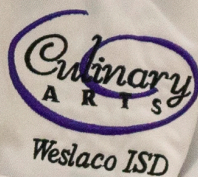




YEARS & STILL *The Right Choice*

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



**FALL
2021-2022**

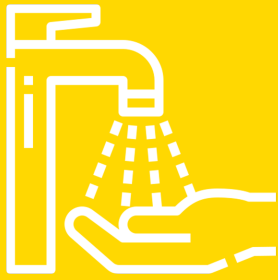
Revised: 08/19/21



TABLE OF CONTENTS



• Health & Safety Protocols	2	• Disinfecting & Hand Sanitizing	8
• Student & Staff Safety	3	• Campus/Classroom Cleaning & Disinfecting	8
• Stay-At-Home Period	4	• Work & Learning Environments	9
• Isolation Protocols	5	• School Day Operations Protocols	11
• Contact Tracing	5	• School Calendar 2021-2022	12
• Face Coverings	6	• websites	13
• Campus Visitors	6		
• Instructional Plans	7		



HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The details in this entire document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials, or as environmental conditions change.

Weslaco ISD continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and receives regular guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath and other local, state and federal agencies regarding response, prevention and mitigation efforts. This direction will continue to evolve based on COVID-19 conditions across the state and our local community. We will educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of frequent hand washing; covering a cough or sneeze; not touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home when sick; and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Hand sanitizer will be available at every building entrance and in every classroom. Weslaco ISD Custodial Services will continue to routinely clean and disinfect all facilities, including cleaning frequently-touched objects and surfaces with approved germicidal agents which are effective against multiple disease-causing viruses and bacteria.

STUDENT & STAFF SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or has tested positive for COVID-19. Parents should opt to have their child participate in remote conferencing until the conditions for re-entry are met. All individuals (students/staff) who show symptoms will be isolated and sent home.

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath or fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

STUDENT-TEACHER GROUPINGS

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, encourage students to practice social distancing.

- In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks will be placed a minimum of three feet apart when possible.
- In classrooms where students are regularly within three feet of one another, schools will plan for more frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing.

3Ws



INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED W/COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of the conditions below for campus re-entry have been met:

1. In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- a. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- b. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- c. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

* The District may require a negative COVID test and/or Doctor's clearance

2. In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.

* The District may require a negative COVID test and Doctor's clearance

3. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

4. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

5. If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

- a. obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or
- b. obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.



STAY-AT-HOME PERIOD

FOR CLOSE CONTACTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO TESTED POSITIVE

If the employee or student is fully vaccinated:

- Employees do not need to quarantine or be restricted from work following exposure if no symptoms are present.
- Recommend employee test 3-5 days after exposure.
- Monitor symptoms and wear a well-fitting face covering.

If the employee or student is not vaccinated: stay at home period for individuals with no symptoms:

- On Day 10 after close contact exposure without testing.
- On Day 7 after close contact with a negative test result (may test on day 5 and return on day 7 with a negative result).

Exception:

- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months may not need to quarantine.



ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

Upon notification of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff, and families of students who were potentially exposed. These individuals will be advised to self-isolate until cleared by the designated campus health coordinator. If a student who is taking classes on campus develops COVID-19 symptoms, the following isolation plan will take place.

- Symptomatic students will be required to apply a face covering and report to the designated isolation area for further evaluation.
- The ill student will remain isolated with a designated staff member to be monitored and receive medical care, if needed, until parent/guardian arrives for student pick up.
- Monitoring staff members must perform hand hygiene and wear PPE for the duration of the isolation period.
- Campus administrators will immediately notify District Health Services and will follow their guidance.
- After students and staff are removed from the isolation area, it will be sanitized using approved germicidal agents by WISD custodial staff wearing appropriate PPE.
- A special transportation unit has been designated to transport students if necessary.

CONTACT TRACING

“ALL CALLS” INFORMING EVERYONE OF A POSITIVE CASE WILL NOT BE MADE.

Although TEA guidelines do not require the District to conduct contact tracing, WISD is committed to the safety and well being of all students. Each campus has a dedicated COVID response team which will conduct contact tracing if there is a positive COVID case of students and staff.

If your child is identified as being in known close contact, you will receive a call from a member of the campus COVID response team who will guide you through the next steps.



FACE COVERING PROTOCOLS

The District is adhering to the Hidalgo County Local Health Authority Order for all public school systems to require universal indoor facial coverings for all students, visitors, faculty, and staff regardless of vaccination status, in an effort to continue mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.

CAMPUS VISITOR(S) PROTOCOLS

VISITOR GUIDELINES

Visitation will be limited to parent conferences and other essential meetings. You may bring lunch to your child, however we ask that you drop off your child's lunch and exit the cafeteria as soon as you deliver your child's lunch.

- Visitors and staff will maintain physical distancing, keeping 6 feet apart at all times.
- Visitors will be allowed limited access to a designated area in the building.
- To limit exposure, informal campus visits will be restricted (including during meal time).
- Essential meetings will be by appointment only or a virtual format.

**VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING
AS PER THE HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY.**



INSTRUCTIONAL PLANS

The Texas Education Agency's most recent Public Health Guidance for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year indicated the following:

- "School systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19," and
- "Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period."

Weslaco ISD is prepared to deliver instruction through remote conferencing during the exclusion period. The following two requirements MUST be met:

- The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.
- The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year.

In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
- The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in the Texas Administrative Code (25 TAC §97).
- The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.

Parents/guardians whose children meet the aforementioned requirements for remote conferencing must contact their respective campus for guidance on completing the required Remote Conferencing Parent Request Form.

Students participating through remote conferencing need to be diligent about logging on at their designated time. Instruction will be provided synchronously (two-way, real-time, live virtual instruction between teachers and students), and attendance will be taken, based on live virtual participation.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE BE IN TOUCH
WITH YOUR RESPECTIVE CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/remote-conferencing-faq.pdf>

DISINFECTING & HAND SANITIZING PROTOCOLS

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitation will ensure health and wellness of students and staff. Hand-sanitizing and/or hand-washing stations will be available at every entrance, in the hallways and in all classrooms.

HAND WASHING/SANITIZING EXPECTATIONS

1. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or higher) will be available at all entrances, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout the school including restrooms and water fountains.
2. Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
3. Requirement for hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer:
 - Provide hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom and periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.
 - Thorough hand washing upon return from outdoors, before eating, following restroom breaks.

CAMPUS/CLASSROOM CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Cleaning and disinfecting of WISD schools and buildings will take place on a daily basis. Special care will be placed to all high-touch areas such as door knobs, push bars and light switches. Custodial staff will be using an EPA-approved disinfectant (Note: This list is currently available on TxSSC COVID-19 resource page and the EPA website.) Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

DAILY CAMPUS/CLASSROOM CLEANING

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily throughout the instructional day by custodial staff.
- All high-touch areas (door handles, work area, phones, light switches, desks, high touched devices such as computers or tablets) will be disinfected throughout the day and/or between use as much as possible by custodial and campus staff using an EPA-approved disinfectant (NOTE: This list is currently available on the TxSSC COVID-19 resource page and the EPA website.)
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes and/or disinfecting solutions to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.
- Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between transitions of students.
- Age-appropriate signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings.

RESTROOMS

- Restroom sinks and stalls will meet social distancing requirements of at least six feet apart (middle restroom stall and sink will be temporarily off-limits).
- Campus staff should develop plans based on their individual campus needs to limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time.
- Elementary campuses could consider the scheduling of whole class restroom breaks to eliminate co-mingling of students across various classes and to ensure teacher monitoring of social distancing guidelines.
- Increased disinfecting by custodial staff will occur throughout the school day.
- Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom.
- All restrooms must have hand-washing signs with visuals indicating proper hand-washing techniques and social distancing. Signs will be displayed to consistently reinforce practice.

WATER FOUNTAINS

- Students are expected to bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the school day and expected to take water bottles home to be cleaned on a daily basis.
- District-wide installed sensed water bottle filling stations are located in separate areas of campuses.

TRAINING

- All custodial staff have been trained on cleaning protocols that include cleaning first then disinfecting and adhering to time on contact requirements in accordance with the EPA- approved disinfectants list.
- All maintenance and custodial staff will be properly trained on proper use and removal of PPE (masks, gloves, face shields).

ADDITIONAL CLEANING MEASURES FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES ON CAMPUS

- Areas that are heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) will be closed off until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

WORK & LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

CLASSROOM CONFIGURATION

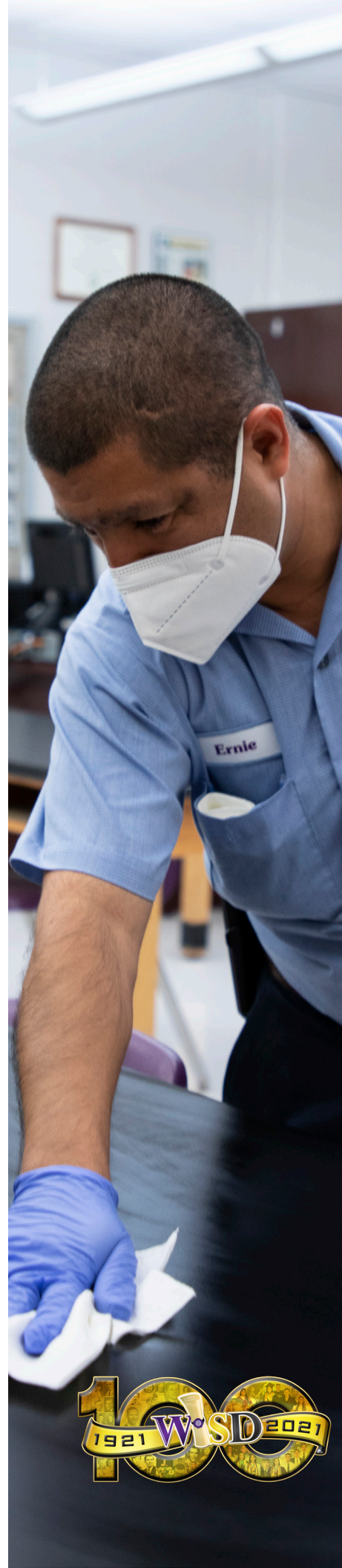
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- When possible, communal supplies will be eliminated. Shared supplies will be sanitized between uses.
- Recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education service locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Classroom capacity will be determined based on minimal square footage guidelines.

COLLABORATIVE WORK & PROJECTS

- When possible, technology will be utilized when students are involved in collaborative work.
- Group or pair work may be implemented while maintaining physical distancing.

GENERAL CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

- Signage will be posted in all classrooms regarding protocols and prevention.
- Multiple locations of hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans will be available in several locations to limit student and staff movement.



SPECIALIZED CLASSROOMS

- When appropriate, students will be provided face shields for safety when there is an increased risk.
- Specialized equipment will be sanitized between each use. There will be adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high-touch materials or limit the use of supplies or equipment to one group of students at a time.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms.
- Career and Technical Education classes will follow industry-based safety guidelines as appropriate to the equipment and course content.
- Special education classrooms may have additional protective barriers in place to support a safe environment for our students.

COMMON AREAS

- In order to provide the safest environment possible in our common/collaborative spaces, the following guidelines will be implemented to promote disease prevention and mitigation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ATHLETICS & FINE ARTS CLASSROOMS

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Procedures will be implemented in the locker rooms to adhere to social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Sanitizing areas and access to hand-washing will be provided.
- Athletics, Fine Arts and other extracurricular activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.
- Non-UIL activities will follow the same COVID-19 related guidelines as UIL activities.
- Outdoor gatherings must be in compliance with state social distancing guidelines.
- Any student social activities (i.e. dances, celebrations) must be conducted in open air venues or limited to less than 50 participants. All such activities, regardless of location, must be in compliance with state social distancing guidelines.
- Hand washing and/or hand sanitation stations must be available for any activity.

LIBRARY

- Visual reminders will be added and furniture rearranged to help students maintain social distancing while in the library.
- Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.
- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
- Occupancy will be limited.

MEETING SPACES

1. Meetings will be limited to video/telephone conferencing when possible.
2. If meetings must be held in person, all social distancing protocols will be implemented.
 - Facial coverings during substantial and moderate transmission levels
 - Social distancing (6 feet apart)
 - Limit the sharing of materials/supplies

ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES – RECEPTION, OFFICES, CONFERENCE ROOMS, WORKROOM

When possible, meetings will be conducted virtually. However, if the need arises to meet in person, please follow campus guidelines:

- Facial coverings or masks will be utilized during substantial and moderate transmission levels.
- Please stand behind the shield guard installed at the reception desk.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in front office spaces.
- Distances of 6 feet will be provided between all occupied seats and workspaces.

ELEVATORS

- Only students and staff with a physical impairment or the need to move large/heavy equipment will be able to use the elevator.
- No more than 2 people will ride in the elevator at the same time.
- Masks will be worn when on the elevator.

RESTROOMS

- Restrooms will be monitored and sanitized throughout the day.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the day.
- Each campus will comply with health agency recommendations and social distancing.
-

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS

Students and staff will follow protocols for face coverings during all periods of transition. Classroom doors will be propped open to reduce high-touch areas when possible.

ARRIVAL

- Multiple entry protocols will be established to maintain physical distance.
- Designated entry doors will be propped open for no-touch entry. Any open doors will be continuously monitored by staff to stop unauthorized access and to monitor for threats.
- Students will report straight to classrooms whenever possible.
- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) will be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.
- Sanitation stations will be placed at each entrance and students will sanitize hands upon entry.
- Students will go directly to the first period class or designated location upon arrival.
- Parents may not accompany students into the building.

DISMISSAL

- Multiple exit points will be established.
- Students will be released straight from their classroom whenever possible.
- Dismissal times will be staggered to limit the number of students in hallways and exit areas at any given time.
- Sanitation stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit.

TRANSITIONS

- Students and staff will follow protocols for face coverings.
- Classroom doors will be left open to reduce high-touch areas when possible.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Signage will be posted to reinforce physical distance expectations.

TRANSPORTATION

- Families are encouraged to transport, if able, students to and from school during the pandemic.
- Parents must ensure students do a daily COVID-19 screen prior to boarding school buses.
- Hand sanitizer will be located at the front of the bus for students.
- Buses will be sanitized after each use.
- Buses will be thoroughly disinfected on a scheduled rotation.
- All buses are equipped with UV air filtration systems

MEAL SERVICE


- Breakfast will be provided for all students.
- Students will use hand sanitizer before entering the serving line.
- Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned as students transition.
- When reporting to the cafeteria for lunch, students will be released on a staggered schedule.
- Campuses will use a variety of options for seating arrangements to maximize social distancing.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022

WESLACO ISD 2021-2022 CALENDAR

The district plans to utilize the Board approved 2020-2021 calendar; however, depending on the circumstances, the district is prepared to modify and extend the calendar. Ample notice and communication will be provided if a calendar change is needed.



100 WISD 1921
YEARS & STILL
The Right Choice

JULY 2021	AUGUST 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30

OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31

JANUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2022	MARCH 2022
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	27 28	27 28 29 30 31

APRIL 2022	MAY 2022	JUNE 2022
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30	26 27 28 29 30

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
AUGUST 23
MAY 26
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

- - TESTING
- - HOLIDAYS
- - WEATHER DAY
- - STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
- - COMMUNITY DAY (TEACHER PLANNING)
- - WORKDAYS
- - EARLY RELEASE HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

[START AND END OF SIX WEEKS]

SCHOOL START/END TIMES
 Elementary Schools - 7:45am / 3:45pm
 Middle Schools - 7:35am / 3:35pm
 Weslaco HS - 8:00am / 4:00pm
 Weslaco East HS - 8:00am / 4:00pm
 CTE Early College HS - 7:45am / 3:45pm
 South Palm Gardens HS - 8:00am / 3:10pm
 Horton D.A.E.P. - 8:00am / 3:10pm

.....
 1st Six Weeks: Aug. 23 - Oct. 1 - 29 Days
 2nd Six Weeks: Oct. 4 - Nov. 5 - 23 Days
 3rd Six Weeks: Nov. 8 - Dec. 17 - 25 Days
 4th Six Weeks: Jan. 5 - Feb. 18 - 32 Days
 5th Six Weeks: Feb. 21 - Apr. 8 - 29 Days
 6th Six Weeks: Apr. 11 - May 26 - 32 Days

LET'S GET SOCIAL [f](#) [@](#) [t](#) [v](#) **@WESLACOISD**

Your spirit be our guiding hand, as on through life we go.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/
community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)

<https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission/>

[https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/
remote-conferencing-faq.pdf](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/remote-conferencing-faq.pdf)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/
contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.
html#contact](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact)

