

## **Maud ISD 2020-2021 School Year Return to School Plan**

This plan has been developed as required by the Texas Education Agency and is based upon their guidance for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan has been developed with consultation from teachers, staff, and parents. Maud ISD strives to provide a safe and productive learning environment that places the health of students and staff as its priority.

### **Instruction**

Maud ISD will offer both in-person and virtual instruction beginning August 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to choose either format. However, once a parent selects “virtual instruction” they are committing themselves to that form of instruction for a full grading period, which is 6 weeks. Students who select virtual instruction are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities – including athletics, clubs, FFA, band, academic UIL or other such programs – while enrolled in virtual school. The virtual options that Maud ISD offers will not be the same as in the Spring of 2020. The requirements for virtual learning are significantly more demanding on the students’ daily participation and completion of work at home as compared to the previous virtual learning experience. Will require daily engagement. This instruction may include online classes, teleconferences, paper work, and other options as approved by campus administration.

### **Changes to School Times**

Maud ISD has added time to the school day. The new hours of the school day will be:

7:48 to 3:40.

This extra time will allow Maud ISD:

1. More time for us to clean areas between use such as classrooms, cafeteria, and the gym.
2. Provide more frequent breaks for students throughout the day
3. Provide for additional time Maud ISD can use rather than extend the school year in the case we must close school due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Registration**

All students will need to register for the 2020-2021 school year. All parents will need to choose either in-person or virtual learning. All registration forms and school entry requirements as determined by the Maud Independent School District, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Department of State Health Services must be met whether a parent chooses in-person or virtual instruction for their child

## On-Campus Protocols

Following are the return to onsite instruction protocols for Maud ISD campuses and administration buildings. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Maud ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

### Preparation for the Opening of School

Maud ISD will ensure all staff, resources and supplies are prepared for opening school, including but not limited to assigning sufficient staff to carry out re-opening, ensuring proper training and stocking inventory of necessary supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, Maud ISD will implement health and safety plans that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency and other jurisdictional policies
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings

## Screening

### General

All students and staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily and individuals with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

### Screening Protocols

- Staff will be required to self-screen before arriving at a Maud ISD building, and the district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines. Staff are expected to report to designated areas as they arrive.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive virtual instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met.

- Staff and students should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply. The individual is:
  - 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
- Has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician.
- Has a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or who is awaiting their own test results.
- Has traveled internationally or on a cruise in the past 14 days. These individuals must follow current CDC self-quarantine recommendations: [View current CDC recommendations.](#)
- Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- 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:
    1. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
    2. ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
    3. iii. 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) receive confirmation that they are free of COVID via acute infection test at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

## **Close Contact**

Close Contact in 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:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day; 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 to 10 days after 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 and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

### **Quarantine Guidelines for Close Contact**

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended their guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay-at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms:

- 10 days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- 7 days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative PCR test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14.

If individuals return to school from these shorter stay-at-home windows, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14-day incubation period

## Response to Lab Confirmed Case of COVID-19

- For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up no later than 1 hour from the time the campus has contacted the parent/guardian.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc) so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-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).
- Schools must 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.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, we 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
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school **when all three** of the following criteria are met:
  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 symptoms first appeared.
- 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) receive a negative acute infection test at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

## Personal Protective Equipment

As of May 3, 2021, Students and staff are not required to wear face coverings, but will be encouraged to wear face coverings during school hours. This requirement is subject to change.

## Campus Visitors

Campus staff should consider utilizing virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors. All visitors who enter the building will be encouraged to wear a face covering and those who proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

### Visitor Screening/PPE Requirements

- Parents are discouraged from entering the campus and will not be allowed beyond the front office area.
- All visitors must have a scheduled appointment
- Volunteers are not allowed to visit campuses at this time (including mentors, college representatives, guest speakers, etc.).
- Virtual tools may be used to conduct meetings such as parent meetings, ARDs, LPAC, etc.
- All visitors will be subject to screening by way of a symptom screening form before entering any Maud ISD facility.
- If visitors have COVID-19 symptoms, or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.
- Any Individuals permitted to proceed beyond the reception area must follow all safety and campus protocols.

## Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

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

### Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Requirement for hand washing and/or use of Maud ISD-provided hand sanitizer:

#### Elementary & Secondary

- Provide hand sanitizer upon entry to classroom and periodic teacher reminders during instructional day.
- Habitual and thorough hand washing after recess, before eating and following restroom breaks.

### Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects frequently.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

## **Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

### **Daily Campus Cleaning**

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Custodians will be expected to wear PPE (masks and gloves) during work hours.
- Cafeterias will be cleaned between lunch periods.
- Staff and students will have access to disinfecting items to sanitize working surfaces, shared objects, and high-touch areas after use and during breaks in instruction.

### **Restrooms**

- Staff should supervise and limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time to comply with health agency recommendations and social distancing.
- The scheduling of whole class restroom breaks is recommended to eliminate co-mingling of students across various classes and to ensure teacher monitoring of social distancing guidelines.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

## **Common Areas and Meetings**

Common areas include spaces that are used for meetings and collaboration. This includes computer labs, flexible spaces, conference rooms and other meeting rooms.

- All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Classes/grade levels will sign up to reserve common areas.
- Campuses will develop schedules and follow protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize the space between use. When needed, students will bring personal supplies from the classroom.
- There will be procedures for students to sanitize their spaces before and after usage.
- Number of students in a common area will be based upon social distancing practices.
- Visual reminders will be displayed for social distancing throughout common areas. Informational graphics and markers will be posted to help with 6 ft. social distancing.



- The use of virtual meetings/videoconferencing is preferred when possible, including parent meetings, ARDs, LPAC, booster club meetings and events.
- When necessary, administration must create a plan for visitation and areas of use for meetings to adhere to COVID-19 district, campus, UIL and CDC safety protocols.
- If meetings must be held in person, all social distancing protocols will be implemented:
  - Encouraged Facial coverings
  - Six-feet social distancing when possible
  - Limiting the sharing of materials/supplies

## **Transportation**

- Hand sanitizer stations will be installed on the bus. Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings on the bus.
- Assigned seats will be utilized to increase social distancing between students that do not reside in the same house.
- Windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- 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.