

Updated 6/29/2022

## Back-to-School Guidance 2022-2023



Dear Jourdanton ISD Families and Students:

We certainly hope that your summer has been restful and family-focused. Our team has embraced the last few months as an opportunity to actively prepare for the district's August 8<sup>th</sup> back-to-school date. We are anxious for all our students to return to school and some details are included in this guidance document.

**Theresa McAllister**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

Jourdanton ISD will offer in-person instruction only for students beginning August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Pepper Bauerle**  
**Assistant Superintendent**

Please note that all information is preliminary and subject to change based on state and local health and education decisions.

**Brandy Yarbrough**  
**Technology Director**

The goal is to start strong with plans and systems that are safe, healthy, and rigorous, yet provide peace of mind throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Together, we will ensure that Jourdanton ISD's students and staff emerge stronger than ever.

**#Limitsareanillusion!!!**

## Back-to-School Guidance

### TEA Requirement: Providing Notice

Jourdanton ISD is providing notice to parents, families, and the community regarding back-to-school plans and instruction through this initial document. Preliminary information is posted in this guidance and is subject to change based on state and local decisions.

**School Health Response Team** – Jourdanton ISD has developed a School Health Response Team to respond to concerns and communicate district decisions. Members of the team and email addresses are noted below:

Theresa McAllister	Superintendent	tmcallister@jisdtx.us
Pepper Bauerle	Assistant Superintendent	pbauerle@jisdtx.us
Brandy Yarbrough	Technology Director	byarbrough@jisdtx.us
Sara Gutierrez	District Nurse	sgutierrez@jisdtx.us
Jacob Reyna	Maintenance Director	jreyna@jisdtx.us
Braden Boehme	Transportation Director	bboehme@jisdtx.us
Virginia Parsons	High School Principal	vparsons@jisdtx.us
Sharon Neumann	Junior High Principal	sneumann@jisdtx.us
Kim Camarillo	Elementary Principal	kcamarillo@jisdtx.us
Christina Gallegos	Early Childhood Principal	cgallegos@jisdtx.us

### TEA Requirement: Prevent and Mitigate

Jourdanton ISD must identify and implement practices to prevent the virus from entering the school and mitigate or reduce the likely spread inside the school; therefore, district practices and guidelines have been established for various areas noted below:

#### Health and Safety Guidance

- **Social and Emotional Well-Being** – Students’ social and emotional well-being are a top priority. Together, schools and families can support your child during this challenging time. With the endless COVID coverage, it is natural for your child to experience some changes in behavior and mood. Counselors and staff will continue to work closely with families and students to ease the stress. Campus counselors will continue to provide lessons in social and emotional health to all students. Keeping routines predictable, sharing COVID facts that are age- appropriate, making time to listen and share feelings, and reaching out to us for support are all important. We are here for you and your child(ren).
- **COVID-19 Testing** – Contact the district nurse, Sara Gutierrez, or the campus health clinic.
- **Notifications** – Positive test-confirmed COVID cases in grades Pre-Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> will be reported to the parents of children in the affected classroom. Junior High cases will be reported to the parents of the affected grade level. High Schools cases will be reported to the parents of all High School students.
- **Masks** – Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-36 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-36.

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

- **Handwashing/Sanitizing** - Students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering a bus, building, classroom, and/or office. Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will also be incorporated in the daily schedules. Each classroom will be provided with a sanitization dispenser. Buses, classrooms, and other common areas within the school will be thoroughly disinfected daily and deep cleaning schedules will be regularly conducted.
- **Screening** – Per Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, initial monitoring of symptoms begins at home. Individuals who are feeling ill, including symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, abdominal pain, fatigue, muscle aches, or headache, should stay at home and consult with a medical professional regarding school participation.

If a student's temperature is at or above 100.3°, the student will not be allowed to stay in school and will be given a medical/safety informational form which, again, must be followed before he/she is allowed to return to school. In some instances, a release from a medical professional may be required.

Teachers and staff are required to self-monitor. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-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 are encouraged to report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19.

Jourdanton ISD employs one registered nurse and two health aides. These individuals have been trained to support and assist with health and safety matters.

- **Students with Health Conditions** – Parents and families know their child's needs. While we are taking all measures to ensure each student's safety, parents must place their child's health needs first.
- **Water Fountains** – Students will have access to water fountains throughout the district with safer ways to refill personal water bottles.

### **TEA Requirement: Respond**

Jourdanton ISD must identify and implement responsive actions to address the situation if there are test-confirmed cases in a school.

#### *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.

### **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 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19.*

*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.*

#### **Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule:**

*Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.*

*A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:*

*If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free\*, and other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.*

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

### **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. CDC has since updated their 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 5th day recommended.

### **Campuses and Classrooms**

- **Visitors, Drop-off, and Pick-Up** –Traditional campus events such as Open House, Parent Nights, meetings, etc., will resume in person.
- **Restrooms and Water Fountains** – Students' physical needs are extremely important. Hand washing will remain the priorities during restroom breaks.
- **Backpacks and Other Personal Items** – All students will be allowed to bring backpacks.

- **Additional Instructors in Classrooms** – In certain instances, additional staff members may be assigned to classrooms to instruct specific students. These individuals will sanitize prior to entering and exiting the classroom.
- **Field Trips** – Campuses will be scheduling field trips and other academic/social events throughout the year.

## Instructional Models

- **Face-to-Face Instruction** –While Jourdanton ISD is taking multiple precautions to protect both students and staff in school operations, we will offer students in-person instruction only. When students are out for any reason, regular attendance and make-up procedures will be followed according to the student handbook.

In response to any learning loss during the pandemic, Jourdanton ISD will provide the following opportunities for students to recover any educational gaps they may have incurred:

- Summer enrichment provided at each campus
- After school tutorials at each campus with transportation made available
- Pull-out programs throughout the instructional day when appropriate
- **Attendance** – District funding and resources are linked to attendance.

In addition, per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2022-23 school year.

- **Grading** – State law requires each district to adopt its own grading policies. This policy must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student’s relative mastery of an assignment. Jourdanton ISD grading policies are published annually in the Student Handbook. Progress reports and report cards, along with parent conferences, will be used to communicate each student’s progress and performance.
- **State and Local Testing** – All students are expected to follow state and local testing requirements.

## Technology

- **Devices** – Most classrooms in grades 2 – 12 will have a one-to-one student to device ratio.
- **Online Interventions** – Access to an online intervention program tailored to each student’s individualized needs.
- **Calculators** – Students in Math and Science classes in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and High School will be offered graphing calculators.
- **Infrastructure** – Wireless network upgrades throughout the district.

## Meals and Transportation

- **Meals** – Jourdanton ISD must comply with child nutrition guidelines.

### Breakfast –

Pre-Kindergarten and Junior High – Meals will be served in the classrooms

Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> – Meals will be served in the ECC Café

High School – Meals will be served in the High School Café

### Lunch –

Elementary and Early Childhood Center – Meals will be served in the ECC Café

Jr. High and High School – Meals will be served in the High School Café

**No outside food or drink or visitors are allowed during breakfast or lunch.**

- **Transportation** - Buses will be disinfected regularly.

## Special Programs

- **Program Participation and Services** – Students currently participating in special program services, e.g., special education, 504, Bilingual/ESL, etc., will continue to receive services through in-person instruction. Parent meetings may be held in-person.
- **Evaluations and Testing** – District protocols have been established to evaluate students who have been referred for special programs.

## Extracurricular and After-School Kids Program

- **Extracurricular Programs** – Each program will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine implementation guidelines. Program sponsors will provide information to students and parents/families as information is available.
- **After-School Kids (ASK)** – The after-school kids program will be available on the first day of instruction. Registration is required for participation in the ASK program. This program will follow the same sanitation requirements established during the regular instructional day.

## 2022-2023 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines

Public Health Guidance

**Updated January 18, 2022**

This guidance takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. UIL 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.

### **Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in areas where UIL Activities are being conducted**

1. If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities are being conducted 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 in an area where UIL activities are being conducted 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. If a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in a UIL competition against another school, the school must notify the opposing school and the officials/contest judges who also participated in the competition.
- 4.

### **Face Coverings and Masks**

- 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 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. 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.
- In addition to the criteria and processes described above, a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletic activities.

### **Students Who Are Close Contacts**

- Schools must follow [TEA Public Health Guidance](#) related to students who have been identified as close contacts.

### **Spectators: Capacity and Visiting Spectators Attendance**

UIL is not currently limiting capacity for spectators at UIL events. If a school is limiting capacity as a local decision, the following applies:

- Schools must allow visiting school fans to attend district contests if home school fans are allowed to attend, unless the schools involved in the district contest mutually agree to only allow home school fans.
- The number of tickets or percentage of allowed spectator space provided to the visiting team should be determined by the DEC. If the DEC has not made such determination, the hosting school shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate visiting fans.
- For non-district contests, the two schools involved must mutually agree on home and visiting school fans attendance.
- For football, the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1250(g)(1) states: “The visiting team has the right to demand one-half of the stadium seats in relation to the 50-yard line in all UIL football contests, whether district games, non-district games or playoff games, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two schools involved. A visiting team can demand one-half of the reserved seats. A visiting team has a right to split the stadium in relation to the 50-yard line, subject to the end zone situation being equal, unless mutually agreeable otherwise.”
- If a visiting team requests, the home school must provide the visiting school with 50% of the available tickets/seating for the facility. Schools may mutually agree otherwise; however, without mutual agreement from both schools in the game, this rule applies. This applies to both district and non-district football games.



## RECORD OF CHANGES

<b>Change #</b>	<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Change Entered By</b>	<b>Change Notes</b>	<b>Location/Section of Change</b>
1.	7/27/2021	Theresa McAllister	Created Document for JISD	All
2.	7/29/2021	Theresa McAllister	Added Notifications	Health and Safety Guidance
3.	8/9/2021	Theresa McAllister	Students who have COVID-19	TEA Requirement - Respond
4.	8/9/2021	Theresa McAllister	Students who are close contacts	TEA Requirement - Respond
5.	8/10/2021	Theresa McAllister	Added UIL Guidelines	2021-2022 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines
6.	9/7/2021	Theresa McAllister	Staff who have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts	TEA Requirement - Respond
7.	9/7/2021	Theresa McAllister	COVID-19 Testing	TEA Requirement – Prevent and Mitigate
8.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Updated School Health Team Members	TEA Requirement: Providing Notice
9.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Updated Health and Safety Guidance	TEA Requirement: Prevent and Mitigate
10.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Updated Covid protocols	TEA Requirement: Respond

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11.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Students who have COVID-19	TEA Requirement - Respond
12.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Students who are Close Contact	TEA Requirement - Respond
13.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	Students who have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contact	TEA Requirement - Respond
14.	6/29/2022	Pepper Jo Bauerle	2022-2023 UIL Covid 19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines	2022-2023 UIL Covid 19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines
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