



## **Rains ISD Return to School Guidance 2021-2023**

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## Introduction

This guide has been designed to provide information to parents, students, and staff. Rains ISD will review this plan every six months at school board meetings to update.

Prior to those board meetings, stakeholders will be given the opportunity to offer input concerning the plan. Stakeholders invited to give input concerning all aspects of this plan as well as plans for uses of ESSER funds include, but are not limited to, staff, students, parents, community members, and board members.

**COVID-19 Response Team** – Rains ISD has developed a COVID-19 Response Team to respond to concerns and communicate district decisions. Members of the team and email addresses are noted below:

Jennifer Johnson	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:johnsonj@rainsisd.org">johnsonj@rainsisd.org</a>
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## Prevention and Mitigation

### Health and Safety Guidance

- **Social and Emotional Well-Being** – Students’ social and emotional well-being are a top priority for Rains ISD. Together, schools and families can support students throughout the year. Counselors and staff will:
  - Work to keep routines predictable
  - Reach out to support students in their learning setting
  - Provide a social worker for extra counseling and support
  - Enter into an MOU with Andrews Center to provide support to students, staff, and families
- **Masks** – According to Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-36, masks are to be optional in all school facilities.
- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**
  - Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at various locations throughout the campuses.
  - Teachers will provide hand sanitizer in the classrooms and will periodically remind students during the instructional day.
  - Staff and students are expected to frequently wash or sanitize their hands.

- **Disinfecting Expectations**
  - Staff will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects during breaks in instruction.
  - Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily.
  
- **Social Distancing**
  - Staff and students will work to maintain social distancing in indoor and outdoor settings, to the extent possible.
  - Classrooms will be arranged to allow for as much space as possible between seating areas.

## Screening Protocols

- Staff are encouraged to self-screen for symptoms of communicable diseases such as COVID-19 prior to reporting to work each day.
- Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they have any communicable disease or COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if positive, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.
- Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their children each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has any communicable disease or COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Teachers will monitor students and send them to the nurse if symptoms are present throughout the day.

## Response

Nurse aides/nurse are staffed at each campus, and Rains ISD also employs a Director of Health Services, Trinity Edwards, RN. These individuals have been trained to support and assist with health and safety matters.

- **Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19** – 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 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 the following criteria are met:
    - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); **and**
    - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea); **and**
  - Those individuals confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 shall stay home from school/work until released by their medical provider to return. This district shall require documentation of the release.
  - 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 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) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

#### ▪ **Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts**

School systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free\*, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

\*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual and are in one of the following groups, **do not need to stay at home**.

- Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Was confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and has fully recovered.

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual who are not in one of the above groups, it is recommended that they quarantine for 5 days. If staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed on day 5 post-exposure.

- District communication will be provided to the staff and students who come into contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must 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. If an individual is determined to have had close contact, he/she or the parent/guardian will be individually contacted.

## **Instructional Models**

Rains ISD will offer traditional in-person learning for instructional delivery for our students:

Traditional In-Person Learning: (face-to-face, on campus) Students attend school daily, as with a regular school year, and follow safety, sanitation, and social distancing expectations.

The campuses MUST provide instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the required grade level/subject/course. Monitoring student learning and progress remains integral to the success of the students. This includes attendance, grades, formative/summative assessments, and other monitoring systems that help teachers know how students are making progress.

The following pages of this document address the specifics of school procedures for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Attendance**
  - District funding and resources are linked to attendance.
  - Attendance will be taken each day for face-to-face learning.
  - Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.
  
- **Grading**
  - State law requires each district to adopt its own grading policies. This policy must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student's relative mastery of an assignment.
  - Rains ISD grading policies are published annually in the campus Student Handbook.
  - Progress reports and report cards, along with parent conferences, will be used to communicate each student's progress and performance.
  
- **State and Local Testing** – All students are expected to follow state and local testing requirements.

### **Special Programs (Special Education, ESL, 504, Dyslexia, GT)**

- **Program Participation and Services** – Students currently participating in special program services, such as special education, 504, ESL, GT, and dyslexia will continue to receive services, including monitoring and intervention as established in program handbooks. Parent meetings may be held using in-person or virtual meeting platforms.
  
- **Evaluations and Testing** – District protocols have been established to evaluate students who have been referred for special programs. Social distancing and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used, as appropriate.

### **Staff and Student Support**

- A safe learning environment will be provided.
- The district will provide: bullying prevention, suicide prevention, child abuse prevention, dating violence prevention, sexual harassment prevention.
- Certified counselors will be provided at each campus.
- A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) will be provided.
- Interventions will be provided at all grade levels.
- Tutorials will be provided.