

Zavalla Independent School District 2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Zavalla ISD's Return-to-Learn plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus. Please know that Zavalla ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year and this document will be updated as conditions change.

Health and Safety Measures

Infection Control Measures

- **Schools will abide by any Governor Order regarding face coverings** (*ie, if there are 20 or more active cases in the county, everyone age 10 or older would be required to wear a face covering for much of the school day.*)
- If the Governor's Order ceases, students and staff will be highly encouraged to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain social distance as well as in hallways and common areas and during arrival and dismissal. Face coverings include cloth masks, gaiters, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth.
 - Please note that if the number of cases in Zavalla and other data points increase past a certain threshold, regardless of a Governor's Order, face coverings may be required in the future
- Social distancing of at least 3-6 feet will be encouraged at all times.
 - It is important to note that under the current TEA guidelines (of offering in-person school every day to every student), that social distancing is not feasible and cannot be guaranteed as there is not enough square footage in our classrooms or campuses with most students attending daily.
- Water fountains will be available for filling of water containers only
- Staff will work to try to maintain social distancing at restrooms and in hallways where possible
**See note above about the feasibility of this with all/most students attending school*
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE will be provided as needed to staff and students.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands
- In addition to signage, students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. All students will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating and following restroom breaks.

- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately or hand sanitizer should be used.

Health Screenings

- Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school.
- Staff, parents, and students should not enter school facilities and are required to notify their campus office immediately should they experience any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Visitors will be required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.

Campus Operations

- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Campuses will open select entrances/exits during arrival/dismissal to promote social distancing.
- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day as well as other events.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times throughout the day
- Classrooms will have surfaces cleaned and disinfected daily. Students (age-appropriate) and staff will also have access to disinfectant wipes and will be encouraged to clean personal spaces throughout the day.
- Plexiglass will be installed in high-traffic public areas (reception desks, cafeteria cashiers, etc.)
- Interior doors will be open to increase air circulation and reduce high-touch areas. This includes classroom doors during transition periods.
- Where possible, student traffic through hallways will be confined to specific areas and/or one-way traffic routes will be established.
- Staff will work to try to minimize group traffic at lockers where possible
- Custodians will wear face coverings and gloves during work hours
- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, etc.), including how to sanitize between use. Hand sanitizer will be available in all common areas.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.

Learning Environments

- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students when possible
 - It is important to note that due to the number of students attending in person and the size of the classrooms, we will not be able to place students 6 feet apart.
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies where possible.
- Students and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high- touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible

Breakfast / Lunch

- Cafeteria staff will wear face coverings and gloves and will follow all health & safety protocols.
- Self-serve counters will be eliminated.
- All meals will be plated and served with pre-wrapped silverware and individual condiments.
- “Grab and Go” meals for breakfast will be utilized.
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink.
- Any leftover or extra food will be discarded.
- Lunch tables will be spread out across cafeteria to maximize space between individuals and groups as much as possible.
- Plexiglass shields will be used at cashier counter.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches.
- Due to restrictions in place, parents and other relatives will not be allowed to eat lunch at the school until further notice.

Transportation

- Ridership will remain at typical district capacity. Social distancing on buses is not possible due to the number of students transported to and from school daily.
- Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily as it is the safest means of transportation due to COVID-19.
- To support safety, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading.
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily.
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional

ventilation where appropriate.

Visitors

- Visitors will be restricted for those essential to school operations. (Parents and other visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch at the school until further notice.)
- Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible.
 - Social distancing is encouraged for all meetings that are not able to be virtual.
- Any visitor who needs to go beyond the front office will be subject to a health screening and will be required to wear a mask or face covering.
- Visitors required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.
- Any visitor who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19

- If a student or staff member has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home.
 - If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the class will be located to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected.
- Any individuals 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 the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - 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:
 1. at least three days (72 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, shortness of breath); and
 3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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.

- 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/>.
- Students or staff who come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and should contact the school.
- District communication will be provided to the staff and students who came in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- ZISD will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive. In the event that this cannot be done before the start of the next school day, ZISD may need to close for a day to complete this process if relocating students is not an option.
- Any student requiring quarantine will transition to Remote Learning for the period of self-isolation.
- Staff needing to self-isolate for exposure to COVID-19 will be based on whether the exposure was on-duty (at school or a school-related duty) or off-duty (did not occur at school or a school-related duty).

Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Students or staff who present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present: staff member will be sent home, and student will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until parent arrives.
- Nurse will notify campus administrator to move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected.
- Student will be escorted to vehicle upon parent arrival
- Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted

Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools 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. If you were determined to have had close contact, you will be individually contacted by campus staff.

- Contract tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine who came into close contact and if self-isolation/quarantine is required.
- 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
- *NOTE! If face coverings are worn, the students/staff members exposed do not need to self-isolate or quarantine.*

Example: A ZES student tests positive in the second grade. All ZES parents are notified that a student has tested positive at the campus. Through contact tracing, ZISD determines who has been in “close contact” and contacts those families individually to determine next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation depending on if masks were worn and degree of contact).

Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have 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 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Definition of “Close Contact”

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b. 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.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of

asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

NOTE! If face coverings are worn, the students/staff members exposed do not need to self-isolate or quarantine.