

BROADDUS ISD



COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

This guidance document is being provided based on the public health situation as we understand it today and was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment. It is intended to support school systems in planning for the school year 2021-2022 activities and instruction beginning August 2, 2021. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance, including additional school operations restrictions after reviewing every 6 months. The revised version of the plan will then be posted on the website at www.broaddusisd.com.

This guidance addresses:

- *Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School*
- *Masks*
- *Students Who Have COVID-19*
- *Students Who Are Close Contacts*
- *Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus*
- *Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School*

Broaddus ISD will follow the guidance from Texas Education Agency (TEA). The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-38, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-38 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance.

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).

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 authorities 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:

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.

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, 2 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.

During the exclusion 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.

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 vaccinated are not considered close contacts. Given the data from 2020-21 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults, school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing and Broaddus ISD will not be conducting contact tracing.

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.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts will be contacted by the CDC, 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.

BISD will 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. Revised 9/7/21

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

o BISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms and isolate the student while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

o BISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

o BISD students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Operational Considerations: Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. BISD will have hand sanitizer and/or handwashing stations with soap and water.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands frequently.
 - BISD will encourage students to engage in handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
 - BISD teachers and staff will be encouraged to teach students good handwashing technique

- BISD students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cover in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, hands will be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

3. BISD will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

- BISD will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This would include objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high-touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.

- BISD will arrange for the cleaning of commonly touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.

4. Whenever possible, BISD will open windows or otherwise work to improve airflow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building.

Transportation Recommendations

1. BISD will encourage using hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
2. When possible, BISD buses can open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
3. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Visits to Schools

- Parents and other adults can visit schools, as permitted by local school system policies. During these visits, parents and other visitors must follow the virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school.
- School systems should restrict visits in schools to only those essential to school operations.

CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT

Staff preparing our buildings to reopen will be provided with the following:

- Appropriate PPE will be used by all custodial staff (such as masks, gloves, and eye protection).
- Staff will be trained in fitting, wearing, and using PPE as well as safe removal, sanitizing, and disposal of items.

- All staff will be required to follow the social distance set forth by the district.

Disinfecting Guidelines

- Hand sanitizing equipment and disinfectant spray will be available at each entry point and common areas along with disinfectant spray, which will be available in areas of concern.
- Electric ULV Cold Disinfectant Sprayers will be used in all gym/weight room areas to create a disinfectant barrier around surfaces.
- The custodial staff will routinely clean and disinfect areas that experience high traffic for both students and staff.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as restrooms/bathrooms, doorknobs, paper towel dispensers, faucets, lunchrooms/cafeterias, refrigerator door handles, microwave door handles, table & desktops, vending machines, drinking fountains, locker rooms, stairway handrails, etc., will be cleaned and disinfected along with soap and water.
- Ensure the safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- Classrooms, hallways, school buses, and other areas will undergo regular deep cleanings to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

CHILD NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

- The district will reduce self-service access to foods. Food items, even pre-packaged will be handled by nutrition services staff who have properly washed their hands, utilizing gloves to minimize potential contamination of food or packaging.
- Students will be allowed to bring lunch to school. Parent will not be allowed to bring food.
- To maintain social distancing while eating, students will eat in various locations throughout their campuses: including their classrooms, in the cafeteria, or other areas where appropriate social distancing measures can be met.
- Proper handwashing techniques, hygienic practices, and sanitizing are staples in food service. All FDA and CDC guidelines for hygiene and sanitization will be followed. The strictest guidance will be utilized whenever there is an apparent or perceived conflict in the guidance.
- BISD Child Nutrition staff will work with the principals and other campus staff to develop and execute feeding plans for meal prep, service, and/or distribution of meals to all individuals on campus.
- BISD Child Nutrition will strive to serve a robust menu providing the variety that has typically been expected. Menus are subject to modification due to product availability, student acceptance, nutrition standards, and food safety.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- The technology department will provide support to staff/students during the implementation of Schoology.
- Guidelines for student use of technology while at home will be provided.
- Provide support and assistance to parents/students during the implementation of Schoology, online registration, and access to home learning apps.