

# Reagan County ISD COVID-19 Policy

## Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Reagan County ISD is looking forward to welcoming students back to school on August 26th, 2020. Reagan County ISD wants to continue to provide an outstanding education, which will include both in-person and remote online learning environments. Reagan County ISD is taking precautionary measures to keep our students and staff safe as possible from potential COVID-19 exposure. Our plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Texas Education Agency, Texas School Safety Center, and Local Health Officials.

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**COVID-19 information is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Reagan County ISD website and social media outlets will provide you with updated information.**

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## Feedback & Input

Reagan County ISD has valued input from families, staff members, and administrators to design a plan that we feel best fits our district.

- Family Survey
- Teacher Zoom Meeting
- School Safety Committee
- School Board
- Administrative Team

Reagan County ISD will take precautionary measures to keep our students and staff as safe as possible from potential COVID-19 exposure. We ask everyone to consider the safety of others when following the measures, we have put in place. We understand

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these are especially uncertain times and that this pandemic has had overwhelming impacts on our families, and we want to continue educating students. The district is still receiving up-to-date guidance from the Texas Education Agency, Center for Disease Control and Prevention and State/Local Health Experts. **The proposed protocols and procedures are subject to change based on guidance. Together we can make it possible to provide a safe environment to continue educating students.**

### Public Health Considerations

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and school system leaders should do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for all schools and others that are recommendations: ii

- PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices
- PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- MITIGATE: Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus.

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## NOTICE

Reagan County ISD will offer two types of learning for the 2020-2021 school year. The two types of learning are in person learning and remote online learning. In-person learning will be face to face learning between the student and teacher as normal. Remote online learning will allow students to continue to learn from a remote location or home for safety reasons. Parents and students will have to determine the type of instruction they feel is in the best interest of their student(s) by Aug. 19th. Please register your student before August.19th. Once a student chooses remote learning, they will have to remain in remote learning for the six-week grading period. If a student decides to come back to school, they cannot do so until the start of the next grading period. Any student that chooses remote learning will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

### **Purpose of Remote Online Asynchronous Learning**

Reagan County ISD will offer a remote learning opportunity that will allow students to engage in high-quality learning experiences, utilize instructional resources, and meaningfully connect with their teachers through google classroom. Reagan County ISD will provide access, resources, and academic support for all students in the remote setting through remote asynchronous instruction. Google Classroom will allow us the flexibility to adjust to any circumstance we might face due to COVID 19. Our asynchronous plan focuses on four main components: instructional schedule, instructional material design, student progress, and implementation.

### **Remote Online Asynchronous Instruction**

Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real-time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must

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address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002. RCISD will teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which are the state standards for what students should know and be able to do. Students will be tested informally and formally every six weeks.

### **Chromebook for Online Remote Instruction**

We will issue a Chromebook for all students that choose online remote learning on August 24th and August 25th from 9:00AM-12:00PM at the high school drive through.

### **Breakfast/Lunch times for Online Learners**

Elementary School Virtual Learning Students breakfast/lunch pick up will be from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. Students will go to Elementary campus cafeteria and go through the lunch line and get a to go tray to eat at home, they can get both breakfast and lunch but they don't have to take both if they don't want to, they have the option just like they would if they were at school.

Middle School Virtual Learning Students breakfast/lunch pick up will be from 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Students will go to the Middle School campus cafeteria and go through the lunch line and get a to go tray to eat at home, they can get both breakfast and lunch but they don't have to take both if they don't want to, they have the option just like they would if they were at school.

High School Virtual Learning Students breakfast/lunch pick up will be from 11:30-12:00 p.m. Students will go to High School campus cafeteria and go through the lunch line and get a to go tray to eat at home, they can get both breakfast and lunch but they don't have to take both if they don't want to, they have the option just like they would if they were at school.

### **Additional Information**

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For any additional information please see our Remote Asynchronous Plan on our school website [www.reagancountyisd.net](http://www.reagancountyisd.net)

## PREVENT

Reagan County ISD is requiring teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed in the survey. Self-screening includes teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to their administrator 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 noted below. Additionally, they must report to their campus administrator if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if their child(ren) has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their child from inside the school. Regularly performing a forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended, but the practice is also not prohibited by this guidance.

### Daily Self Survey

We are asking students, parents, and staff members to answer the following questions every day prior to attending school or any school related activity to keep our students and staff safe. If you answer yes to any of the following questions, we ask you to follow the guidelines presented.

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Questions	Response	Guidelines
<p>Do you have the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes / No</p>	<p>If yes, stay home. Students can return when they are symptom free for 24hrs without fever reducing medications.</p>
<p>Have you had any contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or under self-monitor for COVID-19?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes / No</p>	<p>If yes, we are asking that you stay home for 14 days. The incubation period lasts for up to 14 days.</p>
<p>Have you taken Tylenol, Motrin, or any other fever-reducing medication today?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes / No</p>	<p>If yes, we are asking that you stay home. See your health professional for further guidance. If you are released by your health professional, you can return to school with a doctor's note.</p>

### Other Illnesses

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In the event a student leaves school because of a sickness, they must remain symptom free for 24hrs without using fever reducing medications. A doctor's note will allow a student to receive an excused absence.

### **Daily Temperature Checks**

We are requiring that all students and staff have their temperature checked upon arrival to school. We will have multiple stations set up at the front of the school to check student and staff temperatures. If your temperature is above 100.3 you will be asked to return home. Students and staff will be required to stay home for 10 days unless you get approval from a health professional to return to school. A doctor's note will be required before returning to school.

### **Temperature Check Protocol**

Once a temperature is taken and the student or employee's temperature is above 100.3. The student or employee will be asked to put on a protective mask to prevent exposure. Then they will be transported to a waiting area where they will have their temperature re-checked. We will have to wait 15 minutes before we can check their temperature again. If the temperature remains above 100.3, they will be required to go home. Students and employees will have to remain home for 10 days unless they get approval from their health professional. A doctor's note will be required before returning to school and they must be symptom-free.

### **Facemasks**

RCISD will comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. If social distancing can be met, we will not require students or staff to wear masks.

### **Athletics**

Athletics will follow safety guidelines set by UIL.

### **Heating, Ventilation, and Air conditioning (HVAC)**

We are adding a higher quality air filter to our HVAC systems at all three campuses.

### **Chromebooks**

Each student will be issued their own Chromebook to prevent spreading germs.

### **Lunch/Breakfast**

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Cafeteria staff will wear a mask/face-shield and gloves when serving students. Students will be spread out in the cafeteria to maintain a safe distance from others. After lunch and breakfast tables will be cleaned and disinfected.

### **Visitors and Parents**

We will not let visitors or parents into the school building for the fall semester. Parents and visitors will only be allowed in the front office. Parents will have to drop off students at the front entry and will not be able to walk their students to class. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with their students; however, parents can still drop off meals at the front office.

### **Daily Cleaning Procedures**

- Everyday classrooms and facilities will be cleaned and disinfected to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will use cleaners that are made to kill the COVID-19 virus. Every classroom will be cleaned thoroughly daily. The District has purchased fog sprayers to clean the classrooms and school building.
- Wipes will be provided in every classroom to wipe down desks after class.

## **RESPOND**

### **Positive Confirmed Case or Suspected Case Procedures**

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).



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II. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

III. at least ten days have passed since the positive lab confirmed COVID 19 test.

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-19.

If you live with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 you will have to self-quarantine for 14 days after the lab-confirmed test.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus.

- RCISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- RCISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

**If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain two PRCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.**

**Reporting COVID-19 Cases**

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If there is a positive COVID 19 case at the school, we will communicate with local health authorities, parents, and staff. However, we cannot release the name or names of individuals. You will receive notification that there was a confirmed case at a specific campus.

- Campus Closure- If needed the campus may close for 1 to 2 days to disinfect if there is an outbreak. We are cleaning facilities daily to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

- Possible Exposure- If you have been in close contact with the person exposed to COVID 19, we will require you to stay home for 14 days to prevent further exposure to others. Any siblings or students living in the same household with the person that tested positive for COVID 19 will be required to stay home for 14 days the day after the lab-confirmed test result.

- Student/Teacher- If a student or teacher gets a lab confirmed COVID-19 test, they will be required to stay home for 10 days until they meet all three criteria below. Family members of the same household will have to quarantine for 14 days. Once the student that received a lab confirmed positive test has self-isolated for ten days, they will be able to return to school if they meet all the three requirements. If another family member becomes sick toward the end of the quarantine period, that individual can return to school if they meet all three requirements.

- 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 the positive lab confirmed COVID 19 test.

In the event a student is required to stay home from school, Reagan County ISD will continue to provide instruction to the student. Instruction and assignments will be given

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daily to the student. It is important that the student completes their assignments in the time frame given.

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

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, RCISD will notify the 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. RCISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, RCISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

## **MITIGATE**

### **Health and Hygiene Practices: General**

1. RCISD will have hand sanitizer stations at the entrance of each campus. Classrooms will have hand sanitizing stations outside each classroom.

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2. RCISD students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors are encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands frequently. RCISD will have students at the lower grade levels engage in supervised handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating. RCISD will teach students good handwashing techniques. RCISD students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors are encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
  
3. RCISD campuses will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate. Schools will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This would include objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets. The CDC has provided guidance on cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 spread.
  
4. RCISD will provide hygiene practices and other mitigation practices to students on the first day of school.

### **Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks**

RCISD will comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. If social distancing can be met, we will not require students or staff to wear masks.

It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities.

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Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

## Student-Teacher Groupings

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, encourage students to practice social distancing.

1. In classroom spaces that allow it, we will arrange student desks a minimum of six feet apart when possible.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, RCISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and should consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible.

## Transportation

1. When possible, RCISD will open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
2. RCISD encourages families to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
3. RCISD Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles. During cleaning, open windows to allow for additional ventilation and air flow.

## Additional Information

### COVID-19 Symptoms

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

- Fever or Chills. Temperature over 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth.

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- 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).
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- Shortness of breath
- Congestion or runny nose
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- Muscle or body aches

### Close Contact

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:

1. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
2. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; 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 symptomatology may affect this determination.

When determining close contact, we will have to consider whether the individual was in close contact with a person who had a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case. These questions will help determine when quarantine time will start after an individual tests positive for COVID-19.

1. When did the lab-confirmed individual first start showing symptoms?
2. When was the last time other students were in contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19? (Those students will have to quarantine for 14 days starting on the last day they were exposed to the individual)
3. If you live with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 you will have to self-quarantine for 14 days after the lab-confirmed test.

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\*If symptoms were not present before the lab-confirmed positive case, the individual is considered contagious two days before the test.

## What is Quarantine

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

## Who Needs to Quarantine?

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 - excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months.

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again. People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

## Quarantine Days

Quarantine days will start the day after you were in contact with an individual or the day after you tested positive for COVID 19.

1. Lab confirmed positive case- Quarantine for 10 days. Time starts the day after the lab-confirmed positive test results. The individual cannot return until the eleventh day and must meet all three criteria.
  - 1) at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
  - 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - 3) at least ten days have passed since the positive lab confirmed COVID 19 test.

2. Close Contact- Time starts the day after you were in close contact with the individual. The individual cannot return until the 15day and must meet all three criteria.

- 1) at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).

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- 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- 3) at least ten days have passed since the positive lab confirmed COVID 19 test.

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