

## HEALTH MITIGATION PROTOCOLS 2022-2023

### General Protocols and Practices:

- The wearing of a mask is optional and is up to the individual.
- Facilities will not be modified to allow for physical distancing.
- BHISD is fortunate to be one of the few districts to utilize Plexiglas screens on every desk last year, and they may be utilized in our classrooms should conditions dictate.
- It is the responsibility of an individual (student/staff) with a positive test for COVID 19 to follow **the process map on the BHISD website** prior to returning to school or work. This should include being fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and significant improvement in symptoms. (see BHISD process maps for more guidance)
- BHISD staff members must contact their supervisor if they test positive for Covid-19.
- Parents should contact the school nurse if their student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Individuals who have been in close and personal contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 should monitor their health conditions for symptoms of COVID-19 and take appropriate steps should symptoms arise.

### Health and Hygiene Protocols and Practices:

- Handwashing will continue to be a priority and it is recommended students, teachers, and staff dedicate intentional time for handwashing throughout the school day.
- Custodians will continue to clean campuses throughout the instructional day.
- Classrooms will be equipped with cleaning supplies for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the instructional day.
- Signage for proper hygiene etiquette will continue to be posted throughout district facilities.

### Attendance:

- **Students who test positive for COVID will receive a local excused absence.**

### Coordination with Local Health Officials:

- BHISD will continue to work with Chambers County and the Texas Education Agency to mitigate COVID. These efforts may include but are not limited to, updating protocols as needed as well as responding to contact tracing if needed.

## Continuity of Services

### 2021-2022 Academic Overview

Given the range of student experiences during the pandemic, recovery cannot be one-size-fits-all. Every student needs a unique set of supports and opportunities. The pandemic limited teachers' ability to fully impact students; therefore, we must address associated learning losses in a thoughtful, equitable way.

In November 2020, Barbers Hill ISD made the bold move to return all students to in person learning with the exception of a small group of students who participated in online learning.

In the event that health officials and the State of Texas determine that virtual learning is needed, all Barbers Hill students will once again have access to the internet and a learning device. District-provided devices and hotspots will be available to families who do not already

have connectivity. This will again ensure that all students have equitable access to learning opportunities.

We know that the extended and unexpected time away from the school building, combined with the stress of the pandemic, impacted academic progress. Therefore, all Barbers Hill students have been assessed for learning loss and teachers have monitored all students' starting point for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

In addition to the social-emotional and mental health supports detailed below, families will continue to be able to access supports to ensure student health and continuity of learning.

## Student Social-Emotional Support

As we all attempt to do what is best for our students, we do so with safety as a paramount consideration. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs reminds us that at the foundation of any hope of progress, best practices dictate safety be addressed and established if at all possible. With the pandemic in our rear view, the social-emotional and mental health of our students is an important consideration. The Counseling Department, in collaboration with our P.A.S.S. and LSSPs, are available to support each campus as we help incorporate social-emotional learning and mental health support for Barbers Hill students.

### Counseling Training:

Via research-based professional development, all Barbers Hill ISD Professional School Counselors have received additional training to address the possible SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)/Mental Health impacts of the pandemic and how they may affect children. Training included topics related to:

- Mental Health Local Resources
- Children's Mental Health
- Trauma Informed Classrooms
- Trauma 102
- Youth Suicide Prevention
- Self-Care for Educators

### Campus Implementation:

Each campus, prior to students returning, had the opportunity to support their staff as they prepared to engage with students and families. This training was facilitated by campus counselors and/or other appropriate principals and/or designee(s) and included some prescriptive "talking points" that all campuses shared with students to help ensure consistency, accuracy, transparency, and overall effectiveness.

### Student Daily Support in the Classroom (In-Person):

All campuses are in year two of utilizing the Character Strong curriculum. Teachers have been intentional about building relationships immediately and consistently as they engage with their students. Daily practices such as using students' names, doing quick five-minute SEL lessons and/or check ins, and giving students a break as needed help build a sense of belonging and decrease anxiety. The Character Strong curriculum overview as well as weekly family lessons are available on the Barbers Hill ISD website. Teachers focus on building resilience in students with restorative practices and integrating SEL within the daily classroom environment. Barbers Hill professional school counselors are available to support these efforts as well as other SEL implementation.

### Regular Emotional/Mental Health Check-In

Red print indicates changes since last update.

Campus counselors and other related campus-level support personnel (Campus Nurse, LSSPs, etc.) are intentional in checking on the mental health and emotional status of students.

### Counseling Support Integration

To better prepare themselves, all Barbers Hill ISD Counseling staff have attended Emotional Backpack Training facilitated by Mental Health America of Greater Houston which prepared them to educate their campuses on ways to help students and teachers deal with the emotional effects of the pandemic.

### Staff Social-Emotional Support

Barbers Hill ISD values and appreciates its dedicated staff. We realize that as we focus on social-emotional support for our district, we must include the adults that help lead and educate our students every day. Within the Emotional Backpack training, counselors and were instructed in ways to assist campus personnel on a daily basis with regular check-ins and other ways to assess and assist with the mental health of campus teachers and leaders.

Staff members also have access to the ComPsych Guidance Resources program. These services are available 24/7 for confidential assistance at no charge to staff members and their dependents.

Additionally, the district introduced the Healthy on the Hill Wellness Program for all employees. Campus nurses are at the focal point for activities such as the Water Challenge, Fitness Fusion, Eagle Pointe Yoga and/or walking as well as other activities.