



Sulphur Springs Independent School District
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Sulphur Springs ISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Last Updated August 1, 2022

I. Plan Summary Generally

a. Plan Purpose

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and as a school district we will do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe. Research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person.

b. Symptoms

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell (perhaps inapplicable with new variants)
- Cough (perhaps inapplicable with new variants)
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

c. Plan Contacts

SSISD Representative – Jason Evans – 903-885-0985

II. Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in School

Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, SSISD must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

Per TEA guidelines, SSISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts. Such notification will be made via the SSISD COVID-19 Dashboard which can be found at www.ssisd.net.

Those confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 shall stay home from school/work until released by their medical provider to return. The district shall require documentation of the release.

For those who are not/cannot see a doctor, SSISD nursing staff will apply DSHS guidelines to determine a date of return.

III. Contact Tracing and Parent Notification

School systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 case investigations. However, local public health entities have the authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in that effort. Participation in these investigations is voluntary.

If SSISD is made aware that a student is a close contact, we will notify the student’s parent.

Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students 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.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.

Alternately, student can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

IV. CDC Recommendations

SSISD will work to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Specifically, with respect to current CDC guidelines, SSISD shall observe the following:

CDC Recommendation	SSISD’s Planned Response
Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks	Masks will be allowed but not required.
Modifying Facilities for Physical Distancing	SSISD will not modify facilities for this purpose.
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be encouraged.
Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities	Traditional and supplemental cleaning protocols will continue.
Improving Ventilation	SSISD will replace older HVAC units to meet this purpose.
Contact Tracing	SSISD will not conduct contact tracing unless required by law.
Diagnostic and Screening Testing	Students (parents), faculty and staff will self-screen.
Efforts to Provide Vaccinations	Vaccinations continue to be available through local

	vendors.
Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	SSISD will continue to fully implement every applicable student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP).
Coordination with state and local health officials	SSISD will continue to communicate and coordinate with state and local health officials.

V. Ensuring Continuity of Services

Students returned to face-to-face instruction in the 2021-2022 school year, but SSISD stands prepared to return to remote instruction if necessary. Regardless of the method, SSISD will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs which may include student health and food services.

SSISD will continue to ensure services to address students’ academic needs through its traditional programs in addition to those stemming from specific needs caused by the pandemic. More specifically, SSISD will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year.

Specific programs include expenditures for a math interventionist, virtual teachers for the prior year, our Reading Academy, the “Sharon Wells Math” intervention program, “Do the Math” intervention program, computers for students, Gomez and Gomez training, Read 180, a comprehensive after school tutorial program, and Capturing Kids’ Hearts program implementation.

SSISD will continue to ensure services to address both students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs. In addition to traditional programs (counseling and central office support), the District is using ESSER funding for Capturing Kids’ Hearts Training, retention/recruitment stipends for district staff, and an additional social worker.

The District will continue to invest in highly trained nurses for each campus. They will collaborate with the Local Health Administration to ensure students and staff receive swift and professional guidance with respect to any pandemic-related need.

SSISD food service will continue to ensure that students are provided meals. Should the school be required to return to a virtual learning model, continuity of food service will be maintained for those in need.

VI. Other Topics

a. Visitors

Visitors shall once again be permitted on campus per guidelines established pre-Covid-19 pandemic.

b. Health and Hygiene

i. Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer will be provided in classrooms, offices, and other areas deemed necessary by building administrators.

Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer as often as is practical.

ii. Hand Washing

Hand washing will be available in restrooms, breakrooms, and kitchens. Handwashing stations will be kept clean and equipped with soap approved by the CDC. Though not required by the CDC, hot water will be available in some locations.

Students and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cover with their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, and hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

c. Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

The District is implementing more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by custodial staff. The District will implement the following cleaning and disinfecting protocols:

- Traditional cleaning practices which include all classroom desktops being sprayed with disinfectant nightly
- Supplemental cleaning – contact items such as doorknobs, door push bars, lockers and locker doors, entry/exit doors, and water fountains will be wiped or sprayed with disinfectant cleaner at least four times daily
- Restrooms will be wiped down or sprayed at least four times daily
- 30 Day “Zoono” Microbe Shield Antimicrobial Surface Protectant – all District facilities and busses
- Additional cleaning/wiping down of surfaces by students and staff at their discretion
- Reactive cleaning/disinfecting of areas determined to have been heavily used by a person who tested positive for COVID-19

All disinfectants used by SSISD have been approved and recommended by the CDC.

d. Masks/Face Shields and other Personal Protective Equipment

Masks are not required, though students and staff are permitted to wear them.

e. Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

Assemblies, pep rallies, field trips, school carnivals etc. are permitted and will be conducted normally.

f. Athletics, Band, and Other Extra/Co-Curricular Activities

All of these types of activities are permitted and will be conducted normally.

