



Leading Forward 2021-2022

Lockhart ISD COVID-19 Response Plan

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 5 years of age and older that has demonstrated success in significantly reducing the risk of hospitalizations and death from COVID-19.

Lockhart ISD remains committed to ensuring the safety of staff and students and protecting the continuity of learning and services. The school district 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. See [LISD COVID-19 Response Matrix](#)

We are excited to have 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 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).

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 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



Masks and Face Coverings

The school district remains committed to ensuring the safety of staff and students and protecting the continuity of learning and services. Lockhart ISD uses a [COVID-19 Response Matrix](#) to guide the district on protocols. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

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, without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Advil, etc.)

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



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

As a district we will be monitoring CDC-reported community levels, positive COVID-19 cases for students and staff, numbers of quarantined students and staff, student and staff absentee rate, substitute fill rate, and county COVID-19 data to determine the symptom protocols that will be followed below:

Management of Communicable Disease:

When the District determines that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is at a **low** level, all clinic visits related to student illness, injury, rash, or other personal situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the campus nurse's clinical judgment and in accordance with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) communicable disease chart rules for exclusion.

At the time that the District determines that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is at a **medium** level, the following screening protocols will go into effect.

Medium Screening Protocols:

Are you experiencing high risk symptoms?

- Temperature of 100.0 or greater
- Significant body aches / chills / chest pain
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)
- New onset of severe headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing

If you have one or more high risk symptoms:

- Exclude from campus per Lockhart ISD & Department of State Health Services guidelines
- Recommend for evaluation by healthcare provider and testing

When can you return?



The individual must remain home until the following conditions have been met:

- At least 24 hours have passed since fever of 100.0 or greater, without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Advil, etc.);
- Improvement of symptoms; and
- 5 days if their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. If the individual is unable to or is unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask then the individual may return to school after at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

An individual **may** return to school before completing the stay-at-home period under the following conditions:

A note is obtained from a medical provider clearing the individual to return based on an alternative diagnosis or stating illness is not COVID-19 related; or

Obtain a diagnostic COVID PCR test (at a physician's office or approved testing location) that comes back negative for COVID-19. *Antigen (rapid) tests will not be accepted.

Are you experiencing mild risk symptoms?

- Runny nose / nasal congestion
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Vomiting / Diarrhea / Nausea
- Mild Headache
- Cough / chest tightness (student with documented allergy / asthma plan)

I have two or more mild risk symptoms:

Follow symptomatic protocol for high risk symptoms.

I have one mild risk symptom:



If an individual has had a close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with a person infected with COVID-19, follow symptomatic protocol for high risk symptoms.

If the individual has NOT had close contact with a person infected with COVID-19:

- Nurse evaluates/treats in clinic
- If symptoms resolve, return to class

If no improvement with rest and intervention at school, OR based on the nurse's clinical judgment:

- **Call parent for pickup**
- Exclude from campus for 24 hours

If no improvement within 24 hours, follow the symptomatic protocol for high risk symptoms.

At the time that the district determines the risk of contracting COVID-19 is at a high level the following high screening protocols will go into effect.

High Screening 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. 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 refer to see the protocol on page 5 regarding "When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 and who has not been tested."

When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms: Any individuals who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and they cannot return to campus until 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 5 days if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. If the individual is unable to or is unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask then the individual may return to school after 10 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 5 days, followed by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. If the individual is unable to or is unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask then 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 an individual develops symptoms after testing positive, the individual must then follow the protocol for an individual who has tested positive and has symptoms.

When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 and has not been tested: If an individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19, the individual must remain home until the following conditions have been met:

At least 24 hours have passed since fever of 100.0 or greater, without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Advil, etc.);

Improvement of symptoms; and

5 days if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. If the individual is unable to or is unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask then the individual may return to school after at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

An individual may return to school before completing the stay-at-home period under the following conditions:

A note is obtained from a medical provider clearing the individual to return based on an alternative diagnosis or stating illness is not COVID-19 related; or



Obtain a diagnostic COVID PCR test (at a physician's office or approved testing location) that comes back negative for COVID-19. Testing locations can be found at this link: <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> *Antigen (rapid) tests will not be accepted.

When an individual has had close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends for people who are unvaccinated or [not up-to-date](#) (Up to date means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including first booster dose), quarantine for 5 days followed by strict well-fitting mask use for an additional 5 days. Individuals who are [up-to-date](#) do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately [isolate](#) until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19. If an individual at any time during the two weeks following exposure to COVID-19 develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, then they should notify their child's campus nurse. Likewise, staff should notify their supervisor and follow the relevant protocol (see page 5).

When an individual reports a person they live with has tested positive for COVID-19: If the unvaccinated or not [up-to-date](#) individual lives with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, then the 5 day [quarantine](#) begins when the 5 day [isolation](#) period of the infected individual ends. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19, follow the protocol for when an individual tests positive above.

(Per CDC Updated Guidance on January 20, 2022) An individual who is [up-to-date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccines does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual **unless** they develop symptoms.

When an individual is symptomatic and receives a positive antigen (rapid) test and a negative NAAT(PCR) test: The individual will need to receive a total of 2 negative NAAT(PCR) tests 24 hours apart.

When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 day period and has an exposure to COVID-19: If an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days has an exposure to COVID-19, the individual does not



need to quarantine as long as they are not experiencing symptoms. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms, follow the protocol for **when an individual tests positive for COVID-19** and/or the protocol for **when an individual has symptoms of COVID-19**.

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

Counseling Services

Students:

School counselors provide valuable support and services to students, ensuring the needs of the "whole child" are met to help them truly thrive. Whether students are on campus or participating in distance learning, our counselors will continue to provide critical support to our Lions.

- Counselors/Administrators will complete a risk assessment and develop a positive support plan for students (especially at-risk students) in order to provide appropriate resources and support.
- Counselors will regularly communicate with parents/guardians and students in order to share social-emotional learning resources, strategies, etc.
- Counselors will regularly be available, communicate with, and intervene on the behalf of families and students in need.
- Counselors will coordinate with classroom teachers to provide on-campus instruction as needed regarding individual planning and guidance curriculum.
- Counselors will support classroom teachers in providing instruction (asynchronously or synchronously) in alignment with character education/social emotional, and comprehensive counseling programming and other state-mandated topics as needed.
- College Counselors will provide information on graduation, post-secondary opportunities, FAFSA, ApplyTexas, etc., via text, email, or website..
- Families and Students may access a counselor at their individual campuses.

Employees:

Any employee that has emotional distress concerning COVID-19 is welcome to contact our employee confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which has no cost to



Updated May 4, 2022

employees. Contact your EAP: Call: (866) 327-2400; Web: www.deeroakseap.com;
Email: eap@deeroaks.com

