

# Reagan County ISD Return to School COVID-19 Plan

## 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 in-person learning to all students. 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.

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**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.**

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## 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 are uncertain times and that this pandemic has had overwhelming impacts on our

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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. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.

While it is impossible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to significantly reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. 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 outlined in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus.

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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 instruction will only be an option for those sent home due to illness.***

## Purpose of Remote Instruction

Reagan County ISD will offer a remote learning opportunity only for those sent home due to sickness. Remote learning will allow students to continue engaging in high-quality learning experiences, utilizing instructional resources, and meaningfully connecting with their teachers through google classroom while at home. Google Classroom will allow us the flexibility to adjust to any circumstance we might face due to COVID 19.

## Remote Online Asynchronous Instruction

Remote instruction does not require the instructor and student to interact simultaneously. This type of instruction may include digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete independently 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 learn. Students are tested informally and formally every six weeks.

## Chromebook for Online Remote Instruction

Every student will have access to their Chromebook during the school year. If a student is sent home due to sickness, they will be allowed to check out a Chromebook.

## PREVENT

Reagan County ISD requires students, teachers, and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed in the daily self-

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survey. 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.

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 five days have passed since the positive lab-confirmed COVID 19 test or supported healthcare provider documentation. The CDC recommends wearing a mask for five more days upon return.

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 meeting the re-entry criteria.

School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their child from inside the school. 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
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.	Yes / No	If yes, stay home. Students can return when they are symptom-free for 24hrs without fever-reducing medications.
Have you had any contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or under self-monitor for COVID-19?	Yes / No	Monitor symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must stay home until symptoms improve.
Have you taken Tylenol, Motrin, or any other fever-reducing medication today?	Yes / No	If yes, we are asking that you stay home. See your health professional for further guidance. If your health professional releases you, you can return to school with a doctor's note.

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## **Other Illnesses**

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 the front of the school to check student and staff temperatures. If your temperature is above 100, you will be asked to return home. Students and staff will be required to stay home until they are symptom-free.

## **Temperature Check Protocol**

Once a temperature is taken, and the student or employee's temperature is above 100. The student or employee will be asked to put on a protective mask to prevent exposure. Then they will be transported to a waiting area where they will have their temperature re-checked. We will have to wait 15 minutes before we can re-check their temperature. If the temperature remains above 100, they will be required to go home. Students and employees will have to stay home until symptoms improve.

## **Facemasks**

Facemasks are not required, but we highly recommend them to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## **Athletics**

Athletics will follow safety guidelines set by UIL.

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## **Heating, Ventilation, and Air conditioning (HVAC)**

We are adding a higher-quality air filter to our HVAC systems at all three campuses. We are adding Global Plasma Solutions to our HVAC systems to prevent the spread of germs with ESSER money. GPS uses ionization to help clean the air.

## **Chromebooks**

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

## **Lunch/Breakfast**

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 will have to drop off students at the front entry. 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 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will use cleaners to kill the COVID-19 virus. Reagan County ISD has purchased fog sprayers to clean the classrooms and school buildings.
- We will provide disinfectant wipes to clean after class.

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## Vaccines

Reagan County ISD will not require any student or staff member to get vaccinated.

Vaccines work best after receiving two doses from the same manufacturer, spaced

21 or 28 days apart. **Protection from the vaccine usually takes 1–2 weeks after getting your second dose.**

After getting the vaccine, you will still need to social distance and wash your hands often. The vaccine does not guarantee you will not get COVID-19.

Reagan County ISD does not have the means to provide vaccinations. Our local healthcare providers will provide vaccinations to those interested.

## RESPOND

### Positive Confirmed Case or Suspected Case Procedures

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:

An individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when all 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 five days have passed since the positive lab-confirmed COVID 19 test or supported healthcare provider documentation. The CDC recommends wearing a mask for five more days upon return.

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, the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has improved symptoms.

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Suppose the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period. In that case, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual.

### **COVID-19 in a Household**

Students and staff members that live in a household with a family member that tested positive for COVID-19 will not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. We highly recommend family members wear a mask when returning to school with a positive case in their home until all family members are well. Parents have the right to keep family members home until everyone is well.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus.

- RCISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until a parent or guardian can pick up the student.
- RCISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling ill will have their temperature checked to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

**If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain one PRCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 48 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. Parents will receive notification about a confirmed case at a specific campus.

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- **Campus Closure-** If needed, the campus may close for 1 to 2 days to disinfect. We are cleaning facilities daily to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

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

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, RCISD will notify the 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. RCISD will 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, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, RCISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed

COVID-19 cases identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

## **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. RCISD students, teachers, staff, and campus 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 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,

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cover with your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

3. RCISD campuses 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. Schools 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. The CDC has provided guidance on cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 spread.
4. RCISD will provide hygiene practices and other mitigation practices to students on the first day of school.

### **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/or hand sanitizing and should consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is 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 student 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.

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## **Additional Information**

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Fever or Chills. Temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth.
- Sore throat.
- New uncontrolled cough that 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
- Shortness of breath
- Congestion or runny nose
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- Muscle or body aches

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