



# **Leading Forward 2021-2022**

## **Lockhart ISD COVID-19 Response Plan**

*Published July 2021*

## **Leading Forward in 2021-2022**

Last year, school districts faced incredible challenges in planning for school while just beginning to learn about COVID-19. In planning for 2021-2022, we have the benefit of several things we did not have last year. We have gained experience in effective cleaning and disinfection protocols. We have an understanding of effective hygiene practices that help decrease the spread. Additionally, we have access to a vaccine for those 12 years of age and older that has demonstrated success in significantly reducing the risk of hospitalizations and death from COVID-19, and children younger than 12 are expected to have access to it this winter.

Still, with the increase of new variants that are more contagious, the school district remains committed to ensuring the safety of staff and students and protecting the continuity of learning and services.

As of June 4, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott decreed via [Executive Order GA-36](#) that state government entities and school districts are prohibited from requiring masks. However, while masks are not required, they are welcome and encouraged to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the continuity of student learning and services.

Lockhart ISD continues to monitor guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Texas Education Agency. Also, we continue to remain in contact with our local and county officials to track cases in our community. Our protocols and practices may change during the school year based upon changing circumstances and new federal, state, or local guidelines. When changes occur, we will update the guidance in this document.

We are excited to welcome back all of our students for 100% on-campus learning this year. After such a difficult year last year, we look forward to helping students transition back to school and provide them the support and excellent learning experiences they deserve to fully thrive.

If you have any questions about this plan or any other concerns, please feel free to email [LISDCovidQuestions@lockhart.txed.net](mailto:LISDCovidQuestions@lockhart.txed.net) or call 512-398-0000.



## Health Services



The role of LISD school nurses is critical especially during this pandemic. They deliver health care services in an educational setting, manage health clinic operations, monitor the trends in symptoms and illnesses campus-wide, and provide guidance to leadership and staff on appropriate practices to support student and staff health. All nurses will continue to work in partnership with community health care providers, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Education Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- To prevent exposure to infectious diseases for vulnerable students receiving other medical treatments, all student visits to the Health Office will be triaged.
- Care that can be provided in the classroom will be handled there (minor first aid).
- Students presenting potential symptoms of communicable diseases will be given a mask when isolation is not possible.

## Communication Regarding COVID-19

Lockhart ISD understands the foundation of a healthy partnership is trust, and the district works hard to build and maintain staff, parent, and community trust through providing frequent, timely, and accurate information. We support equitable access to important information by ensuring our communication is provided in both English and Spanish, matching the language preferences indicated by parents.

Communication is especially important during this global pandemic. To help you understand what to expect, we would like to provide the guidelines the district and campuses will use to initiate COVID-19 related communication with parents during the school year.

***To ensure our ability to communicate important information with you, it is critical now, to provide your updated phone number and email address. Please note that if you opt to block or unsubscribe from emails, this will prevent you from receiving emergency information. Contact your child's campus to update your contact information.***



Lockhart ISD will continue to maintain a district dashboard to allow for transparency of COVID-19 cases in our schools and district. It is accessible at [www.lockhartisd.org](http://www.lockhartisd.org) under "Quick Links." In situations in which an individual in a class or student activity group experiences a **lab-confirmed case of COVID-19**, the principal or designee will send a letter to any individuals who may have had exposure.

## Health & Safety Protocols

### Protocols for Screening and Isolation on Campus

All students should be screened by their parents daily before coming to school. Staff will screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms daily.

### COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider if the individual is experiencing any of the following symptoms **in a way that is not usual for them**. (Please note that students with fever will always be required to remain at home.)

- Temperature of 100.0 or greater
- Loss of taste or smell
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting



### Screening Protocols

All students and staff are required daily to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed above. The self-screening should include taking your own temperature. Those who have COVID-19 symptoms in a way that is not usual to them should seek medical attention and consider masking while symptoms persist. Certainly, if you are running a fever or are feeling unwell, you should



stay home and get well.

**Protocols for different scenarios in which students have a diagnosis, exposure, or symptoms of COVID-19**

**When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms:** Any individuals who themselves are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the campus screens the individual to determine all of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

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

**When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and has NO symptoms:** If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms, the individual may return to school after 10 days have passed since the date the individual was tested as long as the individual continues to have no symptoms. If a student develops symptoms after testing positive, the student must then follow the protocol for students who have tested positive and have symptoms.

**When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 and has not been tested:** If an individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school or work before completing the above stay at home period, we recommend the individual seek medical attention for guidance and consider masking as a precaution.

**When an individual has had an exposure in the school setting with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19:** The local health department recommends self-quarantine and monitoring for symptoms for anyone that has had exposure with someone with COVID-19. Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others. This means that you should stay home and not be around other people outside your household or those with health concerns during this time. While quarantine is recommended, it is not required by our district at this time.



**If staff at any time during the two weeks following exposure to COVID-19 develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, then you should let your supervisor know. Likewise, parents should notify their child's campus nurse.**

**Parents:** Please notify your child's teacher and the campus nurse if you plan to keep your student home to quarantine so that we may make alternate arrangements for learning.

IF anyone chooses to quarantine, the following guidelines are suggested:

Option 1: If you choose not to test for COVID-19, you should quarantine for 10 full days from last exposure to the positive individual. You should remain asymptomatic for the entirety of the quarantine.

Option 2: If you choose to test for COVID-19, schedule the recommended PCR COVID-19 test at least 5 days after exposure to the covid-positive person. If your test comes back negative and you remain symptom free, you may return.

**When an individual reports a person they live with has tested positive for COVID-19:** If a person who lives in their home tests positive for COVID-19, the exposed individual must remain at home for 14 days and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If the individual lives with someone who is infected and cannot avoid close contact with this person, then the 14 day quarantine begins when the isolation period of the infected individual ends. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms, follow the protocol for when an individual tests positive above.

(Per CDC Updated Guidance on March 8, 2021) A vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if the following conditions are true:

- The exposed individual is fully vaccinated (at least two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or the first dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.

**IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE COVID-19,  
PLEASE SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION.**





## **Health and Hygiene Practices: Face Coverings**



As of June 4, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott decreed via [Executive Order GA-36](#) that state government entities and school districts are prohibited from requiring masks.

However, while masks are not required, they are encouraged to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the continuity of student learning and services.

# **Operations for Learning and Work Environments**

## **Transportation**

Social distancing is most challenging on a school bus due to the limited space available. However, the district will provide as much space as possible between students, and students from the same household will be grouped together. While wearing masks is not required, it is encouraged in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the continuity of student learning and services.

- All riders will be assigned seats on the bus.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each route.
- All bus drivers will be trained on appropriate use of cleaning and disinfecting products and procedures and CDC guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on each bus.
- Masks are optional but encouraged. For confirmed COVID cases, buses will be taken out of service to be disinfected.



### **Classroom Configurations and Procedures**

1. Desks or tables should be placed three feet apart when possible.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within three feet of one another, staff should plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
3. Remove blankets, pillows, and other shared non-essential items from the classroom.
4. The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.
5. Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus. Additionally, supplemental services will be grouped by grade level when possible.

### **Restrooms**

1. Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
2. After a restroom break, students will be required to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom.
3. Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day.

### **Transitions**

1. Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.
2. In order to create the safest ways for students to walk to and from different locations on a campus, walking pathways throughout the building will be designated “stay to the right.” This includes the entrance and exit doors. Additionally, students may make transitions outside of the building.







### **Meals/Cafeteria**

During breakfast and lunch, the district will continue to observe physical distancing, when possible, and follow sanitizing protocols in the cafeteria.

1. The district will ensure the safety of children with food allergies.
2. Disposable food service items will be used (e.g., utensils, dishes).

### **Protocols for Campus Visitors**

Before visitors are allowed on campuses, all visitors must be screened to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, schools must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Part of the screening process for all adult visitors will include temperature checks.

Anyone wishing to wear a mask is welcome to do so, but it is not a district requirement.

### ***Visits to Schools***



1. Parents, guardians, or visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with their child in a designated area according to campus guidelines. They must adhere to visitor screening guidelines.
2. Prohibit deliveries to campus (lunch and non-essential items)
3. Parent visitors will be required to follow campus screening protocols

### **Screening Questionnaire Information**

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, campus must only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. Campus staff are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, campus staff must destroy those individuals’ responses.

## **Protocols for Hygiene and Sanitation**

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will be followed to support health and wellness of students and staff.

### **Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations**

1. Staff and students will be trained on proper hand hygiene techniques. All staff will teach, reinforce, and assist students (as needed) with proper hand washing using soap and water.
2. Staff and students are expected to wash their hands frequently including but not limited to after recess, before eating and following restroom breaks.
3. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
4. All staff and students will be trained on how to safely cover coughs and sneezes.

### **Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting Routines**

- Hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol will be provided at building entrances, in the cafeteria, and in classrooms. These will be routinely checked and refilled.



- Touch free paper towel dispensers will be installed in every restroom.
- SSC custodial staff will clean and disinfect on a frequent basis to minimize and prevent viral spread via surfaces.
- SSC custodial staff will continue to implement cleaning and disinfecting procedures, including the use of electrostatic sprayers, following the [CDC COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Schools](#).
- The bathrooms and water filling stations will be cleaned at minimum three times per day.

