. The student will be assessed for possible exclusion from class.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with 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	Low blood pressure
Rash on back, chest and/or abdomen	Swelling and redness in hands and feet	Redness in both eyes
Swollen lymph nodes in neck	Irritation and swelling of the mouth, lips and throat	

This list does not include all possible symptoms.  
 Any combination of any of the symptoms, the parent will be notified that the student needs to be picked up from school for further evaluation by a physician.

We are asking that every parent have a plan for a quick pick up for your child from school in the event they need to be excused. Please make sure that you have a personal plan that you are willing to share that will include alternate contacts and accurate phone numbers.

### ***District Response to Lab Confirmed Cases***

- Cases in the district that are lab confirmed with COVID-19 will be reported to local health department in accordance with regulations and FERPA. Exposure Protocol will be followed.
  - [GWISD Covid-Exposure-Process-Map](#)
- Areas used by lab confirmed COVID-19 cases will be closed off and thoroughly disinfected.
- Teachers, staff, and families of all students will be notified.

## ***Instruction and Student Attendance***

- ***All GWISD students are expected to participate in Face to Face Instruction on all campuses.***
- ***Students will be responsible for daily attendance as customary in GWISD.***
- ***Regular grading guidelines will be followed (guidelines in effect as before COVID 19)***
- ***Remote Instruction (Asynchronous, not live, or real time instruction that does not require the student and teacher to be engaged at the same time (i.e. Gradpoint, Study Island or another instructional program). Asynchronous instruction may include some live remote instruction or guidance as required by teacher)***
- ***GWISD prides itself on being a nurturing environment that works diligently to develop leaders who are successful in the competitive world after high school. The data indicates that being in school with in-person instruction leads to the best social, emotional, and educational outcomes for students. The American Academy of Pediatrics has made a statement supporting on-campus instruction for students in the coming year. Students need to be in school. With the safety measures being implemented, we believe students can still move forward with their education in an environment that stimulates growth while minimizing risks associated with COVID-19.***

GWISD understands many of the procedural changes above are inconvenient; however, the short term inconveniences will allow us to continue to move forward and give our children the best opportunities for success. It is our hope that one day soon we will get back to normal, but in the meantime please know that we will do all that we can to give your child the best and safest education possible.

### **Screening of Students:**

A student that is feeling feverish or has a measured temperature of 100.4 or higher should not go to a school site. Students and adults should also screen themselves for symptoms such as Loss of taste or smell, Cough, Difficulty breathing, Shortness of breath, Fatigue, Headache, Chills, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Shaking and exaggerated shivering, Significant muscle pain or ache, Diarrhea, Nausea, Vomiting

### **Protocols for Face Coverings:**

Students: Masks or face coverings are optional when riding the bus, entering school during arrival, when leaving the school during dismissal, when transitioning during hallways (going to library, restroom, office or any other location than the classroom they came from).

All classroom instruction must be safely implemented while maintaining physical distancing where possible.

Students or staff who have prolonged exposure with a COVID-19 positive individual will self-isolate:

- allows individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 to recover while trying not to infect others. Based on medical professionals' understanding of how long an individual is infectious after fever and other symptoms disappear,
- self-isolation can end when a symptomatic or lab-confirmed individual: Meets all three of the following conditions for return to school:
  - 24 hours with no fever;
  - Symptoms improved; and
  - 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

- Obtain an acute infection test at an approved GWISD testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Or:

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

### **2021-2022 Vaccination Requirement**

The Department of State Health Services has given notices that all vaccines will be required for the 2021-2022 school year. Please click [HERE](#) for a copy of the required vaccines. This applies to all students. Please pay special attention to students entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 7. For more information on vaccines and more go to

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/>

## **Instructional Information for Families**

George West ISD (GWISD) will be implementing instructional practices to provide consistency across learning environments and ensure the safety of students and staff.

Regardless of the learning environment, GWISD is committed to ensuring that students have an equitable experience and access to high quality instruction.

- Students will interact with instruction in two different environments (face-to face and virtual/remote during quarantine) making it necessary for teachers to plan instruction that is content-consistent, yet environment-specific to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all students.
- GWISD will utilize the strategies and best practices associated with blended learning to design learning activities for all students.
- Learning experiences are designed to meet the needs and environment of the learner where they are.
- Students regardless of learning environment, will engage in high quality learning experiences aligned to GWISD curriculum and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Both the remote and face-to-face experience will utilize Google Classroom, provide similar expectations around coursework and follow the same grading guidelines.

## **Instructional Continuity**

Teachers will remain flexible with their instructional adjustments as the COVID-19 situation changes; therefore, GWISD teachers will implement changes to their instructional delivery and methods of assessment to ensure a high level of continuity regardless of variables that may arise.

- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom and Google Meet as a method of instructional delivery and assessment as a standard model in class throughout the year.
- Teachers ensure that all students are familiar with all aspects of google classroom, emails, e-curriculum resources, and methods of assessment.
- Teachers will also familiarize parents with all expectations associated with online instruction.
- Teachers will utilize a blended model of instruction including direct instruction, online instruction, and recorded instructional lessons.

## **On-Campus Learning**

- Students and teachers will attend class in-person, five days a week, with additional safety measures in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.
- In this setting, teachers will provide face-to-face instruction, learning resources and support utilizing Google Classroom.
- Teachers will plan instruction that is quickly and easily transferable from face-to-face to remote in the event of a temporary school closure or mandated quarantine due to COVID-19.
- Safety procedures will be implemented.
- Secondary students will be assigned schedules based on their course selections and counselor input.

## **Remote Learning (only during Quarantine periods)**

Remote learning will be available to students who have been ordered to quarantine due to infection or close contact. GWISD will provide a remote learning environment that will allow students to engage in rich learning experiences, utilize GWISD instructional resources and meaningfully connect with their teachers and other students. Activities will be designed to meet the needs of the student in the online environment through differentiated instruction.

- Parents will support students and ensure they have access to a device, they keep a consistent learning schedule, provide a place to work, and are engaged in virtual learning activities.
- We will ensure open lines of communication between teachers, students, and parents as we work to ensure each student is academically and socially-emotionally future ready.
- Teachers will utilize the same curriculum as students who attend face-to-face instruction.
- Grading will be consistent with the guidelines and practices approved by GWISD board policy.

## **Expectations for Remote Learning**

There will be elements of remote instruction that will be synchronous learning as well as components that will be considered asynchronous.

- Synchronous learning is defined as two-way, real-time, live, instruction between teachers and students, through the computer or other electronic devices.



- Asynchronous learning is a curricular experience where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic devices.

Students in GWISD remote instruction will participate in asynchronous instruction during each school day.

GWISD student expectations for Remote learning:

- Students attend class on time, per their class schedule.
- Students will follow GWISD dress code
- Students are ready to engage and learn.
- Students should have a designated, distraction-free workspace to engage in learning.
- Students will show their face on the screen to engage with the teacher virtually.
- Students will participate in the class activities, discussions, and assignments.
- Students will participate in online classes and be responsible for asynchronous activities assigned each day.

### **Troubleshooting issues with Remote Learning**

GWISD realizes that occasionally, issues arise in an online learning environment that are outside your control. Below are the expectations that should be followed if you experience technical issues during remote learning.

If you have issues with internet, computer, laptop please follow these guidelines:

- Notify
  - Email the teacher as soon as you are able and describe your issue.
  - If you cannot email, then call the school so that the teacher can be notified.
- Chromebook or iPad issue
  - Notify the teacher as soon as you identify a problem
  - If you have an issue with your device then you can access google classroom via a cell phone.
- Internet issue:
  - If you are having internet issues, try using a cell phones data plan to access the material on google classroom.
  - Reset your modem
  - Contact your internet provider.
  - Utilize the parking lot by the school playground for wi-fi access.

- Assigned work
  - Once you have notified your teacher of the problem, access the lecture or content from the missed class using Google classroom.
  - You will access the missed class at your next open time slot.
  - You must watch your lecture and complete your work on the day it is assigned to be counted present for the day.

### **Schedule for Remote Learning (when quarantined)**

While in a remote learning environment, time management is critical to success. Students and teachers must remain in communication regarding daily schedules and assignments. As with any traditional course, there is a risk of receiving a lower grade if a student falls behind. If students are struggling with time management, then the parent or student should contact the teacher for additional assistance.

### **Attendance for Remote Learning (when quarantined)**

Students who login to the GWISD learning environment each day and engage in teacher-assigned learning apps (including but not limited to Google classroom) are considered “present” and will not be marked absent. Students who have not logged in by 9:30 am each school day will be marked absent. This attendance can be resolved if the student engages in daily learning assignments by their teachers via Google classroom by 11:59 pm that same day.

Any absences recorded, but resolved by the student before 11:59 pm on the same day, will be reconciled based on login records of the school online learning platform.

If a student is engaged in asynchronous learning and completes the entire weeks’ worth of learning activities on Monday and does not log in for the remainder of the week, he/she will be marked “present” on Monday only and counted “absent” for Tuesday-Friday

It is important that students understand the Remote Learning attendance is based on daily engagement, not solely the completion of assignments. State Law TEC 25.092 still requires students to attend 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as an on-campus (face-to-face) attendance in satisfying this requirement.

### **Remote Learning Grades PK-6 (only during quarantine)**

Teachers will structure the instructional day to ensure there are enough minutes devoted to each subject area. A daily schedule may include some short episodes of synchronous learning as well.

- Daily synchronous time may include activities such as:
  - Read Alouds
  - Small group reading instruction
  - Number Talks
  - Interactive Read a Louds
  - Community Circles/Check ins
  - Direct Instruction by teacher (mini-lesson)
- Daily asynchronous assignments are to be completed independently. These may include activities such as:
  - Choice boards
  - Student self-selected reading and writing
  - Writing assignment
  - Independent practice (homework)
  - Assessments

### **Remote Learning Grades 6-12 (when quarantined)**

Classes within this environment will follow the Jr. High/High School master schedule. GWISD will structure the students' schedule to require students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Teachers will structure the instructional day to follow their campus bell schedule.

Within each course/subject teachers will plan for students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning.

- Some elective and dual credit courses may require the student to complete assignments or projects at the campus if the course requires assignments that cannot be reasonably completed remotely, e.g., welding, yearbook, ag leadership

## **Role of Stakeholders within Remote Learning Model**

### **Student**

Follows principles of GWISD's learner profile

- Follow the designated schedule communicated by their teacher to attend class during synchronous times and complete asynchronous activities assigned
- Participate in learning through live class time (using proper etiquette)
- Students should take responsibility for advocating for themselves
- Turn in school work at the direction of the assigned teacher
- Responsible for participation in the lesson

### **Parent**

- Facilitate academic support and encouragement as a learning partner to motivate and guide your child throughout the school year in your role as a learning coach
- Ensure your child is on track with assignments and coursework
- Provide your child with assistance on their day-to-day activities with the exception of designated independent work
- Assist in supporting your child's needs by establishing and managing the daily schedule communicated by the teacher
- Consider creating a designated learning space for your child at home to learn comfortably
- Maintain communication with your child's teacher by phone, email messages, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership
- Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement, and expect your children to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help too much. Becoming independent takes lots of practice.

### ***Distancing/Grouping (where possible)***

- Desks three to six feet apart where possible and facing in one direction
- Cohorts of students with minimal transition where applicable and feasible
- Use of non-classroom spaces for instruction (i.e. gyms, cafeteria, libraries, labs, outdoor spaces)
- Supervised distancing outdoors
- Breakfast/Lunch in socially distant seating in the cafeteria or classroom or “grab and go” meals.

### ***Transportation***

- **Parent Drop off and Pick up strongly encouraged to keep the number of students on a bus at a minimum and to ensure distancing as much as possible.**
- Separation on bus seating (to extent possible)
- To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading. Students are expected to use it before boarding the bus and as they are exiting the bus.
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation where appropriate.
- Staggered bus routes may be necessary
- COVID Symptom Screening
- Parents will be contacted if students' temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Hand sanitizer upon entry
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily, between bus runs.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>

### ***District Required Response to Lab Confirmed Cases***

- Cases in the district that are lab confirmed with COVID-19 will be reported to local health department in accordance with regulations and FERPA. Exposure Protocol will be followed.  
[GWISD Covid-Exposure-Process-Map](#)
- Areas used by lab confirmed COVID-19 cases will be closed off and thoroughly disinfected.
- Teachers, staff, and families of all students will be notified.

### **TEA Requirement: Respond**

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-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).
- Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (students, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate on any on-campus activities.

### **Isolation Protocols When a Student or Staff Member Display COVID-19 Symptoms**

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and their parent/guardian will be notified for prompt pick up. Parents need to ensure that they have a way to pick up their children quickly if they are notified their child is being sent home.

Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.

District communication will be provided to the parents of students who came in contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.

Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.

Students or staff who have prolonged exposure with a COVID-19 positive individual will self-isolate:

- allows individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 to recover while trying not to infect others. Based on medical professionals' understanding of how long an individual is infectious after fever and other symptoms disappear,
- self-isolation can end when a symptomatic or lab-confirmed individual: Meets all three of the following conditions for return to school:
  - 24 hours with no fever;
  - Symptoms improved; and
  - 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

- Obtain an acute infection test at an approved GWISD testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Or:

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

Staff and students who test positive and/or were directly exposed will not be permitted to return to school until they are cleared by a medical professional. While this may cause an added burden on families; our goal is health and safety for all students.

**Notice:**

The GWISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan has been written with stakeholder input and with the safety of the community in mind. As we implement new policies and procedures to minimize risks to our students and staff, there may be differences between expectations listed in this plan and the general expectations and procedures described in the Student Handbook and beyond the general procedures that are typically implemented on campus. During the COVID-19 crisis the rules, regulations, and procedures detailed in this plan will override the general expectations described in the Student Handbook should there be a conflict or difference in language or process.

During this pandemic, our current situation continues to be a very fluid situation and may require the editing of this plan.

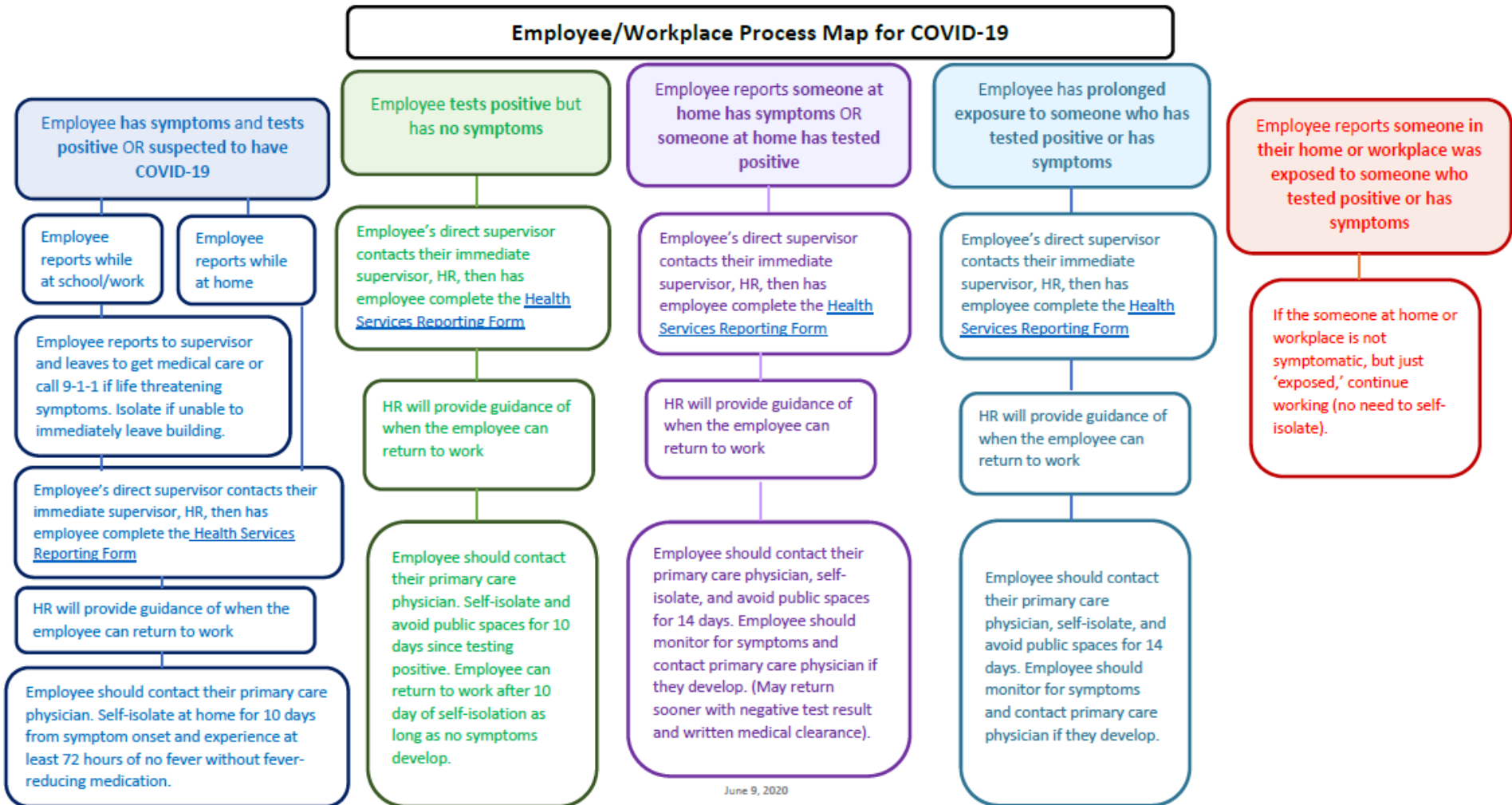
**Parental and Community Support:**

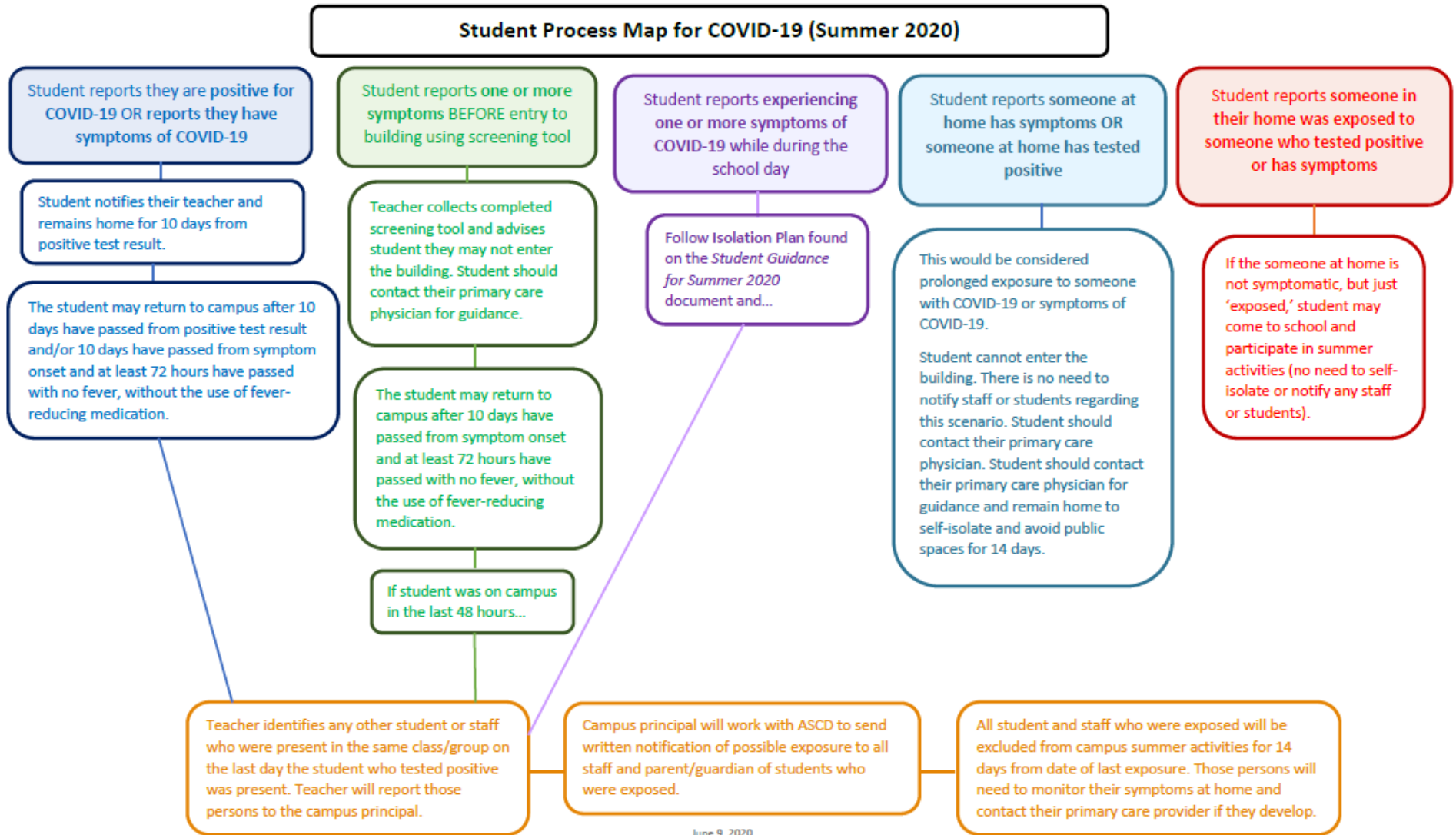
The George West Independent School District asks the help and support of our community as we attempt to provide the best education possible for our students. Please follow guidelines distributed by the local and state health authorities in order to maintain the well-being of our students.



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*To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus, being within 6 feet of a sick person with the virus for at least 15 continuous minutes without the use of a face covering, or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.*





June 9, 2020