

# **Eula ISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan**

*as of August 2021, Subject to change based on updated information or orders from local and state authorities.*

## **PARENT AND PUBLIC NOTICE *Eula ISD's plan for on-campus activities and instruction.***

In light of the COVID-19 public health crisis, Eula ISD has worked to develop a safe, efficient, and responsible plan for the 2021-22 school year, which will begin on Wednesday, August 18. It is important that we accommodate the social, emotional, and health needs of our students and their families while simultaneously providing the high-quality education our students deserve. The following is a summary of the plan Eula ISD will follow to educate students while mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools based on the requirements and recommendations outlined by the Texas Education Agency.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS**

Eula ISD will offer on-campus traditional instruction (face to face). It will be for all students. For students who are in quarantine due to a confirmed Covid-19 case, online instruction will be available from the student's teacher(s). Teachers will preferably send student's assignments via online learning platforms, but if the student does not have internet access then other arrangements may be made through communication with the teacher and the campus office. Students who are in quarantine will be marked absent, per changes in TEA Public Health Guidance, August 5, 2021. Students will be required to return to face to face instruction when they meet the return to school criteria.

**Meal Service** Eula ISD will provide meals for students participating in virtual instruction who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Meal pick-up locations will be communicated to participating families.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

On-campus instruction will take place in-person and will be delivered by EISD educators. The following protocols for the prevention, response, and mitigation of the virus are being considered at this time:

**Social-Emotional Considerations** According to experts from Cook Children's Hospital: Students are dealing with extremes of anxiety, frustration, isolation, and uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students have had obstacles that prevent social and physical outlets to diffuse these. Some are grieving the loss of family, friends, and an accustomed way of life. Students may act out, withdraw, show diminishing school performance, have uncharacteristic emotional displays of anger and frustration, or try to self-medicate when experiencing depression and anxiety. (Retrieved from <https://cookchildrens.org/coronavirus/action/Pages/Safe-Reopening.aspx>, July 14, 2020)

- Whenever possible, provide consistency in daily routines to foster a sense of safety and predictability. For parents and caregivers, this may mean maintaining a clear schedule of meal times, learning times, and bedtime routines. For educators, this may mean beginning virtual classes, sharing out, and assigning work in a consistent, structured way.
- Listen to young people. Give children and youth opportunities to share their concerns, and address the difficult questions on their minds in age-appropriate ways.
- Support young people in building relationships or maintaining a sense of community and connection. Relationships are always a priority and a key to engagement and learning, and especially so at a time when young people may be feeling isolated. (Retrieved from <https://casel.org/resources-covid/>, July 14, 2020)
- Eula ISD counselors stand ready to check in and assist students as needed.

### **Resources for Social Emotional Wellness**

- Child Mind Institute: <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
- National Association for School Psychologists:  
<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>
- CASEL's resources and guidance on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):  
<https://casel.org/covid-resources/>
- Recommendations for the Practical, Fair, and Safe Reopening of Public Schools K-12 in the State of Texas:  
[https://cookchildrens.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/coronavirus/Presentation-Return\\_School-Mazade.pdf](https://cookchildrens.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/coronavirus/Presentation-Return_School-Mazade.pdf)
- The Child Mind Institute-  
<https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>

## ***Health Screening***

### ***Staff***

- Staff must report to the district any symptoms and/or a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, and must remain off campus until they meet the Return to School criteria.
- If a staff member has a household member with COVID-19, Eula ISD would request that the staff member wear a face covering or quarantine for 5 days and self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

### ***Students***

- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on-campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Students experiencing any symptoms or who have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will be required to stay off campus until they meet the Return to School criteria.
- Parents may opt to have their child quarantined, for no longer than ten calendar days, if they believe their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Teachers will monitor students throughout the school day and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

## ***Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures***

- **Parents are encouraged to remain outside of the school building during arrival and dismissal.**

## ***UIL-Sanctioned Activities and Events***

- The district will adhere to the latest UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines. These guidelines apply to all UIL activities (including athletic, musical, and academic contests). All UIL activity participants, sponsors/coaches, and spectators are expected to follow UIL Risk Mitigation Guidelines.

## ***School Health Related to COVID-19 (TEA Public Health Planning Guide)***

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

## **MITIGATION Practices to mitigate the likelihood of COVID-19 spread inside the school.**

### ***Enhanced Sanitization***

- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations will be available in each classroom, at all entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Custodial staff will engage in enhanced cleaning procedures of buildings including but not limited to all classrooms, offices, restrooms, and other common areas.
- Custodial staff will use a cleaning process with CDC recommended disinfectants that are proven to kill the COVID-19 virus as well as others and are certified safe for schools.
- Custodial staff will utilize electrostatic misters in all campus areas. Misters are designed to spread disinfectant and ensure that disinfectant droplets adhere to and coat surfaces.
- Custodial staff will frequently wipe high traffic surfaces, including handrails, door handles, counter tops, restroom surfaces, and cafeteria surfaces continually throughout the day.
- Custodial staff will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of restrooms and common areas throughout the day.
- Custodial staff will continually monitor hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout each building to ensure necessary personal disinfectant products are filled and available.

### ***Student Meals and Cafeterias***

- Students will be required to wash/sanitize their hands prior to entering the cafeteria.
- Thorough sanitizing and hand washing practices will be followed in all areas of the kitchen and serving locations.
- All tables will be sanitized between mealtimes.
- The campus will plan for physically distant mealtimes as feasible.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing food or drink.
- Tables will be spread out across cafeterias to maximize space between groups.
- When possible, cohorts will be grouped together to eat lunch.

### ***Campus Protocols***

- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day if necessary.
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transitions to reduce the volume of contact necessary to enter/exit the room.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home. Water fountains and bottle-fillers will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times per day and may only be used to refill bottles.
- Lockers will not be assigned, but available upon request. Procedures and protocols will be in place to address

locker rooms to include disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.

### ***Classroom Protocols***

- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch surfaces, working surfaces, and shared objects regularly.
- Students will be taught effective hand washing techniques and hygiene awareness.
- Students will be taught correct protocol for coughing and sneezing.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to wash/sanitize their hands before eating, after recess, and after bathroom breaks.

### ***School Clinic Protocols***

- Students or staff who present with symptoms of COVID-19 will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse or designated staff.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present: the staff member will be sent home, and the student will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until a parent/guardian arrives.
  - Nurse will notify the campus administrator, so disinfection protocols can be initiated.
- The student will be escorted to the vehicle upon parent arrival.
- Nurse will provide parents/staff with Return to School criteria.

### ***RESPONSE Practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in one of our schools.***

#### ***School Health Related to COVID-19 (TEA Public Health Planning Guide)***

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify the Local Health Department in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulation, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- If any member of the campus or school community tests positive for COVID-19, the district will communicate this information to staff and families in alignment with notification requirements for other communicable diseases and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements.

#### ***Return to School Criteria (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)***

- 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 that all of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- At least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- The individual has improvement in symptoms; and
- At least 10 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 two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

## REFERENCES

### ***COVID-19 Symptoms (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)***

- Temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (*or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline*)
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

***Close Contact (TEA Public Health Planning Guidance)*** Close contact is determined by parents, per CDC guidance.