



**Palmer**  
**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and  
Continuity of Services Plan  
2023-2024**

**Revised August 23, 2023**

Community health data continues to change in our Palmer ISD community, and we are continuously monitoring this information and adjusting our plans accordingly.

**Palmer ISD**  
**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**  
**2023-2024**

All Palmer ISD employees and students will continue with in-person instruction in the Spring of 2023. All Palmer ISD school operations will return to normal (prior to COVID-19) with the following exceptions.

**Accelerated Learning**

In order to help students, make up for learning loss due to COVID-19, Palmer ISD will be implementing the requirements of House Bill 4545 that passed in the 87th Regular Legislative Session. The new statute is in effect, with acceleration instruction practices required during the 2022-2023 school year for all students, based on STAAR® results from Spring 2022.

HB 1416 establishes new requirements for accelerated instruction for students who do not pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). At a high level, the legislation includes:

- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test of the same subject for two consecutive years, a LEA requirement to establish an accelerated education plan

**Learning Acceleration**

- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grades 3–8 or STAAR (EOC) end-of-course assessments, accelerated instruction requirements specify that it must include either:
  - Being assigned a classroom teacher who is a certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or
  - Receiving supplemental instruction (tutoring) in the form of summer school, before or after school, and/or embedded in the school day

Palmer ISD has chosen the second option of providing supplemental instruction (tutoring) in summer school and/or embedded in the school day. This instruction can also take place on Fridays.

**Health & Safety Expectations for Students and Employees**

**Evolving Student Health Protocols**

Key prevention strategies include:

- Handwashing education
- Respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining facilities

Updated 8/23/2023

The Governor of Texas has declared that public school districts may not require students, school staff, or visitors to the school to wear a mask. Therefore, the wearing of masks will be optional for everyone unless a new Public Health Order changes the current order. If wearing a face mask, face masks must be appropriate for school and must be non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful to team members or visitors. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate as outlined in the District's dress code policy.

### **Health guidance for schools.**

- Families will NOT send students to school if they have a lab-confirmed COVID- 19 diagnosis. Families must immediately notify the school if a child has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students will follow campus-specific guidelines to support social distancing to the fullest extent possible.
- Reminder posters outlining proper protocols will be prominently displayed for all employees and students to follow.

### **Evolving Employee and Student Health Protocols**

- Per [TEA Guidelines](#), school systems must exclude staff and students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 and has received a positive test result for COVID-19. Students and staff may return when:
  - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

All employees shall know and follow the established protocols to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 to stay safe.

- Employees will practice approved environment cleaning/disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Reminder posters outlining proper protocols will be prominently displayed for all employees and students to follow.

### **Community Input**

The District made its plan available to the public and provided an opportunity for feedback that was collected and incorporated into the plan. Details are available on the [Palmer ESSER III webpage](#). The District published its original draft plan on the district website, [www.palmer-isd.org](http://www.palmer-isd.org) on July 19, 2021. As part of a regularly scheduled board meeting on August 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. the ESSER III plan was discussed. Feedback from the Board of Trustees and public were included in the plan and a revised plan was posted.

The District engaged in timely and meaningful consultation with students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff and their unions, tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The district took the following action steps to engage in timely and meaningful consultation on the plan: the district surveyed all stakeholders including teachers, staff, parents, and community members representing interests of children with disabilities, English learners; the district's team developed strategies to meet the learning needs of students, including traditionally underserved students; the district reviewed all survey feedback and included feedback in the development of the plan.

### **Community Vaccinations**

Palmer ISD continues to strongly encourage all staff and eligible students to get vaccinated for COVID-19. All staff and immediate family members had the opportunity to receive the Moderna vaccine at our annual vaccination clinic in October 2023.

### **Campus Procedures**

- Palmer ISD will continue to educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of frequent hand washing; covering a cough or sneeze; not touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home when sick, and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- Campus administration will provide procedures to best protect employee and student safety in regards to student movement, personal space, physical distancing in community areas, organization of resources, and classroom supplies.

### **Campus Cleaning & Disinfecting**

- The district will continue to have universal signage for all facilities including, but not limited to, social distancing and hand-washing/sanitizing
- Proper cleaning and disinfecting of school workspaces, and high-traffic areas (e.g., bathrooms, cafeterias, libraries, faculty lounge rooms) will be conducted routinely throughout the day.
- All classrooms will be provided with wipes, cleaner, and hand sanitizer for students to clean their learning surfaces.

- Hand sanitation stations will be available at designated entrances and other areas throughout the building. Everyone will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene frequently.
- Improving ventilation – maintenance department will change all filters every month

### **Student Attendance**

- The health and well-being of all students and employees is a priority. If you are sick, stay home, and come back to school when you are healthy enough to do so.
- As always, contact your campus to report an absence, so we know how to best support your student while they are out sick.

### **Meals**

- All child nutrition staff will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations.
- Cafeteria, serving, and eating areas will be cleaned between uses.

### **Nurses/Clinic**

- In collaboration with Health Services and [guidance from TEA](#), campuses will implement protocols for students who require additional support from clinic staff, i.e., diabetes, medications, and regular care due to illness or injury, etc.
- Campuses will utilize the school nurse to provide professional learning for students and employees regarding best practices for health and hygiene.

### **Testing**

With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Palmer ISD is no longer offering rapid antigen-based testing.

### **Transportation**

- Hand sanitizer will be provided as students enter and exit the bus.

### **School/Extracurricular Activities**

- Extracurricular activities will follow [TEA guidelines](#), UIL, community health organizations, and other agencies/organizations.

### **Mental Health**

- Palmer ISD counselors have been trained in social-emotional support and trauma informed care.

- Counselors will develop strategies and support for students, families and staff members.

**What will Palmer Remote look like if we have to close classrooms, campuses or the district?**

- Palmer ISD parents/caregivers are expected to be engaged with their children's education but are not expected to serve as their children's primary teacher of the academic curriculum.
- Students will have digital access through Google Classroom to all their courses
- Google Meet and Zoom will be used for virtual classroom meetings
- Students will engage daily in remote learning with Palmer ISD certified teachers facilitating students' learning and coursework.
- Students may have periods of daily, live instruction (synchronous) with certified teachers, as well as periods of self-paced, independent learning (asynchronous).
- A designated daily schedule for remote instruction will be provided to all Palmer Remote students that they will be expected to follow. Student attendance will be taken and student engagement will be monitored for all students every school day.
- Grading guidelines will be the same for Palmer On-Campus and Palmer Remote.
- Students who require additional support and interventions will receive those via video/phone conferencing based on the expectations and assessment of Palmer ISD certified educators.
- Students who receive services or accommodations through special education, gifted and talented, 504, or multilingual services will continue to receive the support and services. Please see the Special Programs for more detailed information.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What will the daily sanitization protocols be?**

All classrooms, restrooms and commons spaces will be cleaned and sanitization misting machines will be utilized daily. Buses and school vehicles will be sanitized twice daily.

All staff will have access to cleaning materials to utilize each day throughout the day.

### **Will students and staff be required to wear face coverings?**

No

**Can students and staff wear face coverings even when they are not required?** Yes, face coverings shall be appropriate to the educational environment not causing any disruptions. It should have appropriate logos, graphics, or designs. Bandanas will not be allowed. We recommend students face coverings that are a solid color, have a school or school club/organization logo or image, have a favorite college or trade school logo, or favorite sports team logo.