

Houston Public Schools Reopening Plan 2020

Introduction:

In accordance with the MDE and MDH guidelines, Houston Public Schools was directed to create a plan for the fall. This plan includes three different scenarios:

- Scenario 1: In-person learning
- Scenario 2: Hybrid learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits
- Scenario 3: Distance learning

This document is a summary of the district's current plan for this fall. If you would like to read the entire plan, it is available on the school's website (www.houston.k12.mn.us under the COVID tab).

Community Expectations:

In order to create a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone, all members of the community must do their part to protect students, parents, and staff. Outlined below are some of the practices each group can do to reduce risk.

Parent Expectations:

Parents are expected to make sure their children are healthy before the children go to school every morning. By monitoring children and keeping a sick child home, parents are ensuring all students remain safe at school. Also, parents should explain to their children the importance of wearing masks and following social distancing guidelines set forth by the school.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to wear masks at all times as required by executive order. Students are also expected to practice proper hand washing techniques as well as social distancing guidelines laid out by the school. Students, especially those in the elementary, may be placed in a group or pod and are expected to minimize contact with other pods to reduce risk of possible exposure.

Logistics:

The district is doing everything it can to create a safe learning environment for students this school year. Unfortunately, that means there will be many changes to the way the school functions. This section will go over some of the biggest changes that most impact parents and students.

Busing:

Buses will be running at 50% capacity, and some routes may need to change to accommodate this guideline. All bus riders must wear masks and practice social distancing, which means riders cannot share a seat with another student who is not a member of their family.

Arrival at School:

For the protection of the community, all persons who enter the school buildings will be screened upon entry. This screening consists of a trained health professional visually screening and asking a child if any of the targeted symptoms are present. If a student fails to pass screening, the



student will be isolated, and the child's parent will need to pick up the child to take the child home if the student cannot drive himself or herself.

Schedule:

Scenario 1:

School will be very similar to the way it has been in past years with the addition of new safety protocols with cleaning and social distancing.

Scenario 2:

Houston Public Schools will follow a hybrid model with students attending all day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, according to the approved calendar. On Wednesdays, high school students will engage in distance learning during the morning, and elementary students will attend in the school building for a half day. This allows the school to disinfect the classrooms midweek and gives teachers a chance to virtually work with students outside of class time during the afternoons if a student needs extra supports.

Scenario 3:

All students will be engaged in distance learning, and no students will be allowed in the school buildings. At the high school and Summit Learning Center, all classes will be taught online following a half-day schedule, with the ability for students to receive extra help from teachers in the afternoons.

At the elementary and preschools, the students will have a schedule of live teaching lessons. This schedule will be communicated to the students and the parents and will be consistent so parents and students can establish a routine during the distance learning. Attendance will be taken during the synchronous lessons at all schools.

Lunches:

Scenario 1 and 2:

Students will mostly be eating lunches in classrooms and outside. There will be no self-serve this year as well.

Scenario 3:

The school will implement a lunch pick-up system for which families may call in for lunchtime pick up at the high school.

Cleaning Protocols:

The school has created a disinfecting and cleaning system to make sure high contact areas, including desks and playgrounds, are cleaned regularly for the safety of students and staff.

Mental Health:

The district will have an increased focus on providing mental health resources during the pandemic to help children cope with these unprecedented times.

