



# 2020-2021 School Year

## Safe Return to School

### Prevent, Respond, & Mitigate

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Jasper ISD's Safe Return-to-School plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Jasper and Jasper County. Please know that Jasper ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Texas Education Agency and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

#### **COVID Investigative (CI) Team**

Campus Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselor, and nurse along with Mr. Seybold (Superintendent), Mr. Guthrie (Healthcare Supervisor), Mrs. Coleman (Human Resources), and Mrs. Phillips (Director of Operations) make up the COVID Investigative Team. If a confirmed case or symptoms of are shown they make sure the appropriate health form has been completed. Notification of appropriate staff as needed. Notification of parents of positive case on campus.

#### **Parent or Staff Reporting Methods**

**Jasper ISD Webpage**

**Speaking with the nurse or administrator**

#### **COVID – 19 Symptoms**

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or

- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

### **Close Contact Definition**

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes without 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.

### **Health and Safety Measures**

Ensuring all students, staff and community members remain healthy and safe by following best practices in the areas of:

- Guidance, directives and recommendations from health authorities
- Health & safety information, social distancing and infection control practices (handwashing, face coverings)
- Health office practices, personal protective equipment (PPE), management and isolation of students showing signs of illness
- Seating Charts will be created and maintained in all educational settings.

### **Infection Control Measures**

- Staff will be highly recommended to wear face coverings when in hallways and common areas and during arrival and dismissal. If our county is under a Mask Order mask will be required to be worn as specified in the order.
- Students will be highly recommended to wear face coverings when in hallways and common areas and during arrival and dismissal. If our county is under a Mask Order mask will be required to be worn as specified in the order.
- Social distancing will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Water fountains will be monitored and limited to filling of water containers only. Students and staff are encouraged to bring containers filled from home.
- Restroom capacity will be examined and measures will be in place for social distancing
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE will be provided as needed to staff and students.
- Nurses will have training to recognize symptoms and precautionary protection measures.
- Students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. Elementary students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess. All secondary students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.

## **Health Screenings**

- Staff will be required to complete daily health screening
- Parent or guardian will be required to complete daily student health screening
- Visitors will be required to complete health screening upon entry into the building.

## **Learning Environments**

- Wiping of high hand-touch areas will be done throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Use of Electro Static E-Mist Systems to sanitize daily all classrooms, common areas and buses.
- Campuses will open multiple entrance/exit points during arrival/dismissal to promote social distancing.
- Desks will be arranged to maximize space between students.
- School playgrounds will be closed to the general public.
- Visual aids will be posted to illustrate appropriate spacing and traffic flow throughout the building.
- Nonessential visitors and activities, involving external groups or organizations, will be restricted.
- Students will be encouraged against sharing of personal items and supplies.
- Limit mixing between cohort groups as much as possible.
- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students.
- Teachers will limit the number of students participating in small group instruction at one time.

## **Breakfast / Lunch**

- Cafeteria staff will wear face coverings and will follow all health & safety protocols.
- Sanitizing and hand washing practices in all areas of the kitchen and serving area will continue.
- Self-serve counters will be eliminated and replaced with traditional serving lines.
- Condiments and pre-wrapped silverware to be included with all meals.
- “Grab and go” meals for breakfast.
- Meals will be in disposable packaging to eat in cafeteria.
- Plexiglas shields are installed at cashier counters and full-length serving counters.
- Procedural changes will be made for receiving payment.
- While in line and during eating, social distancing guidelines will be in place.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches.

## **Transportation**

- Bus ridership will remain at typical district capacity.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading.
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily.

- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation.
- Students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver. Sitting with siblings will be used when possible.
- Students will only be allowed to ride their primary route bus.

### **Visitors**

- Visitors will be restricted. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch at the school until further notice. Only visitors who are essential to school operations will be allowed.
- All visitors, essential to school operations, who enter the building are required to wear a face covering.
- Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible.
- Social distancing is encouraged for all meetings that are not able to be virtual.
- Any visitor, essential to school operations, who needs to go beyond the front office will be subject to a health screening. Visitors will be required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.
- Any visitor, essential to school operations, who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19

### **Campus Procedures Related to COVID-19**

- If a campus is notified that a student or staff member has a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 the student or staff member will be required to stay home until the return to school criteria is met per TEA SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance (see below).
- If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the cohort will be located to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the students who came in contact with a student or staff member testing positive to COVID-19.
- Students exposed to a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 outside of school, should stay home and contact the school for instructions on meeting the return-to-school criteria.
- Students or staff who come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will be asked to self-quarantine and should contact the school for meeting the Return to School Criteria.

### **Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19**

- Students or staff who present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse

- 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 will notify the campus administrator to move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected.
- Student will be accompanied to vehicle upon parent arrival
- Nurse will provide parent/staff with return to school criteria
- For lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19, every effort will be made to diligently contact those who have been exposed.

According to Texas Education Document, [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#) any individuals who 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:
  - at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - 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 COVID acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.