



## **Buna Independent School District Return to School Plan**

The prevention and mitigation practices recommended in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Buna ISD will take their local public health context into account throughout the year as we determine which of the prevention and mitigation recommendations they implement.

There will almost certainly be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Parents, educators, and school administrators should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.

### **Attendance & Enrollment**

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of a course (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 2020-21 school year.
2. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
3. Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction.

### **Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering Buna Independent School District**

1. Buna ISD will require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent if: (a) they have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19; or (b) they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms.
2. Buna ISD will utilize a new thermal imaging FEEVR detection system for the 2020-2021 school year.

**All staff** will enter the same door each morning and be scanned by the FEEVR device.

Principal will assign staff members to monitor the FEEVR scan.

- If FEEVR detects temperature, staff will report to the Nurse to have oral temperature taken to verify if temperature is elevated.
- If temperature is 100.4 F or above, a staff member will be sent home for the remainder of the day and the following day. Staff may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without medication.

**All students** will be screened by the FEEVR device on arrival to school and during their lunch period each day.

Principal will assign staff members to monitor the FEEVR scan.

- If FEEVR detects temperature the student will be sent to Nurse to have oral temperature taken to verify if temperature is elevated. (Students name will be documented on appropriate form with findings)
- If temperature is 100.4 F or above, the student will be sent home for the remainder of the day and the following day. The student may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without medication.
- Note will be sent home with the student stating the earliest possible date the student may return.
- DAEP students will be checked with a handheld non contact thermometer on arrival to school and during their lunch period and documented on appropriate form.
- Students in ISS will have temperature taken during their lunch period. (They will have been screened by FEEVR on arrival to school) and documented on appropriate form.

**Visitors to campus** (Parents for ARDs, Teacher conference, Principal and Assistant Principal meetings, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, etc.) Anyone who will come in contact for an extended period with a student or staff member will have temperature taken by a handheld non contact thermometer before entry.

Principals will assign duty to monitor visitors

- If the thermometer indicates fever of 100.4 F or greater the visitor may not enter.
- All ARD meetings will be conducted via Zoom unless other arrangements have been made with the campus principal.
- Visitors to all campuses will be kept to a minimum in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus.

## **Individuals Confirmed, Suspected, or Exposed to COVID-19**

1. Any individuals—including teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors—who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until Buna ISD screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - a. Those diagnosed with COVID-19 must adhere to the following guidelines for admission back to campus.
    - i. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
    - ii. Symptoms have improved
    - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - b. 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.
  - c. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.
2. Individuals—including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors—**who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**, as narrowly defined in this document and as determined by the appropriate public health agency, should stay at home through the 14-day incubation period, and should not be allowed on campus. “Close contact” is defined as:
  - being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
  - being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

## **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

- Buna ISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Every effort should be made to pick the child up within 30 minutes.
- Buna ISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- An entire campus will not close for every positive case.

### **Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in Buna ISD**

1. If an individual who has been on campus is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, Buna ISD must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Buna Independent School District must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, Buna Independent School District must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

### **Health and Hygiene Practices to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19**

1. Buna ISD will have hand sanitizers at each classroom entrance.
2. Staff must be outside their classroom between each passing period and encourage students to wash their hands as they enter the classroom.
3. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands frequently.
4. All desks will be required to be wiped down by each student between passing periods using anti-bacterial spray or wipes. Students will enter the classroom with a clean/disinfected desk to sit in each class period.
5. On the first day of school, Buna ISD will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices consistent with the mitigation practices adopted.
6. Hygiene posters will be displayed throughout the district.

7. Shared supplies will be limited & wiped down between uses.
8. Limited seat movement in classrooms; limited numbers sitting at large tables.
9. Desks & tables will be physically distanced when possible.
10. Restroom occupancy will be monitored to control overcrowding.
11. Water fountains will be limited to the filling of water bottles only.
12. BISD will limit the amount of students participating in small group instruction at one time.
13. Plexiglass partitions will be used at the elementary school to allow for small-group instruction while simultaneously preventing the spread of covid-19.

### **Health and Hygiene--Masks/Shields**

1. It is not developmentally appropriate for students under 10 years of age to wear a mask. (Governor Abbott's Orders). However, BISD recommends the wearing of PPE to prevent sending students home frequently due to the "close contact" definition.
2. It may not be developmentally appropriate for some other students, including some students with disabilities, to wear masks or shields.
3. For students in fourth grade and below, the determination of whether wearing a mask is developmentally appropriate is up to the student's parent or guardian.
4. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own mask or face shield. However, PPE will be provided for any student or staff that needs it.
5. Students and Staff are required to wear a mask/shield while in close contact with anyone.
6. A medical note (from a doctor) can exclude a child from wearing a mask. However, a face shield will be required unless specifically stated otherwise from a licenced physician.
7. There will be opportunities for students to remove their mask during the day. BISD does not expect students to leave their mask on all day with no breaks. As the opportunity presents itself (social distance, outside, etc.) kids will remove them in a safe manner.
8. Shields must extend below the chin per CDC guidelines.
9. Failure to adhere to PPE guidelines will result in disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Breakfast & Lunch**

1. Elementary students will eat lunch in the cafeteria with their class only. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with their child until further notice.
2. JH and HS will add an additional lunch period to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Limited outside eating areas will also be available.

3. HS students will go to the cafeteria for breakfast only. All others will report to the Activity Center in the morning.
4. FEEVR devices will be used during lunch by trained staff.
5. Students participating in the asynchronous learning platform will be provided with breakfast and lunch each day. Parents will be required to pick up their child's meal(s) each day. Transportation will not be provided. Only one breakfast and lunch per day will be issued (per child). Contact Ms. Jodi Carr (Food Service Director) at 409-994-7438 by 8:00 AM each morning to reserve meals. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the same time.

### **Transportation (Bus) Guidance**

1. BISD encourages families to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
2. Buses shall be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.
3. BISD will require students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
4. Bus windows will be partially opened (at least) during routes to provide additional ventilation.
5. Parents may consider having developmentally appropriate aged children wear a mask while riding the bus. This decision is solely up to each parent.

### **Large Gatherings**

1. Until further notice, there will be no field trips for any grade level. Virtual field trips will be utilized whenever possible.
2. Virtual meetings will be utilized for school clubs if in-person guidelines cannot be met.
3. Pep rallies will be virtual and broadcasted at lunch and other times throughout the day.
4. All assemblies will be modified or digital until further notice.

### **COVID 19 Information for Students & Staff**

1. It's important to keep the facts in mind when it comes to the health and safety of our students and staff. According to research from the CDC, although children do get infected by COVID-19, very few are hospitalized or have severe symptoms.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>
2. There will be times when we will need to quarantine areas of a particular class, building, or school. This will take place when a confirmed case is known. Rumor and speculation

will only cause undue panic and will not be accepted. For example, “I heard John was around Sally’s cousin yesterday and he has Covid-19”. **Exposure to Exposure isn’t Exposure**. Only the criteria set forth in these guidelines will be accepted OR a note from a medical professional stating that a student or staff member must stay home. Employees must continue to meet the work expectations, subject to any applicable employment contract terms and conditions.

3. If parents choose to keep their child home and participate in the Asynchronous Model of learning, the student will not be allowed to come back to in-person instruction until the beginning of the next Six Week Period. The same is true in reverse. Students who come to school need to stay until the end of the Six Week Grading Period before participating in the Asynchronous online platform (Google Classroom).

### **Grades/Grading**

- Teachers are responsible for a minimum of 10 grades per Six Week Grading period. Seven shall be daily grades (homework, class work, and quizzes), and a minimum of three shall be test grades.
- The minimum number of grades for the first three-weeks of a grading period will consist of four daily grades and one test grade.
- Elementary requires a SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF GRADES (10 for Math, 6 for Social Studies (Grades 2-5), 6 for Science (Grades 2-4), 10 for Science (Grade 5 only), 15 for ELAR) to substantiate any 6 week or final grade in each core subject
- Only a transcript from an accredited school will be accepted when enrolling into BISD. Credits from homeschooled students will not be accepted if the homeschool is not an accredited institution.
- Asynchronous students may need to be physically present on campus to complete certain activities. For example, welding, cooking, etc. in order to receive credit.
- High school students will be required to complete tests in a secure, on-campus environment. This includes asynchronous learners. Buna ISD officials will ensure each student is wearing appropriate PPE and social distancing is enforced during test proctoring.
- HS Zoom testing for core academic subjects will not be permitted due to class rank and g.p.a. requirements.

### **Technology**

1. Every student attending Buna ISD will be issued a Chromebook.
2. A limited number of Wifi boxes will be available for parents who need them.
3. Public Wifi will be available at the elementary, high school, and public library.

4. Parents must purchase insurance for their child's device at a cost of \$20.00 per student.
5. Multiple digital resources will be available on the Buna ISD website for parents and students. This includes, but not limited to, Google classroom and Zoom tutorial videos.

## **Instructional Delivery Models**

Providing a high-quality instruction through two instructional delivery models

- In Person Learning (Traditional Classroom)
- At-Home Learning (Asynchronous Learning)

### **In Person Learning**

- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face to face learning activities all day.
- Secondary students in grades 6-12 will follow their class schedule and transition from one classroom to another.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading will be the same for In person and at home instruction.
- In person instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Student participation required five full days per week

### **At Home Learning (Asynchronous)**

- Students will remain at home and participate in learning activities via BISD's Learning Management System--Google Classroom.
- Daily student participation in learning activities is required.
- Remote at home instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Elementary students in grades 3rd-5th will be required to participate in daily zoom activities for math, science, and reading.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading will be the same for In person and At Home instruction.
- Students must complete a daily bell-ringer and exit ticket for evidence of engagement.
- Students must "check in" via Cougar Connect by 10:00 AM every day or they will be marked absent.
- Internet connection required; MiFi Boxes provided to parents who need them.
- District computer provided

### Athletics

- Per Buna ISD Board Policy, Asynchronous learners will not be permitted to participate in UIL or extracurricular activities.
- Upon arrival back to campus from Asynchronous instruction, students will need to check with their coach to ensure they are eligible to participate.
- In person learning guidelines remain the same for UIL participants.
- Capacity of UIL sporting events is 50%. A ticket distribution plan will be announced in the near future.

### COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions before coming to school:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is **not normal** for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea