



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE • CREATING THE FUTURE

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2022-2023 School Year
Version III

Revised December 13, 2022

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INTRODUCTION

Calallen ISD is dedicated to providing the best possible learning atmosphere for our students and staff. The district remains steadfast in our commitment to creating a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and visitors. For the 2022-2023 school year, we have prioritized the safety and well-being of all of our stakeholders. Virtual instruction will not be an optional learning platform for students, and all learning will be delivered face-to-face. All students will be required to attend school on campus. We will continue the practices, protocols, and safety guidelines that made us successful last year, and will follow recommendations provided by the Texas Education Agency, Centers for Disease Control, and the Nueces County Public Health District. The goal is to ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible.

Many of the safety measures and cleaning protocols that Calallen ISD implemented during the 2021-2022 school year will continue. The measures we continue to practice include having access to hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities, increased emphasis on hand washing, social distancing when appropriate, and targeted cleaning protocols. The wearing of masks will be optional for both students and staff members.

As always, Calallen ISD will continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19 with perseverance and a dedication to ensuring students continue to learn and thrive in our district. Included in this document is Calallen ISD's plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Guidance will be reviewed at minimum of every six (6) months and revised accordingly, as mandated by the Texas Education Agency. The information provided in these guidelines outlines the current best practices provided by federal, state, and local health officials for mitigating COVID-19 infections in the learning/work environment.

This plan addresses both student and staff responsibilities as it relates to COVID-19 precautions. The goal is to mitigate and respond to COVID-19 in a way that allows our schools to remain open and our students learning on campus. We know that in-person instruction is what is most beneficial to students, and we remain dedicated in our commitment to a safe and healthy learning environment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Health and Student Safety

Calallen ISD will continue to monitor the COVID-19 landscape. Your health and safety remains our top priority. As a result, the District will maintain safety measures that have proven successful in protecting our students and staff. Because COVID-19 has not been eradicated, it is important to remember how the virus is transmitted.

Transmission of COVID-19

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread from person to person through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or can possibly be inhaled in the lungs. The spread of the virus is more likely when people are in close contact for an extended period.

People are thought to be contagious up to two (2) days before symptoms begin and are most contagious when they are actively sick. It may be possible to become infected with COVID-19 by touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth or nose, but this is not thought to be likely.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website provides the latest information about COVID-19 transmission: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will follow the same guidelines and protocols with specific services and accommodations as needed to meet individual needs.

SCREENING, ISOLATION, AND NOTIFICATION

The health and safety of Calallen ISD staff and students is a top priority within the considerations surrounding the operation of schools and facilities. All students and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) standards, in evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- 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
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Close Contact

The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

NOTE: School systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing.

Screening Protocols

- Calallen ISD will require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Teachers and staff must report to administration if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as outlined in the district’s COVID-19 Protocols.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school, and students with symptoms should not attend school.
- Screening includes consideration about whether the individual has recently begun experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms in a way that is not normal for them.
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation / Quarantine Protocols

- School systems in the state of Texas are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing.
- Individuals displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols, including isolation from students and other staff members.
- When a student or staff member has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when the individual needs to be sent home.
 - Individuals who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check.
 - For any student or staff member evaluated by the nurse and suspected of having COVID-19, the individual will be:
 - Sent home with a medical referral; and

- Must be seen by a physician for a release to return.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian. If students are not picked up in a timely manner, proper authorities will be contacted.
- If a student is isolated based upon the screening, the classroom can be disinfected quickly using a fast drying sanitizing spray.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including reporting and isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students and staff with known close contact to a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19, and who are experienced symptoms, must stay at home until the conditions outlined under return to work/school are met.

TESTING / VACCINATION

With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Nueces County Public Health District, Calallen ISD has implemented rapid COVID-19 testing using state provided antigen testing kits. Rapid antigen-based testing gives Calallen ISD the ability to quickly identify and isolate positive individuals before they can transmit the virus to others. This helps to fast track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and their close contacts. Participation in testing is voluntary.

Testing Program Coordinator – Teresa Shaw, District RN

Testing Program Coordinator (Alternate) – Emily Lorenz, Superintendent

Calallen ISD will continue to work in conjunction with the Nueces County Public Health District to support vaccination efforts in our community, and recognizes that vaccines can help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread especially in areas where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. COVID-19 vaccines are not required for students or employees. According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and recommended for all eligible individuals.

RETURN TO WORK/SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

Staff

Readmission Criteria is as follows:

- Staff must isolate for 5 days following a positive viral test. Test day will be counted as day zero.
- Staff can return on day 6 if:
 1. Symptoms have improved; and
 2. Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medication;

Symptomatic Staff:

Staff should monitor themselves DAILY and NOT come to work symptomatic. Staff should call their doctor or nurse for guidance. Staff may request rapid testing from the campus nurse if desired.

Staff experiencing symptoms may be evaluated by the Campus Nurse to determine course of action. The Campus Nurse may determine that the employee should not be on campus. The employee will be sent home and will require a doctor release in order to return.

Exposed/Close Contact Staff:

Isolate from the positive individual and closely monitor daily for symptoms. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. If symptoms develop, please stay home, notify your administrator and seek medical attention if needed.

Student

Readmission Criteria for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 is as follows:

- Children who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested. Test day will be counted as day zero.
- Children who are determined to be COVID symptomatic will be excluded until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, fever free for 24 hours**, and all other symptoms have significantly improved. First day of symptoms will be counted as day zero.

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

- All students must be cleared by the Campus Nurse upon return to school prior to attending a class.

Exposed/Close Contact Student:

Isolate from the positive individual and closely monitor daily for symptoms. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. If symptoms develop, please stay home, notify your campus, and seek medical attention if needed.

FACE COVERINGS

CDC guidance has recommended that schools continue to use and layer prevention strategies. Five key prevention strategies include:

- Universal and correct use of masks
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintain facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

The Governor of Texas has declared that public school districts may not require students, school staff, or visitors to the school to wear a mask. Therefore, the wearing of masks will be optional for everyone unless a new Public Health Order changes the current order. If wearing a face mask, face masks must be appropriate for school and must be non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful to team members or visitors. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate as outlined in the District's dress code policy. (This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar slogans/designs/graphics, profanity, etc.).

PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPUS VISITORS

Visitors to Calallen ISD campuses may continue to be limited, but campuses will be accessible. School buildings will be open to visitors. Access to campus will be determined by the number of COVID positive students and staff on the campus. As cases spike, access will be limited, and likewise, restrictions will relax as numbers decrease.

PROTOCOLS FOR DISINFECTING AND HAND SANITIZING

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff.

- District personnel will be trained on social distancing and proper hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entries to campuses, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.
- Students will frequently be encouraged to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer.

PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPUS CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. Custodial staff will be trained in proper cleaning and sanitation techniques of high touch surfaces and areas and specialized equipment.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom, campus offices, and restrooms will be disinfected daily. This process will include the use of hospital grade disinfectant.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- Custodians will be provided PPE upon request during work hours.
- The cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected between lunch periods.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.

Additional Cleaning for COVID-19 Positive Cases

If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, hospital grade disinfectant will be used. Any areas heavily used by the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until the non-porous surfaces can be disinfected, unless more than 5 days have passed since that person was on campus.

Additional Measures for Disease Mitigation

- Plexiglas shields have been installed in areas of high contact (e.g., receptionists)
- Water filler stations will be operational. All locations will have water bottle filler(s) available. When possible, water fountains will be operational. When access is restored, fountains will be flushed and sanitized due to prolonged periods of being unused. In addition, they will be mitigation priority, and will be cleaned/sanitized routinely.
- Ventilation systems receive routine maintenance and cleaning. Specific staff is assigned to ensuring that filter change schedules are maintained and that air quality assessments are routinely conducted.
- High touch surfaces (i.e. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be disinfected regularly.

WORK AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Desks or tables will be spaced in accordance with the number of positive cases on campus. As numbers rise, social distancing will be prioritized.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to all teachers/classrooms.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.

- The recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education services locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Technology

- Computer equipment will be sanitized and/or wiped down regularly.
 - Staff will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
 - All accessories, chargers, etc., will be cleaned along with the product itself.
 - If no manufacturer guidance is available, staff will use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens.

Physical Education

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Procedures will be implemented and monitored in the locker rooms to encourage social distancing.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided.

Elevators

- Only students and staff with a physical impairment or the need to move large/heavy equipment will be allowed to use the elevator.

Restrooms

- Signage and teacher reminders will be used to encourage students to wash hands.
- Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced. Signage and teacher reminders will be used to encourage students to wash hands.

Arrival

- Sanitation stations will be placed at each designated entrance.
- Students will go directly to their designated location upon arrival.
- Parents may not accompany students into the building.
- Students dropped off before the building is open will not be allowed inside the building.

Dismissal – Elementary and Intermediate Schools

- Sibling connections will be done outside the building.
- Campus will designate staggered dismissal group
- Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders and daycare students will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.
- There will be bus procedures, based on campus specific needs.

Dismissal – Secondary Schools

- Dismissal times may be staggered to limit the number of students in hallways and exit areas at any given time.
- Sanitation stations will be placed at each exit.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics:

Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from CISD, UIL and TEA.

The most recent guidance from UIL is available at <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/2022-23-policy-info/risk-mitigation-guidelines>

Hand sanitizing stations will be in gym facilities and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.

- Locker room use will be determined by CISD/TEA/UIL. All locker room space will be utilized to follow UIL guidance.
- Bus travel will follow transportation guidelines provided by CISD and TEA.
- Spectator attendance at games and contests may be limited based on TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Event procedures will be in place to minimize face-to-face interactions.
- Separate entrances and exits may be utilized by participants and spectators.

Fine Arts

- Off-campus fine arts performances will be conducted following specific guidance as provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- Concerts/performances may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.) including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.
- All fine arts performances will be streamed online when possible.

Other Extra-Curricular Guidance

- Off-campus performances and/or competitions will only be conducted following specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- Performances and/or competitions may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.) including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.

CHILD NUTRITION

- All students will eat breakfast for free for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Child Nutrition Employees have access to personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Hand sanitizer will be available for student use.
- Cafeteria tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods.
- Each campus will develop a cafeteria usage plan to accommodate its unique set up.
- Students will proceed to cashier for payment, utensils, condiments, and selection of any a la carte items.
- Parents are encouraged to pay by check or via the online food service payment service. Cash is not recommended.

TRANSPORTATION

Calallen ISD is committed to safely transporting students that are eligible to and from school. During this unprecedented time, we encourage walking, biking or personal vehicles when possible. Doing so will reduce the number of students on buses allowing for better social distancing.

Registration is required for transportation to and from school to assist in better route planning.

To ensure CISD provides the safest and cleanest environment possible we will:

Sanitizer

- Hand sanitizer will be stationed at the entrance of each bus for use by staff and students for on/off boarding.

Assigned Routes

- Bus assignments will be made by address of record, and students will not be allowed to ride any other bus than that which is assigned.
- Emergency situations should be addressed with campus administration, and will require approval through transportation department

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Academics

Calallen ISD is committed to providing the best possible education to every enrolled student. We recognize the need to address learning loss experienced as a result of the pandemic. Data analysis and strategic planning have identified specific areas in the curriculum that have been most impacted, and individual student concerns. The district has allocated local and federal funds to purchase materials and hire staff to address the individual learning needs of students and to close instructional gaps. Targeted intervention and ongoing remediation will be supported through initiatives such as:

- Addition of academic intervention staff across the district;
- Technology and technology integration support for teachers;
- Professional development on best practices to build the capacity of teachers;
- Small group targeted tutorials; and
- Additional resources such as instructional materials, student technology, and software to support remediation.

The district recognizes the benefits of in-person instruction, and will maximize time with students during the instructional day, before and after school, and during the summer to ensure all students are provided with the supports needed to efficiently and effectively overcome the learning loss experienced during the pandemic.

Social-Emotional Health

Calallen ISD recognizes that the social and emotional health of students and staff is imperative to the overall success of the district. We recognize that there will be a need to address the long-term effects on social and mental health as a result of the pandemic.

The district intends to allocate local and federal funds to provide mental health services and supports for students and staff through initiatives such as:

- Professional development to equip teachers to understand and identify mental health issues in students;
- Support and training for counseling staff regarding best practices for addressing the social and emotional needs of students and staff, including trauma;

- Addition of family liaisons to support the home-school connection, serve as community educators, and conduct family engagement activities; and
- Implement a research-based comprehensive character education program district-wide to support social and emotional learning.

Strategies to support staff and student well-being will be integrated into all district and campus plans. Calallen ISD is committed to promoting wellness and resiliency in our students and staff, and prioritizes mental and emotional health in the full return to in-person instruction.

Food Service

All breakfast meals will be provided free of charge to all student during the 2022-2023 school year. Students at all campuses will be provided nutritionally sound meals in a healthy environment. Kitchen food safety and sanitation protocols outlined in the section above entitle “Child Nutrition” will be enforced.