

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

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 and virtual instruction; administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses or virtually; all non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities; any other activities that teachers, staff, or students must complete that cannot be accomplished virtually; 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 video and 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.

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's 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.

2.0 Prevent Screening

- 2.1 All **CISD employees** will self-screen daily, including temperature, providing feedback through a Frontline Health.
- 2.2 **Parents/guardians** will need to ensure pre-screening of students daily. An acknowledgment of this process will be acquired through a signed form returned to the school. This information will also be covered in the student handbook.

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

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 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 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 through virtual 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 with virtual instruction for a 14-day incubation period.

4.0 Return

- 4.1 **Students, faculty, staff, and all other District employees**, upon returning to the District following illness and/or isolation, **must** be screened by the District/campus nurse to ensure the following criteria are met:
 - 4.1.1 In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID 19, the individual may return to school when **ALL** three (3) of the following criteria are met:
 - 4.1.1.1 at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications);
 - 4.1.1.2 the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - 4.1.1.3 at least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - 4.1.2 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 have passed since a positive test.
 - 4.1.3 In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is **NOT** evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above through screening by the district/campus nurse.
 - 4.1.4 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
 - 4.1.4.1 obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

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

4.1.5 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 10 after close contact exposure without testing,
- On Day 7 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.

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 (e.g., on Day 3 and/or Day 7 after the close contact exposure).

Taking into account all of the above, school systems may apply any of the following stay-at-home periods to those individuals who are identified as close contacts. Specifically, the stay-at-home period can be:

- ten (10) days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- Seven (7) days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative test result (administered at least five (5) days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- For staff who are necessary to preserve school operations, school systems can choose not to require any stay-at-home period, so long as the affected staff continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14, and schools can consider the use of rapid tests for these individuals
- 14 days after the last close contact

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

- 4.1.6 In the case of a close contact individual within the same household with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive diagnosis
 - 4.1.6.1 Once the lab-confirmed individual has meet **ALL** three (3) of the following criteria
 - 4.1.6.1.1 at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - 4.1.6.1.2 the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - 4.1.6.1.3 at least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - 4.1.6.2 The close contact individual will begin the 14-day incubation period and must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed with no symptoms or a lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive diagnosis.

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.
- 5.5 There will be no sharing of school supplies, devices, food or items that can be cross contaminated.
- 5.6 Classrooms and hallways will be setup and monitored for appropriate social distancing.

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
- 6.3 **All** visitors must be screened, including temperature checks, for
 - 6.3.1 Close contact
 - 6.3.2 Symptoms
 - 6.3.3 Confirmed diagnosis

7.0 Respond

- 7.1 All suspected and confirmed cases on campus will immediately be separated from the general population into an Isolation Room.
 - 7.1.1 The local Health Department will be notified in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

- 7.1.2 Areas heavily used by the individual will be closed off, unless more than seven (7) days have already passed since the individual was present, for immediate disinfecting.
- 7.1.3 All individuals exposed will be notified, including the students' parents/guardians, of exposure
- 7.1.4 All individuals exposed, suspected, or confirmed will be directed to follow DSHS response

- 7.2 Written correspondence will be:
 - 7.2.1 Sent home with all students on the campus
 - 7.2.2 Posted on our District website, social media and provide to local media for distribution

- 7.3 The Isolation Room will be thoroughly cleaned after each use of all surfaces. Virus killing foggers will be set at the end of each day of use

- 7.4 A student who is feeling feverish will be sent to the nurse for an immediate temperature check

- 8.0 Mitigate
 - 8.1 Instruction
 - 8.1.1 On the student's first day as a CISD student, for returning students during the first week of school, and periodical through the first nine (9) weeks all students will receive instruction in regards to:
 - 8.1.1.1 proper handwashing
 - 8.1.1.2 proper social distancing
 - 8.1.1.3 wearing of face coverings is optional

 - 8.2 Cleaning and Sanitization
 - 8.2.1 CISD cleaning procedures for transportation
 - 8.2.1.1 Hand sanitizer on each bus/vehicle and use will be encouraged upon boarding
 - 8.2.1.2 Virus killing foggers will be used after each route/use
 - 8.2.1.3 Increased cleaning of heating/air conditioning filters
 - 8.2.1.4 Families will be seated together on school transportation
 - 8.2.1.5 Face coverings will be optional for grades three (3) and up.

 - 8.3 On campuses, the District will institute more frequent cleaning practices such as
 - 8.3.1 Items that are touched in common areas, such as door handles, will be cleaned between classchanges
 - 8.3.2 Night spraying of all buildings with germicide
 - 8.3.3 In self-contained classrooms, para professionals and teachers will clean between rotation

Center Independent School District COVID-19 Plan 2020-2021

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.

11.2 Lunch procedures to ensure social distancing

11.2.1 Outside tables will be increased and use encouraged

11.2.2 Cafeteria seating

11.2.2.1 Assigned seats that include that include alternating tables and sides of the table will be utilized at the elementary level.

11.2.2.2 Seating that includes alternating tables and sides of the table will be utilized at the secondary levels as well as an increase in the number of lunch periods

11.3 Families will be seated together on school transportation

12.0 Definitions

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

Center Independent School District

COVID-19 Plan

2020-2021

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

13.1 This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab confirmed to have COVID 19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID 19, and individual nine (9) scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

13.1.1 being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or

13.1.2 being within six (6) feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomatology may affect this determination.

Either 13.1.1 or 13.1.2 defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two (2) days prior to symptom onset to ten (10) days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab confirmed with COVID 19, the infectious period is defined as two (2) days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for ten (10) days following the confirming lab test.