



# FLATONIA ISD

## BACK 2 SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Disclaimer:** The responses included are given in good faith based on the conditions and guidance at the time that they are written. Revisions may be necessary based on new or updated guidance and information from local, state, and federal agencies.

**UPDATED August 5, 2020**

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Q: How will students be socially distanced in the classrooms?**

**A:** District and campus leaders are working to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Student desks will be spaced apart to the greatest extent possible within the classroom setting. Large spaces may be converted into instructional spaces to provide greater social distancing.

**Q: Will students and staff be required to wear a mask?**

**A:** As a public entity, we are required to follow the guidelines set by the Texas Governor, which states that anyone ten years or older is required to wear a face covering in public. Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear a face covering during the day while indoors and/or outdoors during times when 6 ft social distancing is not possible. Students in grades PK-3 have the option of wearing a face covering if their parent(s) choose for them to do so. In addition to our locally established protocols, the district will follow any additional guidelines or recommendations shared by the state and/or county. School currently are required to follow [Governor Executive Order 29](#) relating to face coverings.

**Q: Will students change classrooms or will the teachers change classrooms?**

**A:** FISD is in the process of developing expectations for switching classes. Considerations include teachers moving classrooms instead of students, when possible. This applies most specifically to elementary students. Exceptions would include transitions to PE, Music, Art, and recess. Secondary students will most likely transition between classrooms during the day due to the student choice provided at the secondary level. Campus principals will finalize plans and communicate any changes that are made to campus procedures before the school year begins.

**Q: What precautions are being taken for the safety of bus riders?**

**A:** Bus riders will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible. Students will sit alone in a seat unless they are in the same family. All drivers and riders will be required to wear a face covering. Each person entering and exiting the bus will be encouraged to use provided hand sanitizer. All buses will be sanitized using a CDC approved cleaner following each trip (morning, afternoon, and extra-curricular). Whenever possible, windows will be opened to improve airflow by allowing outside air to circulate in the bus.

**Q: How will lunch be conducted and where will the students eat?**

**A:** FISD is working to outline campus expectations for breakfast and lunch. Considerations include having lunches delivered to classrooms; staggering lunch times to provide opportunities for fewer students to eat in the cafeteria at one time; utilizing other spaces in the building for students to eat, preparing easy-to-grab lunches to minimize the time it takes for students to receive their meal, etc. In situations where grade levels eat in their classrooms, lunches will be delivered. When students eat in the cafeteria, they will be seated at tables with reduced numbers of students at each table (3 - 4 dependent on age). Open campus for Juniors and Senior will remain in place. All students will be required to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer prior to the lunch period and when entering the building following lunch.

**Q: If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, who must quarantine?**

**A:** The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. FISD will follow guidance from TEA, as well as state and local health officials on this matter. Flatonia ISD will apply TEA guidelines as part of the COVID-19 Case Management Process as outlined in our FISD Health & Safety Protocols. Once a case has been confirmed that impacts the campus, all staff and families will be notified. Anyone who is required to stay home will be individually notified based on "close contact" as defined by TEA and health officials (those who have been within six feet for more than 15 minutes). Current guidelines require anyone exposed to a positive case to remain at home for the 14-day virus incubation period. In addition, anyone with a confirmed positive case or who is experiencing symptoms will have to meet specific health requirements before returning.

**Q: What are the procedures for hand washing during the day?**

**A:** Each campus will work at least two scheduled hand washing times into their normal daily schedule. In addition, hands will be washed before and after eating; after exercise, PE or Athletics class; when returning indoors from recess and after restroom use. Hand sanitizer will be readily accessible throughout the building and used when moving between classrooms; when entering the building; after using shared classroom items; when entering or leaving common spaces such as the library or cafeteria.

# **LEARNING & INSTRUCTION**

**Q: Will Remote Learning in 2020-2021 be different from Emergency Remote Learning in the spring of 2020?**

**A:** Yes, based on state requirements, Remote Learning for the 20-21 school year will be more rigorous and structured than what we experienced during the emergency COVID-19 closure last spring. Remote learning will require much greater discipline and attention in order for progress to be achieved. Remote Learning will be aligned to FISD in-person curriculum and students will engage in daily structured and flexible work times. Attendance will be taken daily and normal FISD Grading Guidelines will be followed.

**Q: Synchronous learning at home for younger years would be a extremely hard requirement for younger students. Are you planning asynchronous learning with mixed in online involvement for the younger students?**

**A:** We expect that students in all grades will follow an asynchronous plan that may include varying elements of synchronous instruction. We do not feel that it is practical nor appropriate for younger students (particularly PK-2) to sit in front of a computer for the entire day; therefore, remote instruction and activities will be intermittent.

**Q: How will we notify the school district if we plan to choose Remote Learning?**

**A:** Each family will be asked to complete an Instructional Commitment Form for each child indicating their preference of In-Person or Remote Learning. A link to the Preference Form was opened on August 4 and remains open through August 12.

**Q: Can the school support a virtual format if a parent decides not to send their child to physical school due to safety?**

**A:** Yes. The district will offer virtual (remote) learning to families who choose this option. Classroom teachers will utilize Google Classroom for online instruction. Unlike last spring, the virtual format will require online connectivity and daily participation. We do not anticipate using paper packets.

**Q: Will students who are learning from home be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities?**

**A:** Students participating in remote instruction will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or certain CTE courses, including, but not limited to, athletics, band, welding, and UIL academics.

**Q: If someone chooses remote learning, can they change to in-person?**

**A:** If a student chooses remote learning, the student will be expected to remain in this model for the entire grading period (6 weeks). If a family wishes to transition their student(s) back to in-person instruction at the end of a grading period, advance notice will be required.

**Q: If my child chooses to return to in-person school after spending a grading period in a remote setting, will they be placed in their original classroom?**

**A:** Every effort will be made to return the student to the original classroom schedule. However, exceptions may be made in order to reduce class size and ensure social distancing.

**Q: If I'm going to be doing online school and I don't have a computer can I do it on my phone?**

**A:** Although cellular phones can supplement virtual instruction, by itself the use of a cellular phone will likely not be sufficient for online instruction. A laptop or a desktop computer with internet access is recommended. If neither of these are available, students should contact their campus principal.