



**CHILlicothe INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

**RETURN TO  
SCHOOL  
PLAN**

**IN-PERSON LEARNING**

**AS OF 7-20-2020**

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*\*\* The guidelines and suggestions in this document are as accurate as can be as of the date of its submission. Please be aware that updated guidelines or requirements may need to be altered, omitted, or added to if governmental guidelines change.\*\**

## Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Chillicothe ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on **August 17**. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide an excellent education to our students.

**We are highly encouraging all students to be in our at-school, face-to-face instruction. There is no better instructional model.** TEA has allowed us to do some remote instruction as well due to COVID19. This option is available but not encouraged except in extenuating circumstances. As the public health crisis continues, we plan to open the 2020-21 school year with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students, and community.

Chillicothe ISD is planning for two different instructional environments; our plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency, and state and local health officials.

In early August, Chillicothe ISD will be providing an **Instructional Plan** separate of this document that provides a thorough description and procedures associated with the **Remote Learning Option** available to students to begin the 2020-21 School Year.

**The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Chillicothe ISD website and Facebook will provide you with the most up-to-date links for information.**

**Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Chillicothe ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other relevant information to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.**

**It is important to remember the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread by infected persons who have little or no symptoms but are still contagious. The person they infect may become seriously or fatally ill. Especially vulnerable are persons 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, placing them at higher risk. Because of this threat's hidden nature, Chillicothe ISD expects all employees, students, and families to follow these practices rigorously.**

## Communication

The designated communication team regarding all COVID19 related issues at Chillicothe ISD will consist of the following personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct those to our designated team.

Superintendent	Todd Wilson
Junior High/High School Principal	Tony Martinez
Elementary Principal	Brenda Dunlap
Counselor	Donna Prince
Athletic Director	Chad Young
Food Service Director	Susan Pautsky

## **Preparation for Opening of School**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, Chillicothe ISD will implement health and safety procedures that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory. (e.g., PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency, and other jurisdictional policies.
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings.

## **Guidelines for Screening and Quarantine**

### **Screening Requirements**

- Staff will be required to complete a self-screening process before entering a Chillicothe ISD building. The district may require further screening of employees, at any time, based on the current state and federal guidelines.
- A Parent or Guardian will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before sending them to school. Additional screening may be conducted during the school day.
- Parents must not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in the glossary portion of this document).
- Parents must not send a child to school if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Parents can opt for the child to receive remote instruction.
- Staff and Students should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply. The individual is:
  - Sick or has been ill in the past 14 days. Symptoms to watch for:
    - a. fever (100°F or higher)
    - b. cough
    - c. shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
    - d. chills
    - e. muscle pain
    - f. headache
    - g. sore throat
    - h. the new loss of taste or smell.
  - Has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician.
  - Has a household member awaiting COVID-19 test results or is awaiting their test results.

- Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the campus office if symptoms are present.

## **Quarantine Requirements**

- For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the campus office personnel will provide a clinical assessment to determine if a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus has contacted the parent/guardian.
- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify county health authorities, employees and parents, 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).
- Schools must close off areas 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.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols, including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school when:
  - They are 3 days (72 hours) fever-free without using fever-reducing medication.
  - Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.).
  - 10 days have passed since symptoms began.

## Personal Protective Equipment / Face Masks

- ❖ Counties with 20 or more active COVID-19 cases must adhere to the Governor's Executive Order regarding the wearing of face coverings during school hours.
- ❖ Hardeman County currently has LESS THAN 20 active COVID-19 Cases as of 7-16-2020
- ❖ At this time, Chillicothe ISD students, 10 years and older, will be wearing masks at school. Staff will also wear protective equipment. Students under 10 years of age will be encouraged to wear masks.
- ❖ Chillicothe ISD plans to promptly adhere to the following requirements regarding the wearing of face masks IF Hardeman County active COVID-19 cases exceed 20 or more.
  - Masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Students over the age of 10 will wear face coverings in hallways, common areas, and upon arrival and dismissal.
  - It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some extracurricular and co-curricular activities. UIL and governmental guidelines will help us with requirements.
  - Students will not be required to wear face coverings while eating and drinking.
  - Students and staff will be provided a standard Texas Education Agency issued reusable face covering. Families are requested to supply a student face covering should the one provided by the school become unusable or lost.
  - Face masks will not have inappropriate pictures, emblems or writing that is offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
  - Masks may not advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under school policy.
  - Individual needs regarding face coverings will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the campus principal.

## **Visitors to Campus**

Visitors will be screened with questions regarding symptoms and be denied access if any symptoms are reported or witnessed.

- Only essential visits will be allowed.
- UIL and school-sponsored activities will be considered essential, and all government required social distancing measures will be strictly enforced. UIL guidelines will be enforced and can change at any given time, just as all governmental requirements.
- If activities can be staggered, every effort will be made to decrease crowd sizes.
- Parents are discouraged from entering the campus and will not be allowed beyond the front office area.
- Virtual tools will be used to conduct meetings such as PTA meetings, Booster Club Meetings, FFA Meetings, Foundation Meetings, Alumni Meetings, ARDs, LPAC, etc.

## **Hand Sanitizing and Washing**

Hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, before eating, and entering classrooms. Breaks will be provided for hand washing.

- Supervised handwashing will be enforced for our youngest of students, with every opportunity to encourage proper techniques to all our students.
- Multiple hand sanitizing opportunities will be available for Chillicothe ISD employees and students throughout the campus in locations such as the office, classroom, lunchroom, etc.
- Students should come to school clean and in good hygiene. Clothes should be clean to avoid germ contamination. Jackets and coats should be cleaned at least weekly.

## **District Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

### **Daily Campus Cleaning**

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Cafeterias will be disinfected between lunch periods.

### **Restrooms**

- Staff should supervise and limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time to comply with Texas Education Agency recommendations and social distancing.

- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

## **School Arrival and Dismissal**

### **Arrival at School**

- The school doors will open at 7:15 am. Please do not drop your child off at school before 7:30 am.
- Students should be dropped off at the front door of their campus unless they attend junior high athletics. A school employee will be at the front door of each campus to greet the students upon arrival.
- Upon arrival, students will go straight to the designated areas assigned by the Campus Principals.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.

### **Dismissal from School**

- The Campus Principals will designate staggered dismissal groups.
- Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders, or grade level will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.
- Separate exits will be utilized for car riders, bus riders, walkers.
- Chillicothe ISD employees will monitor all designated exits.

## **Bus Transportation**

Although the district is implementing the safety protocols and disinfecting, families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible exposure on buses.

- All Students will wear masks on CISD buses and transportation due to close quarters.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Bus windows will be open, as permitted by weather, to allow outside air to circulate.
- The CDC warns us that buses may be a location where COVID19 is mostly spread. Therefore, the CDC suggests that students be seated by family or socially distanced as much as possible on bus routes.

- Chillicothe ISD urges families to drop off and pick up their children at school or carpool with close contact families if possible, to reduce potential virus exposure on buses. If this is not possible, please know that if your normal mode of transportation is the bus, it is always available.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned regularly, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

## **Cafeteria Breakfast and Lunch**

- Based on social distancing guidelines, the Campus Principals will determine areas that may be utilized for lunch. These areas could include classrooms, the library, or other large areas within the school building.
- Chillicothe ISD Teachers and Staff will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote social distancing practices.
- Physical distance will be provided around each occupied seat.
- Microwaves will not be provided in the cafeteria due to the opportunity for cross-contamination with a high-touch device.
- Hand sanitizing will be available in the cafeteria.

## **Standard Classroom Procedures**

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations regarding social distancing applicable to the classroom square footage.

- Teachers and Staff will ensure high-touch areas in the classroom are wiped down between classes. Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:
  - Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations.
  - Access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces.
  - Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus.
  - The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.

## Water Fountains

A water bottle filling station will be available at the High School, Elementary, and Cafeteria/Gym.

### Students

- Students are expected to bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the day and are expected to take water bottles home to be cleaned daily.

### Parents

- Parents are asked to secure a reusable water bottle for their child to bring to school daily.
- Parents are asked to assist students, as needed, to clean water bottles daily.

### Teacher/Staff

- Teachers and Staff will demonstrate how students should fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains.
- Teachers and Staff will monitor that students take water bottles home to be cleaned.

## District Health and Safety Training

On the first day, a student attends school on campus; schools must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene and other mitigation practices adopted by the local school district. These practices include covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover a cough or sneeze with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash. Then, hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

<b>Safety Training for Protocols &amp; Procedures</b>	
<b>Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will participate in training specific to newly adopted health and safety protocols.</li><li>• All students will be trained on information about COVID-19 screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.</li><li>• If a student is experiencing symptoms, they need to notify a teacher immediately.</li></ul>
<b>Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents are asked to talk to their students about COVID-19 symptoms and prevention strategies.</li></ul>
<b>Teacher/Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers attend training and develop classroom procedures consistent with TEA, District, and CDC guidance.</li><li>• All staff will be trained on COVID screening, identifying symptoms, preventing spread, and sanitation of work areas.</li><li>• All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the campus office if a student is showing any symptoms.</li></ul>

## **Glossary/Description of Terms**

### **COVID19 Symptoms and Close Contact Definition**

In evaluating whether an individual has **symptoms consistent with COVID19**, consider the following:

- Feeling feverish
- 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

**Close contact** is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions by:

- being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield.
- being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes while not wearing a mask or face shield.