

SPRING BRANCH
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

STRONG START

Health and Safety Plan

2021-2022



**Strong Start Health and Safety Plan
for the
Mitigation of Viruses and Other Infectious Diseases**

Spring Branch ISD will continue to implement a multi-pronged, layered approach following health and safety guidance from federal, state, and local governmental agencies to ensure safe and healthy in-person learning. The district will continue to monitor the spread of viruses and other infectious diseases and adjust mitigation procedures as needed. The district will continue to consult with healthcare professionals to make needed updates to the SBISD health and safety plan.

MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

The governor of Texas issued Executive Order No. GA-38 prohibiting school districts from requiring masks. At this time, individuals may choose to wear a mask or face covering at any SBISD campus, facility, and on buses. Staff, students, parents, and visitors will respect each individual's personal choice in mask wearing.

All masks/face coverings shall be free of any images, words, political slogans, with the exception of a SBISD school logo, district logo or college logo.

Updated 02/02/22

SELF-SCREENING

Each day staff, students and visitors are expected to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and other viruses and infectious disease. Symptoms of COVID-19 are: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose.

Individuals experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease are expected to stay home and should contact their health care provider for testing and care.

Staff members and students are expected to monitor their health throughout the school day. Students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease will be sent to the clinic. If a staff member begins experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease they are expected to contact their supervisor, report the absence in AESOP, go home, and contact their health care provider.

Updated 02/02/22

MONITORING STUDENTS

Teachers should monitor their students for signs and symptoms of illness. Any students who do not appear to feel well or report feeling ill will be referred to the school nurse for a clinical assessment. The nurse will contact the parent/guardian of a child needing to go home and/or to a physician (or healthcare provider) for further evaluation. Parents/guardians will need to pick students up within 30 minutes of notification. Starting on September 1, 2021, SBISD nurses, at participating campuses, will be able to administer a rapid test for COVID-19 on site (see section 'COVID-19 Testing'). Students may opt into this program with parental consent. When available and clinically indicated, students participating in the program may be tested if symptomatic.

Updated 08/29/2022

COVID-19 TESTING

The Texas Education Agency announced on August 12, 2021 school districts will be provided free BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card rapid-result tests. Spring Branch ISD has elected to participate in this COVID-19 testing program for the 2021-2022 school year. The SBISD nurses, at participating campuses, are trained to administer the BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card rapid-result test. Student participation in the COVID-19 testing program is optional, and students must have parent permission. Parental consent forms will be available at campuses participating in the program and then returned to the campus nurse.

Updated 02/02/22

COVID-19 Case Report

TEA requires public schools to report test-confirmed COVID-19 cases each week. Case information is supplied for any students, staff members, or visitors who participate in any on-campus activity and are test-confirmed with COVID-19. Students and staff who receive a positive COVID-19 test result are required to provide a copy of the test results to the campus nurse or supervisor. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for a minimum of 5 days. SBISD will report results from molecular or antigen tests that are confirmed by a home test, the individual's health care provider, lab confirmed, and/or conducted by the campus nurse for students participating in the COVID-19 testing program.

Staff, students, and parents can monitor active confirmed COVID-19 cases at their campus on the Spring Branch ISD active case dashboard. The campus nurse and Safety Officer will conduct a case review with individuals having a test confirmed positive COVID-19 test and notify the local health department as required. Individuals identified as having prolonged close contact with an individual who has a test-confirmed positive case will be notified by the nurse and/or campus safety officer. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, SBISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

UIL reporting guidelines posted in the isolation and quarantine section will be followed for individuals participating in UIL events. The district will disinfect and clean the affected classroom, workplace, vehicle, equipment, etc., as necessary.

Updated 02/02/22

VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATIONS

The district will continue to partner with local health entities to offer vaccines and immunizations for students and staff. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance, it is vital all children receive recommended vaccinations on time and get caught up if they are behind as a result of the pandemic.

Updated 02/02/22

STAFF AND STUDENT WELLNESS

To the extent, possible SBISD will continue to offer opportunities for staff and students to receive immunizations and vaccinations for respiratory infections such as influenza and COVID-19.

INCREASED HAND HYGIENE

Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations will be readily available in the classroom, common areas, and wherever food is served. Staff and students will continue to be expected to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day; especially before and after eating, and after activities such as PE or recess.

Updated 08/15/2021

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Teach and encourage students to practice respiratory etiquette such as sneezing into their elbow, covering their coughs, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer after blowing their nose.

VENTILATION

The District facilities are equipped with automatically controlled heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, (HVAC) which meet the highest standards for outdoor air volumes and air supply flow rates and also include premium grade filters, replaced on a set schedule, to reduce airborne particulates into spaces.

Updated 08/29/2021

CAFETERIA

Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits to and from the cafeteria. Lunch schedules will be staggered to facilitate social distancing as feasible. Plexiglas is available upon request. Each campus will make use of outdoor eating areas and other available common areas. Hospital grade disinfectants are used between classes to clean tables. Staff and students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after meals.

ENHANCED CLEANING PROCEDURES

Custodial staff will continue the use of hospital grade disinfectant to clean all flat surfaces and high touch areas such as doorknobs and light switches on a daily basis. The district will continue to provide teachers and classrooms with disinfectant wipes or a suitable disinfectant spray (such as Sanicare TBX) and paper towels.

Updated 02/02/22

SEATING CHARTS

Seating charts will be maintained by the teacher to help identify exposure to communicable diseases when conducting case reviews.

SIGNAGE ENCOURAGING HEALTHY PRACTICES

Health and safety signs will be posted in district facilities to encourage healthy practices such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, etc.

Updated 08/15/2021

USE OF PLEXIGLASS DIVIDERS (OPTIONAL)

Plexiglass (or similar material) may be used during small group instruction such as at a reading table between the teacher and students or between students during group activities. Individual students may request to use plexiglass dividers in the classroom. These, like any other high touch surfaces, will require daily cleaning (see section 'Enhanced Cleaning Procedures').

Updated 08/29/2021

ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL DISTANCING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE

All individuals are encouraged to practice physical distancing of at least three feet, whenever possible and to the extent possible.

Updated 02/02/22

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Per Texas Education Agency (TEA) public health guidance and as provided in the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, a school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19 or other communicable illness (i.e. influenza, measles, chickenpox or other identified illnesses). Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The decision to exclude students from school based on symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be determined after a case review is conducted with the Campus Safety Officer and nurse.

As per, TEA public health guidance and the DSHS rule, parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. Parents/guardians are expected to keep their student at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or any communicable illness. Any students running a fever must remain home and may return once fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.

Individuals exhibiting symptoms of viruses and/or infectious diseases will be referred to the nurse for a clinical assessment and for isolation. The nurse will contact the parent/guardian of a child needing to go home and/or to a physician (or healthcare provider) for further evaluation. Parents/guardians are expected to pick their student up within 30 minutes of notification.

During the exclusion or isolation period, the school system may deliver remote conferencing instruction as outlined by the state. Individuals with a confirmed positive COVID-19 test must meet the following guidelines before returning to school or work:

- Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 calendar days from either the date of the positive test or the onset of symptoms; **AND**,
- Be fever free for at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; **AND**,
- Are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms that are improving.

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, SBISD is offering COVID-19 testing using rapid tests provided by the state. Testing can be conducted on students with prior written permission of parents. More information is provided in the testing section of this document.

Updated 08/29/2021

UIL REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH TEST-CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19

1. As provided in the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, 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. Parents **must ensure** they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the following conditions for re-entry are met.
2. For a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that the student receive clearance from a physician or a physician-approved delegate prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletic activities.
3. If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities are being conducted is test-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).
4. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor in an area where UIL activities are being conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
5. If a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in a UIL competition against another school, the school must notify the opposing school and the officials/contest judges who also participated in the competition.

Updated 02/07/2022

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- If you are NOT fully vaccinated for COVID-19: CDC recommends that you stay home and self-quarantine for a full 5 days after travel and follow additional recommendations below for all travelers.
- If you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19: there is no need to quarantine after travel.
- All Travelers, regardless of vaccination status should:
 - Get tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after travel and if symptoms develop
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms
 - If you test positive, or symptoms develop, isolate, and follow CDC guidelines.
 - Follow all state, tribal, local, territorial recommendations, or requirements for travel

Individuals traveling internationally may not be allowed to return home due to a country's quarantine policy.

- Students who are required to quarantine in another country are expected to follow absence reporting guidelines in the student handbook.
- Staff members who are required to quarantine in another country will use their accruals, report their absence in Aesop and notify their supervisor.

Updated 02/02/22

Spring Branch ISD will continue to monitor cases and the spread of infectious diseases and viruses in our schools, community, and across the state. If the situation requires, the District will consult with local public health authorities and our health care partners to see if additional mitigation procedures are required.

Spring Branch ISD COVID-19 Scenarios (Updated 02/02/22)

These recommendations reflect the latest guidance and policies from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA). We will continue to update these recommendations as new evidence and information develops.

| Scenario | Fully Vaccinated & Boosted (if eligible) | Partially Vaccinated & Unvaccinated Students | Partially Vaccinated & Unvaccinated Staff |
|---|---|--|--|
| I know I was exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and I do not have symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No quarantine -Monitor symptoms -Get tested 5 days after the exposure -CDC recommends taking extra precautions until day 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CDC recommends quarantine for 5 days -Monitor symptoms -Get tested 5 days post-exposure or if symptoms develop -CDC recommends taking extra precautions until day 10 (like wearing a mask) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CDC recommends quarantine for 5 days -Monitor symptoms -Get tested 5 days post-exposure or if symptoms develop -CDC recommends taking extra precautions until day 10 (like wearing a mask) |
| I have symptoms of COVID-19: fever, chills, cough, short-ness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell, runny nose or congestion, or diarrhea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stay home, follow up with your health-care provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stay home, follow up with your healthcare provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stay home, follow up with your healthcare provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19 |
| I tested positive for COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days -Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days -Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days -Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section) |

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I am fully vaccinated? Or what is considered “up to date” on vaccinations?

According to the CDC, individuals are considered up to date on their vaccinations if they have completed their primary series and have received a booster dose. For the primary series, you are fully vaccinated if it has been 2 weeks after their second dose for a 2-dose series (such as Pfizer or Moderna), or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson). All others are considered unvaccinated.

Individuals that have received the primary series are eligible for a booster dose if it has been at least 5 months since completion for Moderna or Pfizer, and 2 months for Johnson & Johnson. Completing the primary series and the booster dose is considered up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Quarantine refers to the measure taken to prevent the spread of disease if you have been exposed to COVID-19 (but not necessarily tested positive). Isolation refers to the measure taken to prevent the spread of disease when you have a known infection (tested positive for COVID-19), regardless of whether you have symptoms.

If I had to undergo isolation, when can I return to work or school?

Individuals with confirmed positive COVID-19 test must meet the following guidelines to return to school or work: isolate at home for a minimum of 5 calendar days since the start of symptoms, **AND** be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine), **AND** are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms that are improving.

I have symptoms and/or I tested positive for COVID-19. How do I properly isolate myself?

- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale/gray/or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people if able.
- Clean highly touched surfaces often, and wash your hands

Do not hesitate to reach out to your personal healthcare provider if you have additional COVID-19 or other health-related concerns.