

# McLean Independent School District

## Revised - Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022

### Introduction:

The purpose of ESSER III is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. The plan that follows is a draft intended to outline McLean ISDs planned safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year while continuing to provide an excellent educational experience.

### General Protocols and Practices:

To reduce the risk of transmission, McLean ISD plans the following mitigation strategies for the 2021-2022 school year (per current CDC guidelines): Increased cleaning and maintenance of all facilities,

- Making available all recommended PPE, including masks,
- Optional wearing of masks (as written in Executive Order No. GA-36 signed May 18, 2021)
- Instruction and prioritization of proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette,
- Social distancing as recommended by TEA and CDC Guidance when possible
- Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, in collaboration with State and local health departments,
- Installation of bottle fillers to replace water fountains
- Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom, building entrance, cafeteria, office, etc.
- Continuing to improve and maintain ventilation and improvements to air quality.
- Desks and learning areas will be spread out when possible to increase social distancing
- Hallway traffic patterns will be adjusted when feasibly possible.
- Employees, students, and visitors shall screen for any symptoms before entering district buildings.
- Outside visitors will be permitted at a campus that are specifically invited to a meeting or event held at the school. Volunteers that support students or staff will be allowed on campus. Visitors during lunch and meal deliveries will not be permitted.
- MISD staff members must contact their supervisor if they test positive for COVID.
- The campus administrator will notify parents when a positive COVID case is identified on campus
- Parents will also be notified when:
  - (PreK-12) your student is in the same class with a COVID positive individual.
  - (all levels) your student is in a specific group or activity (athletic/fine arts, etc.)

with a COVID positive individual.

### **Quarantine Guidelines (Updated 1.7.2022)**

- MISD will adhere to the TEA Public Health Guidance issued January 7, 2022 (attached)

### **Health and Hygiene Protocols and Practices**

- Handwashing will continue to be a priority and it is recommended that students, teachers, and staff dedicate intentional time for handwashing throughout the school day.
- Custodians will continue increased cleaning at the campus to allow for daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
- Custodians will continue to clean campuses throughout the instructional day; classrooms will be equipped with cleaning supplies for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the instructional day.
- Signage for proper hygiene etiquette will continue to be posted throughout district facilities.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility and throughout the buildings as well as on buses.
- Maintenance staff will disinfect each bus after am/pm routes with disinfecting mister.

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services:**

McLean ISD will continue to take appropriate actions to ensure continuity of services to students. These actions will focus on addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Proposed plans to provide a continuity of services are as follows:

- To provide summer enrichment opportunities to accelerate learning
- To provide staff development to accelerate learning
- To provide instructional materials/resources, activities, and outreach to meet the needs of students
- To provide social and emotional/counseling, wellness supports to students and professional development (training) to staff.
- Continue HB 4545 accelerated instruction practices for the next two years
- Additional Instructional Staff
- To provide social and emotional/counseling, wellness support to student
- To provide technology updates and improve infrastructure and connectivity
- Additional Instructional Support Staff

### **Food Services**

The MISD Food Services Department will provide free reimbursable meals to all students in accordance with 2021-22 Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines. The following precautionary measures will remain in place for food service:

- 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.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing food or drink.
- Tables will be spread out across cafeterias to maximize space between groups.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment:**

During the development of the plan, student data-informed input from staff throughout the district. Needs were prioritized based on wellness and instructional continuity. The draft plan was presented to the public through the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, June 14, 2021, and Monday, July 19, 2021. The plan was also presented at a Community Meeting (Burger Bash) Monday, July 12, 2021, at McLean City Park. Staff and community surveys are currently open. All feedback will be considered in revising the draft plan. Such revisions will occur prior to the application of ESSER III funds.

### **Periodic Review and Revision of the Plan:**

During the period in which ESSER III funds are available, MISD will review and revise the plan at least every six months. These revisions will take into account parent and community feedback and updated guidance from the Texas Education Agency and CDC.

### **For the Public:**

McLEAN ISD has taken the following steps to ensure the availability of the plan to families and the community:

- This draft plan is posted on the MISD website ([mcleanisd.com](http://mcleanisd.com))
- This plan is available in English and Spanish on our website.
- Este plan está disponible en inglés y español en nuestro sitio web.
- This plan may be translated orally by request. Please contact Oscar Muniz to request a translation at [oscar.muniz@region16.net](mailto:oscar.muniz@region16.net) or 806-779-2671.
- A parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may request the plan in an alternative format. Please contact Oscar Muniz to make such a request at [oscar.muniz@region16.net](mailto:oscar.muniz@region16.net) or 806.779.2671.

### **Future Plans:**

If COVID-19 numbers of infected persons begin to rise in our county, hospital district, and/or state-wide, and/or the Governor issues a school closure order, the LEA will increase its mitigation efforts according to CDC, State, TEA, and local

guidance. In addition, at that time, district and campus administration will begin reviewing and revising the Asynchronous Learning Plan approved by TEA in 2020. This plan will then be implemented, if needed, to provide remote instruction, either entirely, partially, or in some hybrid way according to circumstance.



# Public Health Guidance

January 7, 2022

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-38, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-38 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance. This guidance is subject to change as new information becomes available.

This guidance addresses:

- On-campus instruction
- Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- Any other activities that students must complete

For guidance on matters related to school system staff, please refer [here](#). Additionally, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC, see [here](#).

## *Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School*

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its [local health department](#), 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).
2. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
3. 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 classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

## *Masks (restatement of pre-August 19<sup>th</sup> guidance document)*

Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38.

School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

## *Students Who Have COVID-19*

As provided in this [Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\) Rule](#), school systems must



exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the [DSHS rule](#) for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

During the exclusion period, the school system may deliver remote instruction consistent with the practice of remote conferencing outlined in the proposed *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* (SAAH) rules, as described [here](#).

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, school systems may provide and/or conduct recurring COVID-19 testing using rapid tests provided by the state or other sources. Testing can be conducted with staff. With prior written permission of parents, testing can be conducted with students.

#### *Students Who Are Close Contacts*

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance [outlined by the CDC](#), which notes that individuals who are fully vaccinated may not need to follow the stay-at-home period.

As noted above, public health authorities will be notified of all positive cases in schools. While school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 case investigations, local public health entities have authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in cooperative efforts on that front. Participation by individuals in these investigations remains voluntary. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system must notify the student's parents.

School systems may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during the below stay-at-home period if they are in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.

Independent of whether a school system chooses to implement the above requirement, parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. In cases when it is permitted, parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. The CDC has since updated its guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.

Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

During the stay-at-home period, the school system may deliver remote instruction consistent with the practice of remote conferencing outlined in the proposed *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* (SAAH) rules, as described here.

#### *Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts*

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free\*, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

\*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual and are in one of the following groups, do not need to stay at home.

- Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Was confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and has fully recovered.

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual who are not in one of the above groups, it is recommended that the school system require that staff remain off campus during the stay-at-home period, but this is a local employment policy decision. If these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 5 days post-exposure, with testing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day recommended.