



Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

Introduction

For the 2022-2023 school year, we are excited to welcome back our students and staff to In-Person Instruction. This plan provides details about procedures and safety requirements that have been created for the well-being of students, staff, and visitors. This is our top priority. We are also committed to providing excellent academic instruction and support for our students. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide an excellent education to our students.

This plan includes guidance on the following information:

- Continuity of Services
- Practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- Practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- Practices to respond to a test-confirmed case in the school

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 may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Texarkana ISD website will provide you with the most up to date information.

This plan describes how Texarkana ISD will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools. This report complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP ACT (Public Law 117-2), The ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the United States Department of Education, 86FR 21195.

The planning process has continuously evolved around new information and guidance that we receive from the state. Participants in this planning include, but are not limited to, school personnel, parents, students, community, those with interests in students of special populations, and mental health professionals. Input was gathered through stakeholder surveys and stakeholder meetings.

This plan will be reviewed and updated, as needed, at least every six months. Additionally, stakeholder input will be solicited the month prior to the updates.

Continuity of Services

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08/01/2022

Texarkana ISD is returning to full on-campus face to face instruction for 2022-2023. All students will return to on-site instruction.

In addition to the high-quality, rigorous Tier I instruction provided to all students in TISD, we are committed to bridging the learning gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional actions to ensure continuity of services to all students will focus on addressing students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. Plans to provide a continuity of services are as follows:

- Increase Response to Intervention Staff
- Professional Development for Educators
- Increase Technology Access
- After School Programming
- Behavioral Support Staff
- Instructional Materials
- Increased Special Education Staff
- Increased Counseling
- Increased Nursing

All of these district support positions, programs, community partnerships, and resources continue to help district staff identify and respond to unique barriers, stigmas, and challenges of student well-being and mental health in ways that ensure students have the support they need to achieve academic success and postsecondary readiness.

Maintaining Health and Safety

All guidance is subject to change based on governmental, state, and/or local requirements.

The prevention practices outlined are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Implementing the various recommendations of the CDC, health department and Texas Education Agency to the extent feasible is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection.

PREVENT

Vaccinations are available for individuals ages six (6) months and older currently for COVID-19. Any individual wanting information on COVID-19 vaccines may search www.vaccines.gov, call 1-800-232-0233, or text their zip code to 438829.

All staff, students and stakeholders should **self-screen** for communicable disease symptoms, including COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus or entering district transportation each day. Staff, students and stakeholders should not be on campus, district department locations or district transportation if they have symptoms of a communicable disease, including COVID-19.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Staff, students and stakeholders should not be on a campus, district location or on district transportation if they are lab confirmed positive for COVID-19. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. More information is provided in the next area about the guidelines and criteria for re-entry.

MITIGATE

- Masks and Face Coverings are **optional** for students per the Governor's Executive Order GA-36 on June 5, 2021 stating that school districts cannot require students or staff to wear masks. **Masks are highly encouraged and recommended** for students and staff especially if demonstrating symptoms or have been exposed to a positive individual.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available on all campuses and in classrooms.
- Students, teachers, staff and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Campuses will institute effective cleaning practices including more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common areas throughout the day.
- Where feasible, without disrupting the educational experience, the district will encourage staff and students to practice social distancing.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to provide transportation for their children, to and from school, if possible.
- In specific special education settings and classrooms, additional cleaning will be provided. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety will be followed for the student and addressed on a case by case basis.

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RESPOND

Employees

All employees must notify their supervisor if they have COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have tested positive for COVID-19. At home COVID-19 test results will only be accepted in the case of a positive case.

Masks are not required per GA-38, but are encouraged and can protect individuals from exposure and possible quarantine requirements.

- An employee experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must provide a doctor's release with an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test to return to work.
- If the employee experiencing symptoms is unable to provide a doctor's release with an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test, he/she may not return to work for 5 days. Designated district personnel will determine the date that the employee may return to work.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, he/she may return to work when 5 days have passed since the start of symptoms, they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and their symptoms have improved. Designated district personnel will determine the date that the employee may return to work.
- If a person tests positive on a rapid test and is referred for a PCR/send off test, they should quarantine until they receive the results of their PCR/send off test.
- There is no special federal leave available for COVID-19 illness, testing or symptoms. Employees will be required to use their own accrued leave for any absences.

TEA GUIDANCE UPDATED AUGUST 1, 2022

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/sy-22-23-public-health-guidance.pdf>

Staff Who Have COVID-19

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days have passed after they tested positive.
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher. *

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Students

Parents must notify the school if their student has COVID-19 symptoms and/or if their student has tested positive for COVID-19. At home COVID-19 test results will only be accepted in the case of a positive test.

- Masks are not required per GA-38 but are encouraged and can protect individuals from exposure and possible quarantine requirements.
- Any student who is exhibiting or complains of any **ONE** of the following symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from the other students, and parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student within 30 minutes:
 - Fever (Temp greater than 100°F)
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing (New onset)
 - Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Any student who is exhibiting or complains of any **TWO** of the following symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from the other students, and parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student within 30 minutes:
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea
- A student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must provide a doctor's release with alternate diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test to return to school.
- If the student experiencing symptoms is unable to provide a doctor's release with an alternate diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test, he/she may not return to school until 5 days have passed since symptoms began, they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. The campus Health Aide will determine the date that the student may return to school.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school when 5 days have passed since the start of symptoms, they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms of COVID are improving.

RESPOND (con't)

- If a person tests positive on a rapid test and is referred for a PCR/send off test, they should quarantine until they receive the results of their PCR/send off test.
 - UIL - Updated Return to Play Requirements
As schools continue to navigate challenges presented by COVID-19, UIL is providing the following information.

Following a called meeting of the UIL Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), UIL has altered the return to play requirements for students diagnosed with COVID-19 related to requiring clearance from a physician or physician-approved delegate. The UIL MAC strongly recommends a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 receive clearance from a physician, or physician-approved delegate, prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletics activities in accordance with the most current resources available from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and/or the American College of Cardiology (ACC). This change also provides medical providers with additional guidance related to when a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 requires clearance from a physician, or physician-approved delegate.

<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info>

- Guidelines above for COVID-19 symptoms also apply to fully vaccinated students.