



2023-2024 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan - RIPICS

As of July 1, 2023, 10:00 AM

This plan was drafted and posted to the Bullard ISD website at <https://www.bullardisd.net/about-us/required-postings>. Every six months, Bullard ISD will review the plan in accordance with the latest guidance from the CDC, state and local governments. If revisions are needed to the plan, public input will be solicited and stakeholders will be meaningfully consulted. The revised version of the plan will then be posted on the website.



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Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Bullard Independent School District looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 16, 2023. Despite the continued challenges of COVID-19, our district will continue to provide excellent in-person education to our students.

Bullard ISD's plan continues to follow recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency, and state and local health officials.

Please note: The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments become necessary throughout the school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Bullard ISD website and Bullard ISD facebook page will provide you with the most up-to-date information.

The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Consistently implementing recommendations of federal, state and local governmental agencies to the extent feasible is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences.



Student & Staff Safety Protocols

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

Following are the return to work and return to school protocols for Bullard ISD campuses and administration buildings. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Bullard ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

It is important to remember the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person shows no symptoms or is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously or fatally ill, especially for persons 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions placing them at higher risk. Due to the hidden nature of this threat, Bullard ISD expects all employees, students and families to rigorously follow these practices.

Preparation for the Opening of School

Bullard ISD will ensure all staff, resources, and supplies are prepared for opening school, including assigning sufficient staff to carry out re-opening, ensuring proper training and stocking inventory of necessary supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, Bullard ISD will implement health and safety plans that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory (e.g., PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and other jurisdictional policies



- Providing signage in areas recommended by the TEA to communicate procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings

General

All students and staff who show symptoms of Covid-19 will be separated and sent home.

TEA guidance lists symptoms indicating a possible COVID-19 infection as follows:

- Temperature (100° Fahrenheit or higher);
- Loss of taste or smell;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing;
- Shortness of breath;
- Fatigue;
- Chills;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering;
- Significant muscle pain or ache;
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

General Screening Protocols

- Staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day, and the district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines.
- Staff must notify their campus principal or direct line supervisor if they test-confirmed for, or experience symptoms of COVID-19.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Staff and students should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply:
 - Currently experiencing any symptom of COVID-19;
 - Currently sick or had a fever of 100 degrees or higher within the past 24 hours;
 - Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Current CDC guidance and recommendations include: (synopsis below)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>:
 - Staying up to date on vaccinations
 - Staying home when sick



- Hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes
- Cleaning surfaces at least once a day; and when a sick individual has been identified
- Masking recommended based on Community Levels (see chart below):
 - Low -- neither recommended nor prohibited (for those desiring to wear a mask);
 - Medium -- Immunocompromised, elderly or those at higher risk are recommended to wear a mask, as are individuals around this group;
 - High -- masking is recommended in schools

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

- A vaccinated student does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if the following conditions are true:
 - The exposed student is fully vaccinated (at least two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or the first dose of a single-dose vaccine), and;
 - The exposed student has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.



- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Individuals who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- On April 26, 2021, the School Board of the Bullard Independent School District passed a resolution (“the Resolution”) making the wearing of face coverings optional for both students and staff, although face coverings may be required at any time at the discretion of the Superintendent following an outbreak of Covid-19 on any campus.
- Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Isolation Protocols

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student’s parent/guardian.
- Other students will be immediately removed from the classroom or affected area and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, Bullard ISD may notify all affected teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or facility if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activities of which a student or staff member may have been exposed.
- Per the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - At least twenty-four (24) hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications);
 - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) are improving; and



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- At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or positive test for asymptomatic students).
 - Per updated DSHS and TEA guidance staff members who are presumed or have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school when all three of the following are met:
 - At least twenty-four (24) hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications);
 - Symptoms are improving (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
 - At least five (5) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
 - CDC recommends individuals presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19 should wear a mask in school for an additional five (5) days to prevent the spread of the virus.
 - Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
 - Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual at school will no longer be asked to self-quarantine, unless the student or staff member becomes symptomatic for COVID-19.
 - If the student (or staff member) has symptoms that could be COVID-19 (but is not test-confirmed) and wants to return to school before completing the 10-day (or 5-day for staff) stay at home period, the individual must either:
 - (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; OR
 - (b) after ten (or five for staff) calendar days of symptoms onset; being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and with the improvement of symptoms; OR
 - Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19 (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>).
 - In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten (10) days (or five (5) days for staff) have passed since a positive test; being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and with the improvement of symptoms.
 - If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 but believes the test was a false positive, and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:
 - (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; OR
 - (b) obtain two (2) PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least twenty-four (24) hours apart which both come back negative for COVID-19.



Nursing Staff

If an employee or student becomes ill on campus/district, he/she will immediately report to the campus nurse's isolation room and a COVID-19 case form will be completed.

- Upon arrival, the employee or student will be provided with a mask to help prevent the spread of the potential virus.
- The school nurse and others attending the suspected infected person, may also wear a protective mask, gloves, and/or other PPE, as deemed necessary by the school nurse and federal, state or local health officials.
- The nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work or call the parent of the student to be picked up and go home.
- The school nurse must report test-positive cases to the local health department.

Vaccinations for Covid-19

General

- Bullard ISD will notify staff, students, families and the greater Bullard, Texas community of any local opportunities to obtain vaccination against Covid-19. Any such opportunities will be communicated through the Bullard ISD website, direct notification to parents and social media postings. Bullard ISD is not recommending for or against any Covid-19 vaccination, but will provide notifications to facilitate vaccination for any individuals seeking to be vaccinated.

Protocols for Travel

General

- Individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms while traveling or immediately after traveling should follow CDC guidelines for individuals presumed to have been exposed to COVID-19.



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- Any student or staff member who develops symptoms must notify the campus principal to activate district protocols.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

General

Campuses will conduct virtual meetings to limit campus visitors when possible. Individuals will not be allowed beyond the campus front office unless approved by the campus principal.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will aid in the health and wellness of students and staff.

Hand Washing / Sanitizing Expectations

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in additional common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions and/or disinfectant wipes to regularly sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.



Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

General

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. Bullard ISD campuses have been completely cleaned and disinfected prior to school reopening. Bullard ISD will continue to clean and disinfect our facilities to protect our students and staff, and reduce the risk of spread of infection.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected-

Additional Cleaning Measures for Covid-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, quaternary disinfectant, which is recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19, will be used to disinfect as soon as the confirmation of a positive test is received.
- Custodial staff will disinfect classrooms, restrooms, and all common space areas throughout the building.
- Bullard ISD will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

Protocols for Transportation

General

Bullard ISD 's transportation protocols for students and staff are based on federal, state, and local guidelines (CDC, Texas Department of Health Services, TEA, etc.)



Bus Transportation

Starting at the time when students arrive at their designated bus stop and board the school bus, the following safety and sanitizing protocols will be implemented.

- Students should practice social distancing, whenever possible (if there is adequate space and it is safe to do so) while waiting for and approaching the school bus.
- Students should not share food, drinks, or personal items.
- Student family units will be seated together, to the extent practicable.
- When possible, bus windows will be opened to increase outside air circulation.

Bus Drivers / Bus Monitors

- Bus drivers and bus monitors must not report to work if they suspect they are sick, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have a fever of 100.0 or above.

Bus Sanitization

- Bus drivers, bus monitors, and/or Bullard ISD transportation staff will disinfect all district route buses with a quaternary disinfectant, which is recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Buses will be disinfected after the morning routes with quaternary disinfectant utilizing a backpack sprayer to achieve coverage on all surfaces in the bus.
 - Buses will be disinfected (as noted above) after special event routes occurring prior to the afternoon bus routes.
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Work and Learning Environments

General Classroom

- Signage will be posted in all classrooms regarding protocols and prevention, as recommended by TEA.
- Multiple locations of hand sanitizer and trash cans will be available to limit student and staff movement.
- Alcohol-based sanitizer will be provided in each classroom.



Restrooms

- Visual reminders have been added. Students must wash hands and /or use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day.

Library

- Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.
- High touch surfaces (i.e. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be disinfected regularly.

Water Fountains

- While drinking fountains have been reopened throughout the district, Bullard ISD recommends the use of the installed touchless bottle filling stations in each campus building.
- Students are expected to bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the day, and expected to take their water bottles home to be cleaned regularly.
- Where age appropriate, instruction on how students should fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains will be provided.

Communication Methods

To stay updated on the most up-to-date information:

- Teachers, students, and parents need to check their email often.
- Visit Bullard ISD's district website.
- Follow Bullard ISD's district and campus social media platforms.