



## WEBB CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can my student go back to virtual (online) school?** No. After the passage of Senate Bill 15, school districts only have two options for virtual schooling: a) for students who are currently COVID-positive, or b) up to 10% of the student population can go online, but it is very restrictive (high grades, all STAAR tests passed, very high attendance rate, etc.)
2. **Can my student stay home and attend their classes on Zoom or Teams?** No. SB 15 prevents the use of concurrent instruction. This means that having a single teacher teach both in-person students and online students at the same time is no longer allowed. In a larger district, some teachers could be used for online only and others for in-person only. At Webb CISD we don't have enough teachers for each subject to teach double the number of classes.
3. **Does online instruction work as well as in-person instruction?** No. National, state, and regional data shows that online instruction has a negative impact on learning, but is especially harmful to low-income, rural, and Hispanic students. The Rio Grande Valley schools are reporting that last-year's lockdown cost their students over 18 months of learning loss.
4. **Why didn't Webb CISD make it mandatory to test all children before starting classes like Jim Hogg Co. ISD?** As the only population center in the county, Jim Hogg County is working with the school district to test their students. Webb County is still working to provide Webb CISD with additional tests, and we will use the tests we have as needed. It makes little sense to test every student on the first day of school and assume that they will stay negative all week or all month. Also, if we made it mandatory and didn't test ourselves, that would put a great strain on parents to get their kids tested especially since many insurance companies are no longer paying all the test fee and many parents do not have full insurance. Furthermore, Webb CISD has an impeccable record of preventing spread of disease on campus for almost two years of dealing with this pandemic. We remain a safe and sanitized learning environment for your students.
5. **Will students have to wear masks and social distance?** Yes, with exceptions. Schools in Texas cannot legally force students to wear masks, but Webb CISD will enforce parents' requests that their children wear masks. Also, social distance rules have been reduced from 6 feet down to 3 feet but will still be enforced. Screening and separation will be enforced during bus routes.
6. **I am hearing that "hospitals are swamped." How are we doing in Laredo?** We are monitoring the situation, but Laredo hospitals currently show 88 adult Covid patients and 0 pediatric Covid patients out of 402 available beds. This is much better than we were a year ago at this time.
7. **How can my child get Covid-tested?** Students or parents may request a test at any time.
8. **What if circumstances change?** We are currently monitoring multiple data sources and public health guidance sources. If our circumstances change, we will respond accordingly. We will continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of our students' health and educational welfare.