



## **Safe Return to In-Person Instructional and Continuity of Services Plan Hempstead ISD**

### **2021-2022 Instructional Delivery Model**

For the 2021-2022 school year, Hempstead ISD will exclusively provide On-Campus Learning (Traditional Face-to-Face Classroom Experience with Safety Protocols). Remote Instruction will not be utilized unless mandated by TEA. High School students who need a more flexible schedule such as hybrid instruction must enroll in the HISD Alternative Campus. Courses offered at the HISD Alternative Campus are limited. For more information, contact Julie Henry, ALC Principal, at (979) 826-3331.

### **Virus Prevention Strategies/COVID Protocols**

- ❖ All employees are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school each day.
- ❖ All parents must screen their student(s) for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school each day.
  - Symptoms= Fever, loss of taste or smell, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, headache, chills, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, diarrhea.
- ❖ Any individual who possesses COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until they meet the current CDC or TEA criteria for re-entry.
- ❖ Any individual who has had sustained close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must report this information to the school and follow current CDC or TEA Public Health Guidelines regarding quarantine.
- ❖ A vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if they are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- ❖ Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three (3) months and recovered do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- ❖ Teachers should assign seats for students in their classroom and cafeteria area. The Transportation Department will assign seats for students riding the bus.
- ❖ CDC recommended cleaning and sanitizing protocols will continue for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout every campus and facility. Students and employees are encouraged to wash/sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day.
- ❖ HISD will continue to provide PPE for all employees by request.
- ❖ In HISD, masks are optional for all students and staff. We highly recommend any staff member exposed to any type of communicable virus seek medical attention, monitor their symptoms, and wear a mask to prevent any additional virus spread. **Per State mandate, no government entity, school district, or government official can require a person to wear a mask or face covering.**

### **Employees, Students, or Visitors Confirmed or Suspected to have COVID-19- Exclusion and Re-Entry**

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
- ◆ At least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever or diarrhea without the use of medication);
  - ◆ The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

- ◆ At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but 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.
- 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 infections tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <http://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

### **Virus Response Protocols/Testing Positive of COVID-19**

- Based on the recommendations of the CDC, students and staff with positive test results should isolate/quarantine for ten (10) days after symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic. Individuals must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school or work. Individuals must be diarrhea-free for at least 24 hours without using diarrhea-suppressing medicine before returning to work or school.
- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify Waller County Public Health and complete a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Employees must complete the COVID-19 Staff Report Form (it will be located on the Staff Page on the District Website) and follow guidance from your health provider.
- Staff must follow all normal processes indicated by your department or campus for logging your absences in SmartFind Express. Any absences pertaining to COVID-19 should also be documented by completing the Absence of Duty Form upon returning to campus.
- Employees will be given 5 days of COVID Leave to be used if you have a test-confirmed positive COVID result, medical documented complications from the COVID Vaccination, and/or having to quarantine due to close contact.

### **Close Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19:**

- Hempstead ISD will not require students to quarantine for ten (10) days due to close contact, however, the District will notify parents if their child has been in close contact with a lab-confirmed positive COVID test.
- Hempstead ISD will require staff to quarantine for ten (10) days after the date of the last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for ten (10) days after the date of the last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Individuals can choose to test after day 3 of initial contact. If the testing yields a negative test result, they may return to school or work. Documentation should be provided to MaBisha Stubblefield, Director of Human Resources.
- Fully vaccinated staff and students will not be required to quarantine if they are willing to provide documentation to MaBisha Stubblefield.
- Employees who voluntarily wear a mask (continuously) may not be required to quarantine due to close contact.

*Please note that guidance and recommendations may change depending on local, state, and federal mandates.*

### **Instructional Accommodations:**

- Students who need technology may request a Chromebook from their campus administration after three (3) days of quarantine. (Hotspots for internet connectivity will be issued pending campus availability)
- Students must return instructional technology upon returning to campus from quarantining.
- While quarantining, students must log in for remote conferencing and actively participate daily at 9:00 am to meet the requirements for compulsory attendance. (Regular compulsory attendance rules apply)
- Additional academic support and tutorials will be available after the school day for Math and English Language Arts. (Contact your campus administration for details)
- Students who are in quarantine are subject to the district policy for makeup work. Students may access their makeup work from their Google Classroom(s). Due dates for all makeup work will be based on the number of school days the student is absent. For example, if the student is absent for four (4) days, they will have four (4) days after returning to school to turn in missing work before it is considered late.

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

#### **Will I be allowed to work from home?**

- The ability to work from home will be limited. To work from home during a quarantine, you must receive written approval from Dr. Angela Gutsch or MaBisha Stubblefield.

#### **If I have to quarantine, will I have to use my available local or state days?**

- Employees will be given 5 days of COVID leave for personal use related to having COVID-19 (test-confirmed), complications to the COVID-19 Vaccination, or having to quarantine. When those days are utilized, employees will have the option to select from any available local or state days that they have accrued for absences due to COVID-19. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act has expired.

***Hempstead ISD may modify these guidelines based on current health trends or orders from state officials and governing bodies.***