



HISD 2021 Fall Return to Learn Guide

Hillsboro ISD continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19. The District receives regular updates and guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Mike Morath and other local, state and federal agencies regarding response, prevention and mitigation efforts. This direction has evolved over the last several months and will continue to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the state and our local community.

Hillsboro ISD has implemented these guidelines for the 2021-22 school year to promote a safe and healthy learning environment. These protocols were developed after reviewing guidance from local, state and national health and educational entities, stakeholder input and in accordance with the law.

Below is a plan regarding school for the 2021-2022 school year. **This plan is subject to change based on additional guidance from Governor Abbott, TEA and other local, state and governing agencies.** As HISD finalizes other items to include in the guide, the District will post updates to its website www.hillsboroisd.org in addition to providing details on social media. The Hillsboro ISD Return to Learn plan will be reviewed every six months until September 30, 2023 or any time that additional guidance or information merits changes.

2021-2022 Instructional Model

We believe that it is important for students to be at school with their teachers, friends and peers to develop academically and socially. For the 2021-2022 school year, HISD will offer only **face-to-face instruction**.

Face to Face Instruction

HISD will do it's very best to make face to face instruction as engaging and as normal as possible. Face to face instruction will occur in a classroom setting taking into consideration health recommendations from local, state and governing agencies, allowing for flexibility and safety for our students and staff.

Support for Students

- Special Education and 504
 - ARD/504 Committees will determine the unique needs of each student who receives special education instruction/504 related services and will make service recommendations for students. Progress will be monitored and ARD/504 committees will convene as needed to make appropriate recommendations to meet the individual needs of students.
- English Learners
 - LPAC Committees will determine the unique needs of each student who receives Bilingual/ESL instruction and will make learning recommendations for students.
 - The nature of learning English as a second language will likely require a heavier concentration of face-to-face supports and services to ensure that individual student needs are met.
 - Progress will be monitored and LPAC committees will convene as needed to make appropriate recommendations to meet the individual needs of students.
- Gifted and Talented
 - Campuses will still provide program services and enrichment activities through face to face learning.

Attendance and Enrollment

- Hillsboro ISD will be required to take daily attendance. This means students will have to be present face to face to be counted present for credit purposes.
- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students who are absent from face to face instruction for an extended period of time due to COVID will have an excused absence with a doctor's note and will be expected to make up any missed work.
- Attendance guidelines are published in student handbooks and follow state law and TEA guidelines.

Extracurricular Participation

The information that follows is based on guidance from the UIL as well as the Texas Education Agency. As UIL/TEA releases information, these guidelines may change.

- All participants, coaches and directors will follow rules established by the University Interscholastic League and the Texas Education Agency. UIL guidance can be found on the [UIL Website](#).
- Schools must follow TEA screening requirements and screen students and staff members before allowing them to participate in UIL activities. If a student or staff member has been screened by the school for purposes of participating in instruction, there is no reason to screen separately before allowing the staff or student to participate in UIL activities.
- Coaches will follow UIL guidelines established for summer strength and conditioning and sport specific workouts until the first day of instruction or the start of in-season activities, whichever is earlier. Attendance at workouts is optional for students. space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available in workout areas.

- All areas will be disinfected at the end of the day. Surfaces in workout areas are disinfected throughout the workout periods. Any equipment used is disinfected after workout sessions.
- Other extracurricular activities already taking place in HISD will continue to follow TEA guidance.
- HISD Fine Arts will not use shared equipment if possible. The few equipment items that must be shared (mainly large percussion instruments) will be disinfected after use.

Nutrition Services Program

HISD will provide breakfast and lunch for all students.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has advised Texas school districts that meals will be provided under the regulations of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (NSLP).

For meal service itself, meals and other food items will be served in disposable food containers.

For questions about the program, contact Henry Boryk at 254 582-4130.

Face to Face Instruction

Preventative Practices

The following guidance was provided by the Texas Education Agency for the 2021-2022 school year-

HISD Students, Parents and Visitors

- Staff and students will not be required to wear a mask **but strongly encouraged** if they have not been vaccinated.
 - Masks, if worn, must meet dress code requirements--no obscene/offensive language or graphics.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the **conditions for re-entry** are met. The symptoms include:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea

- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- Parents and visitors will be allowed to enter the building to drop off lunches, student work, and pick up your child for an appointment.
- Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with their student or visit classrooms.
- Parents can still schedule face-to-face meetings with the campus administration if needed. These meetings may also be held via phone call, Zoom or Google Meet if possible.

HISD Staff

- HISD asks teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions: Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
- The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to HISD if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.
- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.

Protocols for Individuals Confirmed, Suspected or Exposed to COVID-19

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-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).
- Anyone who is actively sick with COVID-19, tests positive, or is symptomatic with 2 or more COVID-19 symptoms will be required to stay home for 10 days. Stay-at-home period can end for students or staff experiencing no major symptoms on day 10 **or** a negative COVID-19 test result on day 7 or after.
- Students and staff who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 are strongly advised to stay at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. Parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.

- If parents are aware that their child has been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive in their home, they will be required to stay at home.
- HISD School Nurses will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual can be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above have been met.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Masks

The following draft guidance was provided by the Texas Education Agency for 2021-2022 school year.

- Staff and students will not be required to wear a mask **but strongly encouraged** if they have not been vaccinated.
 - Masks, if worn, must meet dress code requirements--no obscene/offensive language or graphics.

Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocols

- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur nightly in every classroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- Restrooms, cafeterias, and computer labs will undergo extensive cleaning after each day's use.
- All classrooms and offices will have hand sanitizer and tissues. For classrooms or lab rooms equipped with sinks, soap and paper towels will be available for student and staff use.
- On the first day a student attends school on campus, HISD teachers will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices recommended by TEA.
- Students, teachers, staff, will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- **Protocols for Campus Visitors**
 - Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible.
 - Campuses will limit visitors during the school day. No outside lunches will be dropped off by parents during the school day. Students will need to bring their lunch or eat a meal prepared by the cafeteria.
 - In the event a visitor must enter the building's reception area, the visitor will be encouraged to wear a face covering if not vaccinated.
 - Virtual meetings will be available when requested.
 - Visitors and staff will maintain physical distancing for ARD and other meetings in smaller conference areas.

Large-Group Gatherings & Special Event Announcements

- During the fall semester, HISD will avoid scheduling non-essential large group gatherings and events where adults and students must commingle indoors or where students would be unnecessarily exposed to the virus in public places such as field trips, assemblies, dances, public pep rallies, PTA fun nights, etc.