

Reagan County ISD Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022

Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Reagan County ISD is looking forward to welcoming students back to school on August 19th, 2021. Reagan County ISD wants to continue providing an outstanding education, which will include an in-person learning environment. Reagan County ISD is taking preventive 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.

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 required. 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.

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 actions we have put in place. We understand these

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are incredibly 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. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must remain balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to several negative consequences, placing "children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risks 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 used in this document significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus.

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NOTICE

Reagan County ISD will offer in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. In-person learning will be face-to-face learning between the student and teacher. ***Remote learning will only be an option for those sent home to quarantine or come in close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19.***

Purpose of Remote Online Asynchronous Learning

Reagan County ISD will offer a remote learning opportunity only for those sent home to quarantine or come in close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. Students will continue to engage in high-quality learning experiences, utilizing instructional resources, and meaningfully connect with their teachers through google classroom while they are at home. Reagan County ISD will provide access, resources, and academic support for all students required to receive remote asynchronous instruction. Google Classroom will allow us the flexibility to adjust to any circumstance we might face due to COVID 19.

Remote Online Asynchronous Instruction

Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student interact at the same time. In this method, students learn from teaching that is not necessarily 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 address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002. RCISD will teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the state standards for what students should know and learn. Students will take assessments informally and formally every six weeks.

Chromebook for Online Remote Instruction

We will issue a Chromebook for any student that has to quarantine or self isolate due to COVID-19.

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Breakfast/Lunchtimes

Please schedule a time with your child's campus to pick up meals if your student is in quarantine.

Additional Information

For any additional information, please see our Remote Asynchronous Plan on our school website www.reagancountyisd.net

PREVENT

Reagan County ISD requires teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The survey will provide a list of the signs and symptoms. Self-screening includes teachers and staff taking their temperature. Teachers and staff must report to their administrator if they 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 10-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 they meet the conditions for re-entry below. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. The screening will require asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and in person. 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 ask students, parents, and staff members to answer the following questions every day before 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, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.</p>	<p 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 align="center">Yes / No</p>	<p>If yes, we are asking that you stay home for ten days. The incubation period lasts for up to 10 days. If you develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate.</p>
<p>Have you taken Tylenol, Motrin, or any other fever-reducing medication today?</p>	<p align="center">Yes / No</p>	<p>If yes, we are asking that you stay home for 24 hours. Everyone must remain symptom-free for 24hrs without using fever-reducing medications</p>

Other Illnesses

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If 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 require that all students and staff have their temperature checked upon arrival to school. We will have multiple stations set up at each campus to check student and staff temperatures.

Once a temperature is taken, and the student or employee's temperature is above 100.3. The student or employee will have to put on a protective mask to prevent exposure. Then they will be transported to a waiting area where they will have their temperature rechecked. We will have to wait 15 minutes before we can recheck their temperature. If their temperature remains above 100.3, they will be required to go home. Students and staff will have to remain symptom-free for 24hrs without using fever-reducing medications before returning to school.

Facemasks

RCISD recommends that students and employees wear a mask to protect themselves. However, we will not require students or staff to wear a mask. We will follow the executive order that prohibits schools from requiring the use of face masks. (Executive Order GA-36)

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. Plan on adding Ultraviolet Light to our HVAC systems to prevent the spread of germs with ESSER III money.

Chromebooks

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

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Lunch/Breakfast

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

Parents and visitors will only be allowed in the front office. Parents will have to drop off students at the front entry and not 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

- Every day classrooms and facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will use cleaners that kill the COVID-19 virus. The District has purchased fog sprayers to clean the classrooms and school buildings.
- Every classroom has disinfectant wipes to wipe down desks after class.

Pending COVID 19 Results

Students and staff members that live in a household with a family member testing for COVID-19 will be required to stay home until we receive verification of the test results. Students will be required to receive remote asynchronous instruction until they receive the COVID-19 test results. Students will need to log in and complete daily assignments. If students do not log in and complete their class assignments, they will receive an unexcused absence. If test results come back negative, the student will be allowed to return to school. If test results come back positive, the student will be required to quarantine and remain asynchronous for ten days.

Employees that have been in close contact with someone waiting on COVID-19 test results will be required to quarantine until that individual receives their test results.

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Vaccines

Reagan County ISD will take into consideration vaccinations for employees or students. A student or employee will not have to quarantine if they are in close contact with someone that tests positive for COVID-19 unless they develop symptoms. Reagan County ISD will not require anyone to receive the vaccination. If you are interested in receiving a vaccination please contact our local health clinic to set up an appointment (325) 884-3743.

You will need two doses from the same manufacturer, spaced

21 or 28 days apart. **You will get protection from the vaccine, usually 1–2 weeks after getting your second dose.**

After you get the vaccine, you will still need to keep wearing a mask, social distance, and wash your hands often.

Please provide your vaccination card to your local campus or central office for documentation.

RESPOND

Positive Confirmed Case and Suspected Case Procedures

Any individuals who are: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home until they have met all the criteria below:

Individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when they meet all three criteria:

- 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.

An individual with COVID-19 symptoms that have not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is treated to have COVID-19. The individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

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Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms that want to return to must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual to 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 ten days after the lab-confirmed test.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus.

- RCISD will isolate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms until a parent or guardian can pick up the student.
- RCISD will clean all areas that are exposed to COVID-19 as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should have their temperature checked to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

If an individual suspects a false positive COVID-19 test and wants to return to school, they must meet the following criteria.

- a) Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual to return or
- b) Obtain two PRCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or another site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.

Reporting COVID-19 Cases

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- a 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 ten days to prevent further exposure to others. Any siblings or students living in the same household with the

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person that tested positive for COVID 19 will be required to stay home for ten 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 ten days until they meet all three criteria below.
- Family members of the same household will have to quarantine for ten days.

Once the individual receives a lab-confirmed positive test and has self-isolated for ten days, they will be able to return to school if they meet all of the requirements. If another family member becomes sick toward the end of the quarantine period, that individual can return to school if they meet all of the following 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.

Reagan County ISD will continue to provide instruction for students that are required to stay home. Students must complete their assigned work in the time frame given.

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

1. RCISD will notify the local health department of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases. Reports follow 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 the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until those areas are cleaned and disinfected unless more than seven days have already passed since that person was on campus.

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3. RCISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases that involve them or their students directly.

Contact Tracing

Reagan County ISD will keep track of individuals that come into close contact or test positive for COVID-19. We will submit weekly reports to the state every Monday.

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.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and visitors are encouraged to sanitize and 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 their 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, cover with your elbow. Hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or hand sanitizer.
3. RCISD campuses will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by our janitorial staff, and provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces. Schools will arrange for extra cleaning and disinfecting of touched surfaces throughout the day. Examples are door handles, tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high-touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets. The CDC recommends cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.
4. RCISD will provide hygiene practices and other mitigation practices to students on the first day of school.

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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 three feet apart when possible.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within three feet of one another, RCISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing. We will consider increased airflow from the outdoors when 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 students 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. Open windows to allow for additional Ventilation and airflow.

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.
- Sore throat.
- New uncontrolled cough 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

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- Shortness of breath
- Congestion or runny nose
- A severe headache
- Muscle or body aches

Close Contact

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The campus administrator or local health agency will determine who has been in close contact. For clarity, we use the following to decide close contact:

1. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
2. Within 3 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), Ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomatology may affect this determination.

For adults, close contact is six feet.

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. We will use the following questions to help determine the start of quarantine.

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 ten days from the previous time they around the individual)
3. If you live with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19, you will have to self-quarantine for ten days after the lab-confirmed test.

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What is Quarantine

Quarantine means to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease before a person knows they are sick or have 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 that has COVID-19 - excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past three months.

Once you have received a positive COVID-19 test will not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months unless they develop symptoms. People who develop symptoms within three months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need another COVID-19 test 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.

Lab confirmed positive case- Quarantine for ten 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.

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Close Contact- Time starts the day after you were in close contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19. The individual cannot return until the 11th day and must meet all the following 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.

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