

SEALY ISD

Reimagine & Reconnect

2021-2022

Sealy ISD

COVID-19

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



This document is subject to change depending on the circumstances of COVID-19 and official health decisions.

The purpose of this document is to outline operational protocols and procedures that will allow for in-person learning and the continued safety of students and staff during the 2021-22 school year while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. This plan is a requirement of accepting and utilizing ESSER III funding provided by the federal government through the US Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It is based on guidance issued by the CDC, TEA, and local and state health authorities. During the period in which ESSER III funds are available, Sealy ISD will review and revise this plan at least every six months. These revisions will take into account parent and community feedback, as well as updated guidance from the Texas Education Agency and federal, state, and local health agencies.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

Sealy ISD has established the following operational protocols and strategies for the 2021-22 school year related to the nine mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC to lessen the spread of the COVID-19 virus and maintain staff and student health. Every effort has been made to allow students to have as much freedom as possible throughout their day while still providing a level of safety for both students and staff.



A. Universal Face Covering

- a. Per Executive Order GA-38 issued by Governor Abbott: students and staff cannot be required to wear a face-covering in a public school setting
- b. Sealy ISD will support any student, staff member, or visitor, especially those who are not vaccinated, in wearing a face covering while participating in indoor activities and events
- c. Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to voluntarily wear a face covering while waiting in the nurse's office to be picked up
- d. Face coverings will be made available on all campuses



B. Modified Facilities (Physical Distancing)

- a. When at all possible, students and staff will maintain a three feet social distancing space between themselves
- b. Students will report to individual classrooms upon entering the building in the mornings. Breakfast will continue to be grab and go to avoid congregating.
- c. We will assist children in remaining as socially distanced as possible in cafeterias. Physical plexiglass barriers will remain in a portion of each cafeteria. Students choosing to sit in a more socially distanced space may choose to sit in these areas.

- d. One-way hallways and/or separate passing periods will be enacted to provide physical distance.
- e. Students and staff will be encouraged to use outdoor spaces when appropriate.
- f. Plexi-barriers will remain in high traffic or public interaction areas for public safety.
- g. Drinking fountains will only be used to fill water bottles, we recommend students bring their own pre-filled water bottle.



C. Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

- a. All Sealy ISD staff and substitutes will receive training on managing, instructing, and promoting student hygiene protocols.
- b. On the first day of school, instruction will be provided to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other practices that will promote their safety. These practices will be reinforced daily through repeated lessons and visual and verbal reminders.
- c. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in all classrooms and at the entrances of all campuses. Any visitor entering campus will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands upon arrival
- d. Students and staff will be encouraged to sanitize their hands every time they enter and exit the classroom.
- e. Students will be taught to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. They will have the opportunity to wash their hands at least twice a day in addition to prior to eating and after using the restroom or returning into the building from outside. When possible and age-appropriate, hand washing will be supervised
- f. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cover them in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, hands will be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer will be used.



D. Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities

- a. 'High touch' areas will be disinfected periodically during the instructional day. This includes student and teacher desks, group tabletops, technology and door handles using SSC provided microfiber cloth, alcohol wipes, Clorox wipes, Clorox spray, and approved virucide disinfectant provided by Sealy ISD and SSC.
- b. Custodial staff (SSC) will deep clean all classrooms at the end of each day in addition to general cleaning using SSC's disinfection program that includes CDC approved disinfectants and best management practices that incorporate wiping down using a 'two' wipe method the following:
 - i. Teacher Desk, telephone, computer
 - ii. Pencil Sharpener and metal whiteboard surfaces

- iii. Student Desk and tables,
- iv. Student Chairs
- v. Door handles
- vi. Light switches/plates
- c. All campus spaces will be ‘fogged’ over the weekend or break as needed or after the report of a positive individual
- d. Cafeteria tables will be disinfected between each use.
- e. Custodial staff will spray down and sanitize ‘high touch’ surfaces such as drinking fountains, restrooms areas, and door handles twice daily.



E. Improved Ventilation

- a. Facilities equipped with ‘fresh air’ dampers will be opened. Units with variable drives set to 30% during occupied hours, campuses with fixed opened 100%.
- b. Not all of our campus Air Handling Units are equipped with UV lights but those that are will be maintained and continue to operate as designed.
- c. The district will continue to use “B” High-Efficiency HEPA air filters



F. COVID Case Responses

Any individual - including all staff, students, or campus visitors - are required to follow the below guidelines and safety measures put in place in regards to COVID-19. The below precautions apply to those who themselves are confirmed to have COVID-19 or have possible symptoms of COVID-19. Close contact individuals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

POSITIVE COVID TEST:

- i. *In the case of an individual who was diagnosed as positive with COVID-19, the individual may return to campus when all of the following criteria are met:*
 - at least **five** full days have passed since symptoms first appeared or in the case of an asymptomatic person, 5 full days since receiving a positive test result;
 - at least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of any fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual is symptom-free (e.g., cough, congestion, shortness of breath) but not including loss of taste and smell; and
 - A lab-confirmed negative test must be received on day 6 or later. Negative home tests will not be accepted for return.

If a positive individual receives an additional positive test result during their quarantine period or is still symptomatic after 5 days (minus the loss of taste and smell), the following options will be given in order to return:

- The individual will be required to complete a full 10-day quarantine;
 - a. A negative test will not be required if a full quarantine is completed and all symptoms have resolved.
- The individual can return prior to 10 days if they receive a negative PCR test result and a doctor's note clearing them to return.
 - a. Individuals waiting for PCR test results are not cleared to return to campus and must continue to quarantine until results are received.
- The individual can return prior to 10 days if they receive a lab-confirmed negative rapid antigen test result any day between day 6 to day 10 and symptoms have resolved.
 - a. Ex: If an individual is still positive on day 6 but symptoms are improving, they may choose to test daily until a negative result is received.
 - b. Negative home tests will not be accepted for return.

SYMPTOMS & PRECAUTIONS:

- ii. *In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19, one of the following must be met in order to return to campus:*
- For any individual who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such person is then assumed to have COVID-19, and may not return to campus until they have completed the same four-step set of criteria listed above.
 - 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:
 - a. Have a significant improvement of symptoms including being fever-free for 24 hours **AND** one of the below criteria must be met;
 - i. obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; **OR**
 - ii. receive a negative COVID-19 test result from a medical facility or SISD's Covid Testing Center; negative home tests will not be accepted for return.

CLOSE CONTACT:

- iii. *In the case of any individual who is living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or individuals who have had extensive and prolonged exposure to a positive person, quarantine requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.*
- All individuals are required to report if a household member tests positive for COVID-19 or if they have been in prolonged contact with a positive person so a determination can be made if quarantine is necessary.
 - a. Results can be reported to the SISD COVID Nurse or to your campus nurse.

- Quarantine requirements will be determined on an individual's ability to separate away from the positive person, as well as other factors;
 - a. Ex: If an older, independent individual can avoid contact with a younger sibling or child, quarantine may not be necessary.
- The individual must be free of symptoms and/or not have any new development of symptoms since last close contact.
- If it is determined that the individual will have to quarantine because they are unable to isolate themselves away from a positive person, they will be required to complete a **five** day quarantine from the positive person's day of symptom onset.
 - a. A lab-confirmed negative test must be received on day 6 or later before they can return to campus. Negative home tests will not be accepted for return.
 - b. Families who cannot isolate apart are strongly encouraged to take safety precautions around other household members to help prevent the spread of infection.
- Quarantine requirements will be revised as deemed necessary in the event of a surge or outbreak of positive cases reported.

An individual who was confirmed COVID-19 positive in the last 90 days and has fully recovered does not need to quarantine after close contact unless new symptoms develop.

b. Symptoms of COVID 19

- i. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- ii. Loss of taste or smell
- iii. NEW, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- iv. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- v. NEW or atypical headache
- vi. Chills, shaking or exaggerated shivering
- vii. Sore throat
- viii. Significant or unexplained muscle pain or ache
- ix. Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
- x. Unexpected congestion/runny nose

District Notification for Exposure to COVID-19

Based on data collected at both the state and local level during the 2020-21 school year showing a very low COVID-19 transmission rate in a school setting, TEA is not mandating and Sealy ISD will not be contact tracing during the 2021-22 school year.

If Sealy ISD is made aware of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who has been on campus or at a school-sponsored function, we will communicate in the following manner:

- A. The district will maintain a posting of active cases on its website

- B. During a surge, district families with an email address on file will receive district notification daily via email no later than 5 PM regarding confirmed cases on each campus
- C. Any potential outbreak of positive COVID cases (5 or more linked cases in a group of students who spend time together at school, ie. classroom, sports team, band, theater, choir, etc.) will be communicated by individual campus letter or phone call

Additional Information

Per CDC guidance, close contact is defined as someone who:

- i. was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- ii. provides care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- iii. has direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- iv. has shared eating or drinking utensils with a positive person
- v. has been sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow gotten respiratory droplets on them from a positive person

Sealy ISD will continue to investigate options to keep our students, staff, and families safe while on campus. Current procedures may be updated in the weeks and months to come.



G. Diagnostic Screening and Testing

- a. Sealy ISD expects each stakeholder (student, staff, visitor) to conduct the following self-screening each day prior to accessing SISD buses or buildings. If you answer YES, to any of the following questions you are to stay home until you have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours.
- i. *Screening Questions:*
 - Have you been in contact with anyone who is positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 - Have you had a fever greater than 100.0 F in the last 24 hours?
 - Have you had a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing?
 - Have you experienced an unexpected or severe onset of any of the following symptoms?
 - a. chills,
 - b. repeated shaking with chills,
 - c. muscle pain/aches,
 - d. headache,
 - e. sore throat,
 - f. new loss of taste or smell,
 - g. Diarrhea, vomiting or nausea,

2. Continuity of Services for Students and Staff

Sealy ISD has established strategies and programming to ensure continuity of services in the following areas during the 2021-22 school year



A. Academic Needs

- a. Academic interventions will be provided to meet the individual needs of students
- b. Educational software will be utilized to reduce learning gaps
- c. Additional training in the area of reading will be provided to elementary teachers in order to reduce learning loss
- d. A district professional coaching and learning program will be developed to support teachers in their craft
- e. Additional technology will be purchased to promote student learning
- f. Enhanced learning resources will be purchased
- g. Additional tutoring and expanded learning opportunities will be made available to students
- h. Parent and family outreach activities will take place to strengthen the partnership between home and school
- i. Facility updates will take place to provide enhanced learning environments



B. Social and Emotional Needs of Students and Staff

- a. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) resources will be purchased and used by our counseling staff to support student emotional needs
- b. All staff will receive training on meeting the social and emotional needs of students
- c. Continued partnership with UTMB to provide telecounseling through the TCHAT program for PK-12 students on an as-needed basis



C. Students with Special Needs

- a. Students with IEPs that contain accommodations due to a student's health or physical limitations will be addressed on an individual basis



D. Food Services

- a. Per the CDC, given the low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, our food service will return to pre-COVID operations
- b. Food service operations will be altered during an outbreak as outlined in our Response Protocols at the end of this document



E. Extracurricular Activities

- a. Educational student field trips will resume
- b. Sealy ISD intends to participate in all UIL events, following the regulations set forth by UIL



F. Transportation

- a. Face coverings do not need to be worn while using district transportation
- b. Sealy ISD will support any student or staff member, especially those who are not vaccinated, in wearing a face covering while riding district transportation
- c. Social distancing will be maintained when possible



G. Visitors to Campus

- a. Visitors will be allowed on campus to help facilitate campus programming, attend student/teacher meetings and assist in educational activities
- b. **During a surge**, lunches will be closed to outside guests. Outside food deliveries will not be accepted.
- c. Large, schoolwide events will be considered and held based on the current status of COVID in the community and the overall impact to the educational program



Sealy ISD COVID-19 Response Protocol

The district and/or campus response level will be determined through campus and district review of each positive COVID case reported and determination of potential virus spread and mitigation actions required to prevent spreading. The following defines our response protocol.

Transition between levels:

Classrooms, groups, campuses or the district will transition up levels when case numbers warrant. Once cases begin to decline, levels will be adjusted accordingly.

LEVEL 1

Prevention

(Standard operation under the guidelines of the SISD Safe COVID Return Plan)

- Self-monitoring for COVID symptoms
- Physical distancing-3 feet when possible
- Grab & go breakfast
- Hallway separation during transitions
- Plexiglas in high traffic areas and available in cafe
- Drinking fountains for water bottles use only
- Frequent hand washing
- Sanitize hands upon entering/exiting classrooms
- Sanitizing high touch areas multiple times a day
- Classroom sanitation at the end of the day
- Cafe tables sanitized after each lunch period
- Sanitation of buses after each route
- Daily communication of COVID cases

LEVEL 2

Mitigation

(Highest number of COVID cases)

- Limit small group instruction, use of dividers when necessary, increased physical distancing when possible
- No grade level meetings, no dances, no large gatherings in school
- Limited campus visitors
- Desk station activities instead of sharing stations
- Reduced amount of sharing of supplies/materials
- Pre-packaged condiments in all cafeterias
- At secondary cafeterias, student use of disposable gloves in the serving line
- At elementary cafeterias, more items will be served directly to students and/or single use veggies, fruits
- Additional buses will be used for extracurricular activities.
- Higher level, detailed communication to specific groups/classrooms/campuses

LEVEL 3

Modified Operations
(In school spread or potential outbreak is suspected)

- Fully pre-plated meals in all cafeterias
- Recommendation of parent transportation vs. buses
- Cease small group instruction or use dividers
- Staggered release at lunches and during transitions
- Assigned seating for contact tracing (elementary)
- Campuses closed to visitors
- Limit indoor spectators at extracurricular events
- Sanitizing desks in between each class period
- Schedule adjustments made to limit the amount of class interaction at specials, lunch and/or recess
- Contact tracing implemented
- Higher level, detailed communication to specific groups/classrooms/campuses
- A student classroom, grade level or student program will be closed temporarily based on consultation with the health department
- Higher level, detailed communication to specific groups/classrooms/campuses

LEVEL 4

Facility/District Closure

- Entire facility will be closed temporarily based on consultation with the health department
- Scheduled District events will be considered based on cases among the program
- District-wide, detailed communication to specific groups/classrooms/campuses