



## SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

*Subject to change based on updated information or orders from local and state authorities.*

### PARENT AND PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ***Dawson ISD's plan for on-campus activities and instruction.***

In light of the COVID-19 public health crisis, DISD has worked to develop a safe, efficient, and responsible plan for the 2021-22 school year, which will begin on Wednesday, August 18. It is important that we accommodate the social, emotional, and health needs of our students and their families while simultaneously providing the high-quality education our students deserve. The following is a summary of the plan DISD will follow to educate students while mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools based on the requirements and recommendations outlined by the Texas Education Agency.

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Dawson ISD will offer ONLY one instructional method to students

#### ***On-Campus, Traditional Instruction***

This method refers to regular, on-campus instruction with an assigned DISD teacher and a traditional school schedule. Heightened hygiene and cleaning protocols will be in place for the health and welfare of students and staff. (Please see [Health and Safety Protocols](#).)

#### ***Special Services***

Students served by Special Education have their individual needs outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

- If guardians do not have a current copy of the student's IEP, guardians may reach out to the campus contact. The IEP contains information on the student's current strengths and areas for growth. The IEP also contains annual measurable goals that will help pinpoint priority areas the student may focus on while learning at home.
- Special Education services will be provided via an appointment-based schedule at their campus.



Students protected under Section 504 have their individual needs outlined in their Section 504 Plan.

- If guardians do not have a current copy of the student's plan or need assistance understanding the information within the Section 504 Plan, guardians may reach out to the campus contact. The Section 504 Plan will contain any supports and accommodations that are used in the classroom to ensure the student is able to access grade-level curriculum and instruction. This information should be considered to adapt instruction at home.

English Learners have their needs addressed through the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) plan.

- If guardians do not have a current copy of the student's LPAC plan, guardians may reach out to the campus contact. The LPAC plan contains information on the student's current strengths and areas for growth for language acquisition. The LPAC plan also contains supports and accommodations that are used in the classroom to ensure the student is able to acquire the English language. English Learner teachers will provide support on a case-by-case basis.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

On-campus instruction will take place in-person and will be delivered by DISD educators. The following protocols for the prevention, response, and mitigation of the virus are being considered at this time:

### ***Social-Emotional Considerations***

According to experts from Cook Children's Hospital:

Students are dealing with extremes of anxiety, frustration, isolation, and uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students have had obstacles that prevent social and physical outlets to diffuse these. Some are grieving the loss of family, friends, and an accustomed way of life. Students may act out, withdraw, show diminishing school performance, have uncharacteristic emotional displays of anger and frustration, or try to self-medicate when experiencing depression and anxiety. (Retrieved from

<https://cookchildrens.org/coronavirus/action/Pages/Safe-Reopening.aspx>, July 14, 2020)

- Whenever possible, provide consistency in daily routines to foster a sense of safety and predictability. For parents and caregivers, this may mean maintaining a clear schedule of meal times, learning times, and bedtime routines. For educators, this may mean beginning virtual classes, sharing out, and assigning work in a consistent, structured way.
- Listen to young people. Give children and youth opportunities to share their concerns, and address the difficult questions on their minds in age-appropriate ways.
- Support young people in building relationships or maintaining a sense of community and connection. Relationships are always a priority and a key to engagement and learning, and especially so at a time when young people may be feeling isolated. (Retrieved from <https://casel.org/resources-covid/>, July 14, 2020)
- Dawson ISD student services stand ready to check in and assist students as needed.

### ***Resources for Social Emotional Wellness***

- Child Mind Institute: <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
- National Association for School Psychologists: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>
- CASEL's resources and guidance on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): <https://casel.org/covid-resources/>
- Recommendations for the Practical, Fair, and Safe Reopening of Public Schools K-12 in the State of Texas: [https://cookchildrens.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/coronavirus/Presentation-Return\\_School-Mazade.pdf](https://cookchildrens.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/coronavirus/Presentation-Return_School-Mazade.pdf)



## PREVENTION

### ***Practices to prevent COVID-19 from entering our schools.***

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order stopping nearly every governmental entity within the state — including ***school districts*** and public universities — from requiring or mandating masks. Only state-supported homes, state-run hospitals and state, county and municipal jails and prisons will be exempt from the order.

**As a result of the above executive order, masks will be optional at Dawson Independent School District for the 2021-2022 school year.**

### ***Other Considerations:***

#### ***Health Screening***

- Staff:
  - Staff are required to complete daily health self-screening before coming to campus each day, including:
    - Daily temperature checks; and
    - Self-screening for [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
  - Staff must report to the district any [symptoms](#) and/or a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, and must remain off campus until they meet the [Return to School criteria](#).
  - If a staff member has had close contact with an individual with a lab-confirmed case, the staff member must report this to the district, and must remain off-campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Students:
  - Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on-campus if the child has [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
  - Students experiencing any [symptoms](#) or who have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will receive virtual instruction until they meet the [Return to School criteria](#).
  - Parents may opt to have their students receive virtual instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
  - Teachers will monitor students throughout the school day and refer to the office if [symptoms](#) are present.
- Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to symptom screening questions have met the criteria for re-entry, the individuals’ responses will be destroyed.



### **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures**

- **Parents are strongly encouraged to remain outside of the school building during arrival and dismissal.**
  - *Exception: Parents of incoming pre-k and kindergarten students may walk their students into the school building.*

### **Visitors**

- Campus visitors will be restricted this year. Restrictions will extend (but are not limited) to classroom visits, non-essential meetings, non-school-related meetings, breakfast/lunch visits, class parties, etc
- Screenings:
  - Before visitors are allowed onto campuses, the district will screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. If so, they must remain off campus until they meet the [Return to School criteria](#).
  - Visitors will also be screened to determine if the visitors have had [close contact](#) with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. If so, the visitor must remain off-campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Parents will not be permitted to eat breakfast or lunch with their children on campus, unless arrangements are made ahead of time.
- Non-emergency deliveries to students are discouraged.
- Individual student lunches may be delivered by parents/guardians, but outside delivery services are prohibited.
- ARD meetings, 504 meetings, etc. will be held in person unless requested to be virtually. Health screening of all visitors will be in place and distancing protocols will be practiced.

### **UIL-Sanctioned Activities and Events**

- The district will adhere to the [2021-2022 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines](#). These guidelines apply to all UIL activities (including athletic, musical, and academic contests), and are effective August 1, 2021 or whenever they become available. All UIL activity participants, sponsors/coaches, and spectators are expected to follow UIL Risk Mitigation Guidelines.

### **School Health Related to COVID-19 (TEA Public Health Planning Guide)**

- The school will immediately separate any student who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#) while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Students who report feeling feverish will receive an immediate temperature check to determine if they are [symptomatic for COVID-19](#).
- The school will clean any areas used by the individual displaying [COVID-19 symptoms](#) while at school (student, staff, or visitor) as soon as feasible.



## MITIGATION

### ***Practices to mitigate the likelihood of COVID-19 spread inside the school.***

#### ***Enhanced Sanitization***

- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations will be available in each classroom, at all entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Custodial staff will engage in enhanced cleaning procedures of buildings including but not limited to all classrooms, offices, restrooms, and other common areas.
- Custodial staff will use a cleaning process with CDC recommended disinfectants that are proven to kill the COVID-19 virus as well as others and are certified safe for schools.
- Custodial staff will frequently wipe high traffic surfaces, including handrails, door handles, counter tops, restroom surfaces, and cafeteria surfaces continually throughout the day.
- Custodial staff will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of restrooms and common areas throughout the day.
- Custodial staff will continually monitor hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout each building to ensure necessary personal disinfectant products are filled and available.
- Additional daytime custodial staff will be present on campuses to assist with more frequent disinfectant protocols.

#### ***Student Meals and Cafeterias***

- Students will be required to wash/sanitize their hands prior to entering the cafeteria.
- Thorough sanitizing and hand washing practices will be followed in all areas of the kitchen and serving locations.
- All tables will be sanitized between mealtimes.
- The campus will plan for physically distant mealtimes as feasible.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing food or drink.
- Tables will be spread out across cafeterias to maximize space between groups.

#### ***Campus Protocols***

- Multiple doors/routes will be used for student entry and dismissal to promote physical distancing between students.
- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day.
  - Procedures will be put in place for students who arrive to campus early to ensure appropriate social distancing. This may include opening the gym to hold students until the school day begins.
- Visual aids will be used to illustrate appropriate spacing and traffic flow throughout the building.





- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.
- Intermingling between classes will be limited to the extent possible (PK-5).
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transitions to reduce the volume of contact necessary to enter/exit the room.
- Classes will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, etc.) including sanitization between use. All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home. Water fountains and bottle-fillers will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times per day and may only be used to refill bottles.
- Procedures and protocols will be in place to address locker rooms to include disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.

### ***Classroom Protocols***

- Classrooms will be arranged to encourage students to social distance whenever possible.
- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students.
- Teachers should plan for limited use of shared equipment and supplies in schools and classrooms.
- All students (PK-12) will be issued an individual electronic device to reduce sharing of devices.
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch surfaces, working surfaces, and shared objects regularly.
- Students will be taught effective hand washing techniques and hygiene awareness, including supervised hand washing for at least 20 seconds at least two times per day. On the first day a student attends school on a campus, the student will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices.
- Students will be taught correct protocol for coughing and sneezing.
- Staff and students will be required to wash/sanitize their hands before eating, after recess, and after bathroom breaks.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain at least 12 feet of distance from other classroom groups.
- Physical education classes will be conducted outdoors whenever possible. Appropriate social distancing practices will be followed.

### ***Transportation***

- Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily as it is the safest means of transportation.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading. All students will use hand sanitizer when boarding/exiting the bus.
- Buses will load back to front, and unload front to back.



- To support contact tracing, students may be assigned seats and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver.
- Buses will be wiped down and sanitized daily.
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide additional ventilation.

## RESPONSE

### ***Practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in one of our schools.***

#### ***School Health Related to COVID-19 (TEA Public Health Planning Guide)***

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify Dawson County Health Department in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulation, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- The district will close off areas heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case unless more than three days have passed since the individual was on campus.
- If any member of the campus or school community tests positive for COVID-19, the district will communicate this information to staff and families in alignment with notification requirements for other communicable diseases and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements.

#### ***Return to School Criteria (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)***

- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the [symptoms of COVID-19](#), must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine that all of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - The individual has improvement in symptoms; and
  - At least 10 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-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.





## REFERENCES

### ***COVID-19 Symptoms (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)***

- 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

### ***Close Contact (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)***

Close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (ex: being coughed on while not wearing a face covering); or
- b) being within six feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a face covering;

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.

### ***School Protocols***

- Students or staff who present with symptoms of COVID-19 will be evaluated and assessed by school staff.
- 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 or Designee will notify campus administrator so disinfection protocol can be initiated.
- Student will be escorted to vehicle upon parent arrival.
- Office will provide parent/staff with [Return to School](#) criteria.

### ***District Contacts for COVID-19 Related Questions and Concerns***

- Student questions and concerns:  
Jesse Galdean  
Principal  
[jgaldean@esc17.net](mailto:jgaldean@esc17.net)



**Vaccinations :**

Dawson ISD encourages all students and staff to take any of the CDC recommended Covid 19 vaccinations. Arrangements for staff and students to receive their Covid 19 vaccinations will be made. Staff will not be docked in any manner and students will receive an excused absence for the time needed to take the vaccine.

Contact the BRMC CLINIC in Brownfield, Texas, for more information.

**BRMC CLINIC**  
**703 East Felt Street**  
**Brownfield, Texas 79316**  
**806-637-1955**

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Saturday  
7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

**More Information:**

Please visit the Dawson ISD website at:

**Dawson Independent School District - Home**  
**<https://www.dawson.esc17.net>**

On the Home Page, Click on and search under the ESSER III Funds tab info.....



***Scheduled dates of Review and Revision of these plans:***

<b>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting :</b>	<b>December 2021</b>
<b>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting :</b>	<b>June 2022</b>
<b>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting :</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
<b>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting :</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
<b>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting :</b>	<b>December 2023</b>