

Central Heights Independent School District

“EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION”

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David Russell, Superintendent Jonathan Vick, HS Principal, Andy Binford, MS Principal
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Dear CHISD Family,

The following paragraphs give further explanation of the CHISD plan to reopen schools with students on August 24th. Some of the information is repeated from the letter that was released on July 22nd, but much of the information is new. Please understand that any plans made by CHISD are subject to change based on guidance from Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Education Agency, CDC, UIL and other federal, state and local health officials.

Bus Transportation- All students (PreK-12) who ride buses to and from school will be required to wear a mask on the bus and asked to sit with siblings and family members to allow for more spacing. Students will load from the back to the front and assigned seating may be a possibility. It is recommended that parents screen their children in the mornings and that an adult stand outside with the riders until they have been screened and cleared to ride. Contactless temperature screenings will be administered to students as they enter the bus and students with a reading of 100 or more will not be permitted to ride the bus. Parents, please be prepared for your child(ren) to return to the house if they are running a fever of 100 or more. Bus riders will be re-screened as they enter their campus by school staff.

*** If riding a bus is not an absolute necessity for your child(ren), we ask that you consider dropping off and picking up if possible.

***Buses will be disinfected daily.

Cafeterias and Meals – All meals (breakfast and lunch) will be pre-prepared and given to students as they come thru the line. Students will be given a choice of regular or chocolate milk. There will be no drink refilling stations for tea or lemonade at this time. Students may bring a water bottle to refill at fountains and bottle filling stations. Parents will not be permitted to eat breakfast or lunch with their child. At this time, no outside lunches will be allowed to be delivered to the school. If a student forgets their lunch or money, they will be given a basic meal and it will be charged to their account.

- Elementary will eat breakfast and lunch in the Elementary cafeteria.
- Middle School will eat breakfast and lunch in the MS/HS cafeteria.
- High School students will pick up breakfast in the MS/HS cafeteria but will take it to the Russell gymnasium to eat. High School will eat lunch in the MS/HS cafeteria.

*** All students will be directed to a seating arrangement that will allow for the best possible social distancing opportunity while eating in the cafeterias. Students are asked help dispose of their own trash when leaving the cafeteria. Tables and facilities will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next group entering the cafeteria by cafeteria staff.

***Remote learners who qualify for free or reduced meals have the opportunity to pre-order by 9:00 am each day for pick-up. Meals will be picked up in the foyer of that student's campus. Please see CHISD website (www.centralhts.org) for contact information.

Cleaning / Disinfecting – CHISD will focus on best recommended practices related to the cleaning and disinfecting of our campus and facilities without disrupting the educational process. Students may be asked to reduce trips to the restroom or water breaks during regular classes to allow staff to clean high traffic areas more frequently such as restrooms, fountains, gyms, etc...

Closures -All stakeholders should expect the possibility of additional COVID-19 related disruptions and closures during the 2020-2021 school year. The emergence of positive cases of COVID-19 within our community and our schools should be anticipated and may necessitate the exclusion of students, classes and possibly entire campuses from face-to-face instruction. If or when this happens, remote learning will be instituted as appropriate.

Confirmed or Suspected Cases - 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:

- i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
and
- iii. 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) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID.

Drop Off and Pick Up Locations- We are asking that everyone adhere to the following drop off and pick-up locations:

Elementary –(PreK-5)

Morning Drop Off:

Front entrance of Elementary will be for 3rd -5th graders ONLY.

North car line by baseball field--Any student grades PreK-5 may be dropped off here.

**For families with multiple grade students: drop all your children off at the North side car line together.

Afternoon Car Rider pick-up lines

-North Side= student last names A-L

- Front Entrance= Student last names M-Z

Middle School- (6-8)

Drop off should be at the front door of the Middle School. Please do not drop off MS students at the front door of the High School. Pick up for 6th and 7th grade will be outside the Johnson Gymnasium. Pick up for 8th grade will be in front of the Fieldhouse.

High School – (9-12)

All High School students will enter and exit thru the front doors of the High School.

*** Absolutely no students should enter thru any other doors.

*** The road between the baseball field and High School will be closed after school until all buses have loaded students and are leaving campus.

Extra-Curricular Activities - The University Interscholastic League (UIL) has issued guidance related to extra-curricular activities for the up coming school year. Attendance to activities will be reduced to 50% capacity. The coordination of available tickets is being discussed amongst the District Executive Committee and Athletic Directors. This means that attendance will be limited and we want to make sure that we have accessibility for the participants and their families.

*** Students who choose remote learning will not be eligible to participate in UIL extra-curricular activities.

Personal Protection Equipment- While under a mask order, every student in grades 4-12 will be required to wear a mask while in the buildings and ALL STUDENTS (PreK-12) must wear one while on a bus. All adults will be required to wear a mask as well while in the presence of students or groups of people. Face coverings are required in the presence of others EXCEPT during physical activities (PE/Recess) when social distancing is able to be maintained.

If not under an order, CHISD is still asking students and adults respect and adhere to wearing a mask until further notice. This helps reduce any fears or worries for those who may have immune compromising circumstances.

The district will make masks and gloves available to students if needed. Staff will be given face shields to wear so that their mouth will be unobstructed while teaching in front of the class. Everyone is encouraged to bring a mask or face covering that they may find to be most comfortable. No masks shall contain inappropriate language, advertisements or messages.

Social Distancing- We will have to be very creative in ways of asking students to practice “social-distancing” in a school setting. Each teacher will have to evaluate their space and class numbers to determine what is the best plan for their classroom.

Temperature Screenings – All students will be given temperature screenings as they enter the school buildings. Anyone with a 100 or greater reading will not be allowed at school for that day and should not return until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medication or a release

from a doctor. Anyone with a 99 reading will be sent to a waiting area until they can be rescreened a few moments later by a nurse. If the student's temperature reads over a 100 at the nurse's secondary screening, they will not be allowed at school for that day and should not return until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medication or a release from a doctor.

Elementary and Middle School car riders will be screened as they exit the vehicles. Parents may be asked to park and wait if their child has a reading of 99 degrees and is taken for a second screening by the nurse.

All employees are asked to self-screen each morning prior to coming to work.

*** Parents, we ask that you please be patient and understanding during this process. It may be an inconvenience at this time, but we are trying to do the best we can for the safety of all involved.

Visitors – Only essential visitors will be allowed past the offices during the school day. This includes outside counselors, substitute teachers, educational related staff, vendors, etc... All visitors will be required to answer screening questions, have their temperature checked and wear PPE upon entrance. Parents may request for a teacher/parent conference if needed, but this should be set up in advance through the campus office.

Please see the following links from TEA and UIL that are related to Coronavirus:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/news-releases/news-2020/tea-issues-comprehensive-guidelines-for-a-safe-return-to-on-campus-instruction-for-the-2020-21-school-year>

<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>

Thank You,

David Russell
Superintendent, CHISD