



HEALTH & SAFETY
HANDBOOK

FALL 2022

We are very excited to welcome staff and students back for the 2022-2023 school year! Tomball ISD is dedicated to the safety and welfare of all students, staff and visitors. Although we know that positive relationships with students is the most important security measure, campuses regularly hold a variety of drills and security assessments to better prepare students and staff in the event of an actual emergency.

The purpose of this document is to provide staff, students and parents with an overview of the safety systems and protocols that are in place in Tomball ISD to create and maintain a safe and secure learning environment. This Health & Safety Document highlights our multi-hazard emergency operating procedures (EOP), including an active shooter threat, and COVID monitoring practices.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The topic of School Safety is certainly not a new concern, but recent tragedies have understandably brought a renewed focus to the topic. Tomball ISD is committed to utilizing every available resource to maintain and continue to improve the safety measures in place for our students, staff, and community. Understanding that school safety is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders in our school community, we know that if we work together, we can continue to provide a safe and positive school environment for all our students and staff.

In order to maintain integrity in the safety processes, there are some aspects of our EOP and active shooter threat plans that cannot be shared with the public. Keeping elements of our plan internal ensures that only those that are instrumental to the successful operation of our safety plans are aware of how we will keep staff and students safe in the event of an emergency.

In our preparation to welcome students back and to comply with requirements by Governor Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Tomball ISD has taken the following actions prior to the start of school to strengthen our safety and security plans:

- Increased the number of Tomball Police Department (TPD) School Resource Officers (SRO) from 9 to 12, with a plan to increase to 16 SROs by the end of the school year.
- Physical inspection by school staff and TPD of all campus external and internal doors and access points. Any door not meeting inspection will be repaired prior to students arriving for the first day of school.
- Trained all staff on Standard Response Protocol (SRP), the emergency response protocols utilized in Tomball ISD and recommended by the Texas School Safety Center.
- Trained key personnel on each campus who serve on the Threat Assessment Committee that works to identify potential threats to the school environment.
- Met with the District-wide, cross-functional committee made up of city, county, and district officials, teachers and parents to review Tomball ISD's EOP.

- Created a new District-level position solely focused on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our safety protocols.
- Training for SROs on Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT), which is specifically designed to train for active shooter scenarios and the need for *immediate* engagement and neutralization of a shooting threat.
- Staff training on mental health supports and wrap-around services to assist students in need of social-emotional support.
- Trained all SROs to deliver ALERRT's "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events," training to staff.

Students and Staff ID Badges

Students and staff are required to wear their campus-issued ID badges to school every day. ID badges will help the campus determine which individuals are authorized to be on campus and will assist in accounting for students in an emergency situation. For students, their ID badge has additional functionality for transportation, child nutrition, and library services. The ID badge will be provided to students as soon as possible, in some instances before school during orientation activities or on the first day of school. In the name of collectively ensuring a safe environment in our schools, the District appreciates the support of our parents in ensuring their students wear their badges to school every day.

Standard Response Protocol

Tomball ISD must be prepared for a variety of multi-hazard threats that could occur while students and/or staff are on campus. In the event of a real or perceived emergency, Tomball ISD staff and students will engage in one of the following emergency responses:

- **Hold-** students and staff remain in their classrooms or stay out of access areas.
- **Secure-** students and staff are brought into the building when a threat is outside of the building; the outside doors will be locked. Inside, it will be business as usual.
- **Lockdown-** students and staff enter or remain in a room that can be locked, and silence is maintained. A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building.
- **Evacuate-** students and staff are moved from one location to another for safety reasons. This includes situations such as a fire and power outages. A potential off-site evacuation may be necessary when it's no longer safe to stay in the building.
- **Shelter-** students and staff shelter in appropriate locations and initiate protective actions based on a threat or hazard such as tornadoes, hazardous material situations, or other local threats.

These responses and the related actions are known as the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). The SRP is a nationally recognized emergency response system widely used across the state and country by school districts and law enforcement.

It is important that all stakeholders--staff, students, parents and community members--are familiar with the action terms and the corresponding behaviors that are expected of everyone in the school community when one of these emergencies arises. Campus principals have delivered refresher training to all their staff, and all students will receive SRP training during the first week of school. The intent with this training is that all members of the school community know how to respond in the event of an emergency.

Please note: if a campus initiates one of the SRP responses listed above, it is extremely important for our parents to remember they cannot come up to the campus for any reason at that time. We understand the anxiety our parents will feel, but it is critically important that the roads around the campus remain clear for emergency personnel, and campus staff need to be able to focus on the safety of those already in the building. The District will send out regular communication to parents via School Messenger for the duration of the situation.

Anonymous Alerts

Campus administrators and the Tomball Police Department routinely investigate social media tips and threats. Our students are continually reminded that if they **see something, say something!** Tomball ISD has a safe and anonymous way to report any suspicious, threatening or unsafe behavior that could compromise school safety. Students and/or parents should make school administrators aware of any concerns and submit anonymous alerts [here](#).

For more information, please visit our Safety Information [website](#).

HEALTH

Tomball ISD prioritizes the health and safety of all students, staff, and families. District leadership continually monitors district data and trends and refers to local, state, and federal recommendations in order to optimize student learning and safety.

PREVENTION:

Refer to the [CDC](#) for recommendations to [minimize transmission](#) and measures on [how to protect yourself and others](#) to reduce the prevalence of illness or communicable disease from entering our schools.

Health Screening: Parents and/or students and staff should self-screen for illness and should not report to school or work until symptoms resolve without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol/Acetaminophen, Motrin/Ibuprofen, Aleve/Naproxen Sodium) for 24 hours.

Face Masks/Coverings: The use of masks is optional in Tomball ISD.

Isolation and Readmission Criteria for a Positive Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Student

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must enter isolation. Parents should notify the school if their student tests positive for COVID-19 via the District's [online reporting tool](#) (upload of test result must be provided). **In order for the student's absence during isolation to be exempted, a student must provide a physician's note or a positive COVID-19 lab result to the school within one week of returning to school.** Individuals in isolation should meet the readmission criteria outlined below before returning to school.

- **Isolation:** Students must not come to school and should isolate themselves from others for a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset or a positive test date (whichever occurred first).
- **Return Criteria:** Per [CDC guidance](#), people with COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 5 days and should consult and follow recommendations from their health provider if their symptoms persist. A physician note will be required for absences 10 days or longer.

Isolation and Readmission Criteria for a Positive Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Staff

Staff who test positive for COVID-19 must enter isolation. The employee should report on the [district's staff online reporting form](#) (upload of test result must be provided). Staff should:

- Follow the medical advice given by their primary care physician.
- Employees that test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, shall return when at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and all symptoms are improving or resolved and fever has been absent for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication. Staff should consult their health provider if their symptoms persist beyond 10 days. A physician note will be required for absences 10 days or longer.

Isolation and Readmission Criteria for a Symptomatic Individual

Individuals who exhibit symptoms consistent with illness will be evaluated by the school nurse and will be excluded in accordance with [TISD communicable disease exclusion criteria](#).

Guidance for Household Close Contacts of Individuals Who Tested Positive

Close contacts to individuals who tested positive should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions for the duration of the 10-day period.

If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine. Individuals may return to school when fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. If symptoms persist, individuals should seek guidance from their health provider.

MITIGATION:

Practices to diminish spread of illness inside the school. As a basis for keeping the environment safe and healthy for students and staff, TISD custodians will continue to execute our routine cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, offices, and common areas within district facilities.

RESPONSE:

Harris County Public Health will be notified when a student/staff that has been in school is confirmed with COVID-19.

STUDENT ABSENCES:

In order for the student's absence during isolation to be exempted, a student must provide a physician's note or a positive COVID-19 lab result to the school. Proof of a student's positive test result must be given to the school within a week of returning to school.

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS:

- Students/Parents: Please contact your campus nurse
- Employees: Please contact Human Talent
 - Tiffany Cagle (tiffanycagle@tomballisd.net) or
 - Jennifer Martens (jennifermartens@tomballisd.net)

****Tomball ISD administration will continue to consult with medical health officials, review available public health guidance, follow Texas Education Agency mandates, and monitor COVID-19 infection data within our local community and larger counties in order to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of our students and staff. Tomball ISD reserves the right to modify our health and safety protocols as needed.****