

SAFETY INTRODUCTION

North East ISD remains committed to providing rigorous, TEKS-based instruction to all students for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, the health and safety of NEISD students and staff remains our highest priority. We will implement safety guidelines and practices that help protect our students, teachers, staff, and community as much as possible from COVID-19. These protocols and guidelines will be modified based on public health and governmental guidance and advancing scientific knowledge on the transmissibility of COVID-19 and any other contagious illness. We also believe that teaching our students about proper hygiene techniques and necessary safety measures to prevent the spread will not only help keep them safe, but will also keep their respective families safe. **Circumstances may dictate the need to update/modify these protocols. There may also be additional guidance provided by your child's principal.**

FACE-TO-FACE/IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

The District budgeted for the necessary cleaning and sanitization supplies that will be needed for schools. All classrooms and entrances will be equipped with hand sanitizer. Restrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels. To meet the safety protocols of schools, cleaning products must not be brought from home. However, personal-size (2 oz. or less) hand sanitizer is permitted. If at any time a student is required to stay home due to a contagious illness, the classroom teacher will provide assignments for students to work on at home (packets, Google classroom, or Seesaw). Although full-day virtual instruction will not be an option for the 2021-2022 school year, NEISD will provide virtual tutors in math, science, social studies and English on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to help students who are required to stay home with questions and/or homework.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS

STUDENT SELF-SCREENING

- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students each day for symptoms of contagious illness, including COVID-19, as well as any known close contact with a person who has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days prior to sending their students to school:
- A student is recommended to stay home or go home and/or seek medical care if he/she is experiencing **any** of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Congestion or runny nose
- Like with any illness, students may not return to school if they have a fever of 100.0 or above. Students may return after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

DAILY CLEANING PRACTICES/HVAC

- Classrooms and restrooms will be disinfected regularly.
- High-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Disinfectant spray will be provided in each classroom.
- All campuses will have a minimum of one electrostatic applicator to provide rapid disinfection.
- NEISD will purge the school's HVAC systems two hours before school begins daily and also clear out stagnant air for two hours after school.
- Each HVAC system will run at the maximum outside air setting and maximum allowable air exchanges all day without compromising comfort levels.
- Each HVAC filter is the highest rated filter allowed by the system and each is coated with the ZOONO anti-microbial spray which lasts 90 days.

FACE COVERINGS

Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order May 18, 2021, which prohibits governmental entities in Texas – including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials – from requiring or mandating mask wearing. After June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent, other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on a campus. Therefore, mask usage is not required at NEISD schools or facilities effective June 5, 2021. However, masks are permitted if an individual chooses to wear one. **The Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends continued mask wearing when indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.** NEISD will ensure that students' or staff members' choice whether or not to wear a mask is honored, such that no one should be bullied or harassed at school or school-sponsored events for their choice. Masks will be made available at each campus for students and staff if needed. Staff should contact their direct supervisor.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer them to the nurse if they exhibit symptoms.

Classrooms will have:

- Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations.
- Access to disinfectants to sanitize working surfaces.

Teachers will:

- Require hand hygiene before entering the classroom and after group activities.
- Maintain seating charts for students.
- Increase the space between desks and utilize every square inch of available space to create as much distance as possible between students.
- Keep classroom doors open, when possible, to improve circulation and reduce the touching of door handles.
- Have access to disinfectant to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Parents may contact elementary schools to request a desk shield for their child(ren).

<p>CAFETERIA: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer stations will be at entrances and exits of cafeteria. • Every campus will devise lunch schedules and formats, including outside areas to help spread out students.
<p>COMMON AREAS AND TRANSITIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered releases from each class may be organized to limit the number of students in the hallway during transitions. • When transitioning between classes, students will travel corridors as far to the right as possible. • Traffic patterns may be established throughout the campus that help separate individuals. • Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors may be established. • Classroom doors may be propped open to reduce high-touch areas. • In addition to hand washing stations throughout the campus, access to hand sanitizer will also be provided.
<p>ISOLATION PROTOCOLS</p>	<p>Student or Staff Displaying Symptoms of Contagious Illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if a student is experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness (COVID-19, flu, strep throat, etc.), and whether the student will need to be sent home. • District procedures will continue to be followed for any contagious illness. Any student who shows possible contagious symptoms which require them to leave school, will be separated and isolated in the nurse’s office until the student can be picked up by a parent/guardian or designated emergency contact(s). • Staff members displaying symptoms of contagious illness which require them to leave school will also isolate from students and other staff members. • If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he/she will isolate at home for 10 days without an attendance penalty, from the date of the positive test or from the first day of symptoms. • Employees who test positive for COVID-19 will isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive test or from the first day of symptoms and refer to the existing leave policies of the District.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and employees experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness may return to school when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms have resolved. If a parent chooses to seek COVID-19 testing for their child, they may return to school only if the test result is negative. If an employee chooses to seek COVID-19 testing, he/she may return to work only if the test result is negative. • The school nurse will provide information, including CDC recommendations, diagnostic testing information and healthcare provider consultation, to parents of students experiencing symptoms of contagious illness.
<p>COMMUNICATION/ PARENT NOTIFICATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEISD Health Services, and state/local health authorities will be contacted when a staff or student is diagnosed with a positive COVID-19 test. • Consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify employees, students, and families if someone in one of their classrooms has a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case. • This notification will include information explaining the CDC recommendations for quarantine and testing if someone has had close contact with an individual who has COVID-19. • Due to privacy requirements, we will not release the identity of any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, except to state/local health authorities for required reporting.
<p>DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an employee or student is experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness or has been in close contact with a COVID-19 individual, Rapid COVID-19 tests will be available in the campus nurse's office. • Rapid COVID-19 tests will be offered to these individuals who want to take a test. Employees must consent and students must have parent permission.
<p>EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS, IF ELIGIBLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District is an approved vaccine provider and has contracted with community resources to provide vaccines to eligible recipients.

**EXTRACURRICULAR
AND ATHLETICS**

- All extracurricular and athletic events will follow participation guidelines set by the UIL (University Interscholastic League).
- Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol and guidance provided by NEISD, UIL and TEA. This may include COVID-19 screenings, group sizes, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, locker room usage, etc.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be in gym facilities and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Bus travel will follow the transportation guidelines provided by NEISD and TEA.
- Spectator attendance at games and contests may be limited based on TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Online ticketing will be utilized for events.
- Separate entrances and exits may be utilized and event doors may be propped open to minimize physical contact with handles.
- Spectator seats may be marked and/or configured in a way to encourage social distancing.
- Concessions and/or concession sales may be limited to encourage social distancing and to follow health and safety guidelines.
- Some athletic events will be streamed online.

FINE ARTS

- Large group practice sessions, sectionals and rehearsals may occur outside.
- Off-campus fine arts performances may be limited by specific guidance from an authorized entity (e.g., NEISD, TEA, UIL, etc.).
- Concerts/performances may be modified based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., NEISD, TEA, UIL, etc.) including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees and the orientation of concerts.
- Fine arts performances may be streamed online.

<p>APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will implement accommodations as determined by the student’s §504 plan or IEP, including those necessary for health and safety. • A student with a disability that involves immunocompromised status may be considered for a change in services with specific medical information.
<p>RECESS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will sanitize their hands at the end of recess.
<p>STAFF EXPECTATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees are expected to self-screen each day for symptoms of contagious illness and known close contact with a person who has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days prior to reporting to work. • An employee is recommended to stay home or go home and/or seek medical care if he/she is experiencing any of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever or chills ○ New or worsening cough or shortness of breath ○ Loss of taste or smell ○ Sore throat ○ Diarrhea ○ Nausea or vomiting ○ Muscle or body aches ○ Headache ○ Fatigue ○ Congestion or runny nose • Fully vaccinated employees who are close contacts to a positive COVID-19 individual, do not need to quarantine if they are not displaying symptoms. CDC recommends close contacts wear a mask for 14 days and get tested for COVID-19 3-5 days following their exposure. If a close contact develops symptoms, CDC recommends he/she isolate immediately and seek COVID-19 testing. • Employees who test positive for COVID-19 will isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive test or from the first day of symptoms and refer to the existing leave policies of the District. • Employees will complete the NEISD Employee Reporting Form to report if they have tested positive for COVID-19, had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

<p>TRANSPORTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will screen children daily before allowing them to board the bus. • As students enter the bus, they will use hand sanitizer located inside the bus. • Masks will be provided on school buses at student/parent request.
<p>VISITORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of visitors may be limited, and visitors may only be permitted in designated areas of the campus. • Before visitors are allowed on campuses, visitors will self-screen for symptoms of contagious illness including COVID-19 symptoms. • If a visitor has COVID-19, or if they are showing any symptoms of a contagious illness, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. • In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return/enter school when all three of the following criteria are met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); 2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough or shortness of breath); and 3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. If the individual never experienced symptoms, at least 10 days have passed since the date of COVID-19 testing. • Additionally, visitors must self-screen for close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
<p>WATER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will need to bring water bottles (reusable or disposable) and clearly write their names on the outside of them. • Students may use water fountains to fill their water bottles at school, but they should not use them for drinking (to prevent touching surfaces).
<p>COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will report any individuals with COVID-19 who were present on a school campus to the designated state and local authorities. • NEISD will continue to post the number of positive COVID-19 cases on the District website.