

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2021-2022

Center ISD is providing the following Notice of Mitigation of COVID-19 as per the State of Texas and TEA Public Health Guidance for parents/guardians and the general public. This guidance addresses the following: all on campus instruction; administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses; all non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities; and visits by parents/guardians and the general public, including all after-school providers and other programs that operate in conjunction with CISD.

NOTICE

The COVID-19 Mitigation Plan will be posted in written form on CISD website/app/social media.

CISD provides to parents/guardians and the general public the following notice of public responsibilities education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities.

CISD will follow the most current public health guidelines posted by TEA, which were last updated January 7, 2022.

1.0 Attendance and Enrollment

- 1.1 Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (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 2020-2021 school year.
- 1.2 School systems must provide on-campus attendance as an option for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document. In high school, school systems may offer a less than daily on campus instructional experience if there is a need to reduce the total count of people on campus at any one time to maintain social distancing.
- 1.3 In order to facilitate a safe, effective back-to-school transition process, during a period up to the first four weeks of school, which can be extended by an additional four weeks by vote of the school board, school systems may temporarily limit access to on-campus instruction. As a result, some parents opting for their student(s) to attend on campus may be required to start with remote instruction temporarily, although any family who does not have Internet access and/or devices for distance learning at home is still entitled to have their student receive on campus instruction each day during this transition period, as they are during the rest of the year. School systems must clearly describe this transition process in their posted summary of their plans to operate campuses safely, as required above.
- 1.4 School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.5 CISD returned to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year on October 26, 2021.

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2.0 Prevent Screening

- 2.1 All CISD employees will self-screen daily. All CISD employees will self-screen daily and will report any COVID symptoms (listed on the last page of this plan) to campus nurse and follow direction.
- 2.2 Parents/guardians will need to ensure pre-screening of students daily.

3.0 Illness

- 3.1 All CISD employees will report having a positive COVID-19 test, having COVID-19 symptoms without an evaluation, and/or having close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual.
- 3.2 All **CISD** employees and parents/guardians must ensure that **if** a member of their household showing signs of COVID-19 be evaluated by a medical professional and **ALL** members of the household remain home until the guidelines for return are met.
 - 3.2.1 If symptoms develop while on CISD property, the employee or student must report to the nurse. If symptoms develop while on CISD property, the employee or student must report to the nurse. CISD will offer rapid COVID testing onsite. If individual or parents decline testing at CISD, the individual will be sent home and all members of the household that are also on CISD property will be informed and sent home until the guidelines for return are met. If the individual is sent home, all members of the household that are also on CISD property will be informed and sent home until the guidelines for return are met.
- 3.3 A parent/guardian must also ensure that their child(ren) with COVID-19, or symptoms of COVID-19, remains at home and participates in instruction.
- 3.4 A parent/guardian must ensure that their child(ren) that has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will stay home. A parent or guardian must ensure that their child(ren) that have been in close contact with a COVID 19 positive individual within the household will stay home for five (5) days after breaking contact after five (5) days student may test on day five (5) and if results are negative, the student may return to school on day six (6).

4.0 Return

- 4.1 Students, faculty, staff, and all other District employees, to return to the District following illness and/or isolation. Students, faculty, staff and all other District employees, upon returning to the District following test confirmed COVID illness isolation must be given a return date by the District nurse and obtain a clearance form if instructed to do so.

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4.2 Staff COVID Positive

According to updated CDC guidance, staff members may return five (5) full days after symptoms onset *provided symptoms have improved and individual is fever free x 24 hours without the use of ibuprofen or Tylenol. For staff who are asymptomatic but have tested positive for COVID, they may return to work after five (5) full days - given that they meet the same criteria above. If at day five (5) the criteria is not met, staff should wait and return when criteria is met.

4.3 Staff Close Contact

Staff who are aware they are close contact to a positive case of COVID: It is recommended the individual stay off campus for five (5) days to monitor for symptoms and test to return on day six (6) if that is not possible, according to TEA guidelines asymptomatic staff members may continue to work and test at least every other day up to day five (5). If at any time these individuals develop symptoms of COVID they should report this information to the District nurse at once.

4.4 Students

DSHS COVID-19 school readmission criteria states students that are test confirmed positive must remain off campus ten (10) full days from symptom onset. Students who are asymptomatic but have tested positive must remain off campus ten (10) full days from test date. Students may return earlier than ten (10) days ONLY with a negative PCR test. Students with symptoms that have not tested for COVID may return with a note from a licensed health care provider in the State of Texas with an alternative diagnosis.

4.5 If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to campus before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either

4.5.1 obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or

4.5.2 obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

4.6 Stay-at-Home Period for Close Contacts of Individuals Who Tested Positive

For individuals who are close contacts to individuals who tested positive, a 14-day stay at home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus.

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended their guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay-at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms:

- On day (ten) 10 after close contact exposure without testing,
- On day five (5) after close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result.

If individuals return to school from these shorter stay-at-home windows, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

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Finally, the CDC has also advised that critical infrastructure services - which includes schools – may permit close contact staff members who are asymptomatic to continue to work in select instances when it is necessary to preserve school operations. Per the CDC, this option should be used only in limited circumstances. When using this option, school systems may consider adding additional protocols to increase monitoring for these individuals, which might include the use of COVID-19 tests. Testing must be done at least every other day up to day five (5).

5.0 Health and Hygiene Practices

- 5.1 All building entrances will have hand sanitizer dispensers and use will be encouraged upon entering.
- 5.2 All transportation will have hand sanitizer and use will be encouraged upon boarding.
- 5.3 All students will be provided instruction on good handwashing techniques, covering of coughs and sneezes, and disposal of contaminated items.
- 5.4 Frequent hygiene opportunities will be provided.

6.0 Visitor/Visits

- 6.1 No unscheduled/unplanned District visits, except for emergencies
- 6.2 No outside food or drink delivered during school hours

7.0 Respond

- 7.1 All suspected and confirmed cases on campus will immediately be separated from the general population into the nurses office and the individual with symptoms will be given a mask to wear.
 - 7.1.1 The local Health Department will be notified in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations
 - 7.1.2 All individuals, all staff or parents who report close contact exposure, suspected, or confirmed will be directed to follow DSHS response.
- 7.2 Written correspondence will be:
 - 7.2.1 Sent home with cohorts on the campus when applicable.
 - 7.2.2 Posted on our District website, social media and provide to local media for distribution
- 7.3 A student who is feeling feverish will be sent to the nurse for an immediate temperature check

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8.0 Mitigate

8.1 Cleaning and Sanitization

8.1.1 CISD cleaning procedures for transportation

8.1.1.1 Hand sanitizer on each bus/vehicle and use will be encouraged upon boarding

8.1.1.2 Increased cleaning of heating/air conditioning filters

8.1.1.3 Face coverings will be optional for grades three (3) and up.

8.2 On campuses, the District will institute more frequent cleaning practices such as

8.2.1 Items that are touched in common areas, such as door handles, will be cleaned between classchanges

8.2.2 Night spraying of all buildings with germicide

9.0 Face Covering/Protection

The Board of Trustees voted to make the wearing of face coverings optional for both students and employees, effective Friday, March 19, 2021. Center ISD will continue to encourage social distancing, as well as proper hand washing and sanitizing practices

10.0 Arrival/Dismissal/Assemblies

10.1 Parents and guardians are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up their student(s) when at all possible to increase social distance opportunities.

10.2 New exit/entrance, including drop-off/pick-up, procedures will be implemented in all buildings that include

10.2.1 Separate car and bus drop-off locations

10.3 All students will report directly to their classroom, unless eating breakfast, then to the cafeteria - except for PK 3 & 4 who will report straight to class

10.4 There will be no assemblies, including jump start, conducted in the District during at this time

10.4.1 Pep rallies will be held at the stadium with appropriate social distancing

10.4.2 All visitors will follow entrance/exit procedures that may include screening and face coverings

11.0 Groupings and Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

11.1 No hallway lockers will not be utilized during this time.

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12.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the District will use the following information/definitions from TEA and the CDC.

12.1 COVID 19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID 19, consider the following question: Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- 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

13.0 Close Contact

Close contact through proximity and duration of exposure: Someone who was less than six (6) feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three (3) individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting two (2) days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic people, two (2) days before the positive specimen collection date).

- Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.