

Nursery Independent School District

2021-2022 STRONG START PLAN for the Safe Return to School and Continuity of Service

August 7, 2021

Disclaimer: As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve and information changes from Federal, State, and local government, this plan is subject to change.

Instruction:

- 1. Nursery ISD will only offer Face to Face instruction for students.**
- 2. (September 20, 2021) Nursery ISD will offer Remote Conferencing/Virtual Instruction for those students who meet the criteria for COVID-19 quarantine protocol or is confirmed to be COVID-19 positive.**
 - a. Please refer to the NISD Remote Conferencing (Synchronous and Asynchronous) Virtual Instruction Plan for the specific guidelines.**

Steps Toward a Strong Start for the Safe Return to School

1. Nursery ISD has two full time custodians to ensure diligent cleaning and daily sanitation.
 - a. The Clorox 360 Machine will be used nightly, and every classroom will be sanitized.
 - b. The Floor Scrub machine will be used nightly with floor sanitation liquid. (Mop and Clorox will be utilized in spaces where the machine does not fit).
2. Classroom sanitation between switch classes.
3. Teachers will wipe classroom surfaces at a minimum of 4 times in an 8-hour period.
4. Students will have their own supplies- no community resources in the classroom.
5. All items need to be kept in the student cubbies. Backpacks and all other items must be off the floor.
6. Carpet time is off limits until further notice.
7. Students may not reenter the building after dismissal for any reason.

Breakfast and Lunch

From 7:15 to 7:30, students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria, 4 to a table. After 7:30, breakfast will be served in the classroom. Cafeteria Dividers will be used for the 2021-2022 school year and students will have assigned seats for contact tracing should the need arise.

1. Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 will eat breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria by themselves.
2. 3 Lunches: NISD will utilize 3 lunches to minimize the number of students present in the cafeteria at one time.
 - a. 11:10 to 11:40 Pre-K, Kinder and 1st Grade
 - b. 11:50 to 12:20 3rd and 4th Grade
 - c. 12:30 to 1:00 2nd and 5th Grade
3. At the end of lunch, all food will go into the trash can. Food may not be shared among students.

Students and Water Bottles:

1. Students are encouraged to bring two disposable water bottles with them each day. Water bottles will be labeled daily and stored on person to prevent cross contamination.
2. Equally, students may use refillable water bottles. Please make sure the water bottles are labeled. Only teachers or Nurse Spencer may refill the water bottles.
3. The water fountains are closed for general-community use.

1st day of School and Visitors:

1. Until further notice, the campus is closed to parents and visitors. Parents will not be allowed to walk their child to class on the first day of school. Student drop off will begin at 7:20 a.m. in the front circle drive at Cougar Paws #8 through #10.
2. The campus will be closed to visitors for lunches and other non-educational purposes. (As time passes, we will reevaluate the decline of COVID. As information is released from the CDC, State, and the Commissioner of Education, we will transition to parent visitors for lunch and other programs).
3. Medication: If you need to drop off medicine with the Nurse, please do so after 7:30 a.m. Once you arrive, please call the front office at 361-575-6882 and the nurse will meet you outside.
4. All other educational business will be done by appointment only.

Face Masks: Parent Choice

1. Face masks are strongly encouraged and may be worn at NISD. If a parent wishes for their child(ren) to wear a mask, please let your child's teacher know. Face masks are not required or mandated.
2. Teachers and Health education will emphasize healthy habits and good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Students and Staff Arriving to Campus

1. Students and staff will be assessed daily by a thermal temperature device.
 - a. Parent Drop Off
 - i. Staff will use a thermal thermometer to take the student's temperature upon arrival. Any student that has a temperature 99.1 will be sent home. (If your child has a normal elevated temperature, a doctor's note must be on file).
 - b. Bus
 - i. Students riding the bus will be checked before they enter the building. Students with a temperature of 99.1 will be sent home.
2. All teachers and staff members will answer the self-screening questions daily. Faculty and staff that have any illness or symptom may not enter the building and must call administration prior to the arrival on NISD property.

Student Illness:

1. Students may not be sent to school if they are sick. Students must be fever free for a minimum of 72 hours without fever reducing medicine.
 - a. Symptoms include but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature of greater than or equal to 99.1**
 - ii. Headache**
 - iii. Cough**
 - iv. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - v. Runny nose or allergy like symptoms**
 - vi. Repeated shaking with chills, or chills**
 - vii. Muscle pain**
 - viii. Sore throat**
 - ix. Loss of taste or smell**
 - x. Vomit**
 - xi. Diarrhea**

2. Students may not return to school unless COVID-19 is ruled out by:
 - a. A doctors note
 - b. Rapid COVID Test results
 - c. COVID-19 protocol set forth by NISD.

Rapid COVID Testing:

1. Staff, students, and anyone performing a service for NISD is eligible to be COVID-19 tested at the school.
2. Parent permission is required to test students.

On Campus Instruction

1. Nursery ISD will follow all CDC guidelines, where permissible by Texas law, at a minimum standard. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
2. NISD will follow TEA guidelines
 - a. See TEA Public Health Guidance August 5, 2021: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>
3. Corrugated plastic table dividers will be used in the classrooms to create a safety barrier between students to promote social distancing.
4. Hand sanitation stations will be placed strategically throughout the building.
 - a. Each classroom will have hand sanitizer units or bottles.
 - b. Transitions and class changes will require a quick surface wipe.
 - c. Students will be encouraged to wash hands/sanitize often.

On Campus Instruction and Addressing Learning Loss

1. Multi-Tiered System of Supports-(MTSS) Nursery ISD is currently working with the Region 3 Service Center to develop a comprehensive MTSS plan to monitor all students academically, behaviorally, and socially emotionally.
2. Math Intervention- Nursery ISD has employed a Math Interventionist. Students in all grade levels Kindergarten through fifth grade are offered support in areas of need. Small group instruction or one on one instruction is provided to address gaps in learning. Students are monitored regularly to check for understanding and growth. These interventions are offered to all students in need.
3. Reading Intervention- Nursery ISD's Reading Interventionist works with students in kindergarten through fifth grade that demonstrate a need for intensive reading intervention. Students are provided support addressing areas of identified need through small group, or one on one instruction. Students are monitored regularly to

- check for understanding and growth. These interventions are offered to all students in need.
4. HB 4545- Nursery ISD teachers and interventionists have implemented before school and afterschool tutorials to meet state requirements mandated by HB 4545.
 5. Tutoring-Nursery ISD teachers offer tutoring opportunities for students throughout the school year. Teachers work with students to correct misconceptions presented during grade level instruction. Teachers work with small groups on targeted skills that meet the needs of their students.
 6. Benchmarks- Nursery ISD's Reading Interventionist conducts BOY, MOY, and EOY Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems (BAS) assessments. The BAS assessments are designed to measure a student's decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills through a one on one assessment. These assessments are used to identify a student's reading level that is then used by teachers to develop individualized instruction in the classroom. District level Math and Reading benchmarks are conducted in December and March. These assessments focus on grade level TEKS. Data collected is used to determine student academic needs and to determine tutoring needs.

Counselor and Mental Health and Wellness

Mental health services: Nursery ISD is responsible for the mental health services of students and staff. We provide counseling services to students that are in academic or behavioral need, or those students who are in crisis. We do this by individual counseling, small group counseling, or classroom guidance lessons when the situation is appropriate. Nursery ISD also reaches out to outside agencies to assist if the situation arises. Our School Counselor is also available to staff for counseling if necessary. We strive to provide useful information to staff about mental health services about topics that relate to our student population. Nursery ISD encourages the staff to engage in self-care in order to maintain their mental health. In October, we have lessons about Bullying Awareness. This year we were able to partner with DuctTape in order to have the students participate in a school-wide activity. Students watched a video clip about kindness, stated a pledge and then placed their name on DuctTape onto a banner to serve as a visual reminder that they pledged to be kind to others. During the month of October we also celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Students learned about the dangers of prescription drugs and other illegal drugs in order to know the potential harm that could be caused. There were week-long activities to help remind students that drug-free is a healthy lifestyle to maintain. We will celebrate Random Acts of Kindness for a week during February to remind students to choose to be kind in their words and actions. We will have week-long activities to show the importance of this character trait.

Social and Emotional Learning: Nursery ISD provides social and emotional learning on a weekly basis to the students on campus. We incorporate important character trait skills in order for our students to be successful. Some skill sets taught in the Tuesday Counseling Classes are:

respect, leadership, gratitude, motivation, goal setting, problem solving, teamwork, kindness, empathy, and responsibility. These lessons are taught from pre-K through 5th grades weekly for a 45 minute time period per grade level. We incorporate technology, reading, writing, fine-motor-skills, and movement into weekly lessons in order to engage students. We also focus on growth mindset and breathing techniques. Students in 3rd through 5th grade classes have a growth mindset journal in which they learn and practice positive thinking skills in order to ensure academic and behavioral success in and out of the classroom. Learning breathing and calming techniques are very important in order to teach the student self-regulation and de-escalation techniques.

IDEA (504): With the addition of a school counselor, the counselor will assume the responsibilities of the campus 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will facilitate meetings with parents, teachers, specialized faculty and administrators in order to assure students are successful in the classroom. Child find also is an important factor to make sure we are serving all students who may have needs not yet identified.

Gifted and Talented Program: Nursery ISD also serves the Gifted and Talented student population. NISD meets with students once a week to provide social and emotional lessons. Additionally, the Texas Performance Standards Project are completed yearly. The Counselor is also responsible for screening students that would like to enter the GT Program and are referred by parent or teacher. All students are screened in Kindergarten.

Family Engagement: Nursery ISD encourages Family Engagement activities. NISD has partnered with a local company in order to provide incentives based on positive behavior character traits. Students are taught a new character trait every 9 weeks. This character trait may have certain skills or other character traits that tie into it in order to help the student grow socially and emotionally. At the end of the 9 weeks one student per class is chosen that exhibits this character trait. They are then chosen to receive an incentive from the company we have partnered with. Parents are invited to attend this celebration that also provides other academic incentives. Other family engagement activities may include: the Veteran's Day Parking Lot Parade, Trunk or Treat, the Christmas Play, Spring Fling, and Award Ceremonies each 9 weeks.

Career Services: In the spring semester Nursery ISD is planning to have a Career Day. This will be a half day event in which community leaders will be able to showcase their career to our students. Students will be able to see firsthand career opportunities that are available to them. They will be able to ask questions, view duties performed, and gain knowledge about how to obtain the career they may be interested in.

Outreach: Nursery ISD utilizes other professionals in the community. We have partnered with Mid Coast Family Services to help with Red Ribbon Week activities during the month of October. We have also coordinated with two outside organizations in order to support families during the holiday seasons and provide other necessities as the need arises. When necessary Nursery ISD works with Texas Child Protective Services and local law enforcement in order to ensure students are safe not only at school but at home as well.

Confirmed Case/Exposure-Staff or Adult

1. Any staff member that develops COVID like symptoms will be sent home immediately.
 - a. Staff members have been directed they are not to report to work if they have any abnormal symptom or illness.
2. CDC Guidelines will be followed and the NISD Return to Work Request must be submitted to Dr. Gajewsky or designee before staff returns.
3. Classrooms will be evacuated, and the students relocated to another area. The campus will not be required to “Close school,” but this may be necessary.
 - a. A classroom that has an exposure or confirmation, the classroom will be sanitized. Class will resume the following day in the normal classroom. In some cases, after the class is sanitized, the students may return in the same day, typically after 1 hour.
4. Depending on availability of substitutes, NISD will obtain a substitute. If the teacher is able, remote instruction will be delivered from home to school or home to home, where applicable. There will be instances in which split classes are combined due to the lack of substitutes or availability.
5. Exposure notification by health authority to quarantine because of close contact or exposure, but are asymptomatic, will quarantine for 10 days, or 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test and are asymptomatic. If they become symptomatic, they will then follow the CDC protocol.
6. Rapid COVID-19 testing is available for staff members.

Confirmed Case/Exposure Student

1. Students who are COVID-19 confirmed must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days and must be excluded from school. If at any time during the 10 days they experience symptoms, the 10-day requirement will start over. This means that the duration of out of school time may be greater than 10 days. They will follow the same guidelines that the NISD Return to Work Policy specifies.
 - i. (September 9, 2021) The ten-day timeline will start based on the results of the COVID-19 positive test. Day 1 begins 24 hours after the positive results are received. (NISD will not honor the onset of

symptoms as day 1. The 10-day exclusion period will be the minimum standard).

- ii. NISD will honor positive results from a health professional, an at home test kit, or a test kit from NISD.
 1. Notification for positive results begins when NISD is notified. It is imperative that parents contact the Nurse or Administration as soon as possible regarding a positive test result.
 2. In some cases, NISD may require a test from the school Nurse.
- iii. NISD **will not** honor an at home test kit for a 7-day quarantine, asymptomatic return to work or school clearance.

b. See the Texas Health and Human Services COVID-19 School Readmission Criteria at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission/>

c. Only students who are COVID-19 confirmed are eligible for Remote Conferencing (Previously know as virtual learning).

2. Close Contact:

a. See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

~~b. (Close contact exposures will be encouraged to quarantine and may be eligible for Remote Conferencing (Previously known as virtual learning)).~~

i. See guidance from TEA at:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/remote-conferencing-faq.pdf>

c. (September 9, 2021) If anyone in the household is COVID-19 positive, anyone who attends NISD must be excluded from school for a minimum of 7 days.

3. Classrooms and NISD buildings will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

4. All attendance requirements are in effect for the 2021-2022 school year.

Definition of Close Contact:

1. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions, e.g., being coughed, sneezed, or spit on while not wearing a mask or face shield.
2. Being less than 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes to a confirmed COVID-19 person, while not wearing a mask or face shield.
3. Those who are fully vaccinated are not considered a close contact exposure.

NISD Return to Work Document

Employee Name _____

Dates of Leave _____

Date Submitted to NISD Personnel _____

Prior to returning to work, employees must be screened (via Questioning) by the personnel office for any of the following new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19. Those found with any of these symptoms must remain on leave until eligibility for work is met.

Please circle all that apply

1. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature of greater than or equal to 100.0
2. Headache
3. Cough
4. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
5. Chills
6. Repeated shaking with chills
7. Muscle pain
8. Sore throat
9. Loss of taste or smell
10. Vomit
11. Diarrhea
12. Know close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 if the exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 14 days.

In order to return to work, all three of the following must be met if you were exposed or had symptoms and tested or not tested:

_____ **I have quarantined for 10 days because I may have been exposed or had symptoms.**

_____ **I have no COVID-19 symptoms**

_____ **I have been symptom free without medication for 72 hours**

OR

_____ **I have a medical note and I have been cleared to return to work.**