

**NEEDVILLE ISD OPENING 2020-21**  
**August 24, 2020**

***As of this updated plan, face coverings are required of staff and students. Changes may occur due to direction from the State of Texas, Texas Education Agency, and local health authorities.***

COVID-19 related questions should be directed to the Epidemic Oversight Team or nurse at the following email – [theeotteam@needvilleisd.com](mailto:theeotteam@needvilleisd.com).

Included is our plan as far as we know with the information we have. The bottom line is we want to have normal school but with the morphing of the pandemic, there is a great chance it will be unique!

Our decisions are guided via staff and community input along with direction from the State of Texas, Texas Education Agency, and local health authorities. Needville ISD will safely reopen schools and activities for the 2020-2021 academic year on August 24, 2020. Per direction from our state/local governance, Needville ISD is giving families the choice of either face-to-face instruction or virtual instruction. Please continue to read below for what each scenario entails so you can make the best choice for your family. If you anticipate keeping your child(ren) at home and enrolling in virtual instruction, please contact the campus ASAP.

As we plan for the upcoming year, Needville ISD will follow pertinent guidelines and commits to the following:

1. The health and safety of our students, staff, families and community is our top priority.
2. Every decision made will take into consideration the latest guidance and direction from local, state and federal authorities on operational considerations during the school day.
3. Needville ISD will provide the highest quality instruction to all students regardless of the circumstances.
4. Needville ISD will support the well-being of each student and every program.

***Student Health Protocols:***

All students should do a daily self-evaluation prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.

- All students will be instructed on methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at school.
- All students should practice appropriate social distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- All students should regularly wash their hands when reporting to school and after using the restroom.
- All students will be trained on proper handwashing techniques and participate in scheduled hand-washing times throughout the day.
- All students should maintain 6 feet distancing from others. If this is not possible, face covering is recommended and may be required.
- All students (age-appropriate) are encouraged and may be mandated to use a face shield, non-medical grade face masks, covering nose and mouth, while in indoor common spaces.

**Employee Health Protocols:**

All NISD employees will be required to complete a self-screening daily.

- All employees shall know, understand and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.
- All employees must practice appropriate cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- All employees shall regularly wash their hands when reporting to work and after using the restroom.
- All employees shall maintain 6 feet distancing from others. Face covering is encouraged and may be required.
- All employees shall use face shields or non-medical/medical grade face masks covering nose and mouth while in indoor common spaces.
- Employees who return to work after exhibiting fever shall have their temperature taken at work for three consecutive days.

**COVID-19 Symptoms:**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the District will consider the following questions:

Has the individual recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit*
- Loss of taste or smell*
- Cough*
- Difficulty breathing*
- Shortness of breath*
- Headache*

Chills  
Sore throat  
Shaking or exaggerated shivering  
Significant muscle pain or ache  
Diarrhea

### **Screening Questionnaire Information:**

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a “YES” or “NO” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “YES” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

### **Close Contact:**

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, as defined by the Texas Education Agency.

For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- 1) *Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or*
- 2) *Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.*

*Either 1 or 2 defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.*

Screening will occur regularly for staff and students. An individual presenting symptoms will be isolated, evaluated, and sent home.

### ***Individual Presents Symptoms at School/Work:***

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, a clinical assessment will be administered to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. A student who reports feeling feverish will have their temperature taken.

Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected as necessary.

Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the District will 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 via our district website tools.

### ***Individuals returning to school/work after Positive Report:***

Any individual who is either:

- \*Lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, or
- \*Experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19

This individual must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine the conditions for campus re-entry.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three 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 ten 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. This 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:

- 1) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, or
- 2) obtain an acute infection test at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

### ***Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on a Campus***

\*Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by parent or guardian.

\*Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student or staff) as soon as is feasible.

\*Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

### ***Protocols for Face Coverings:***

The use of face coverings will reflect the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 and the health recommendations. The District will rely on guidance from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Fort Bend County Health Department, and/or executive orders or directives from Governor Greg Abbott or local county and city officials to determine the community transmission level and use of face coverings. The District will communicate to students, parents and staff of the community transmission level and when face coverings must be worn via NISD website.

### ***Arrival/Dismissal/Transitioning***

#### **Arrival**

- Entry points will be established by the administration.
- Daily health self-evaluation and use of hand sanitizer upon entry.
- Students may report straight to classrooms whenever possible depending on supervision.

- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) may be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.
- Face coverings will be required.

## Dismissal

- Exit points will be established by administration.
- Campuses will implement staggered release procedures when possible.
- Students will be released straight from their classroom whenever possible.

## Transitioning

- The transitioning of students will be limited during the school day.
- Students in some grades will be self-contained with one teacher.
- Whenever possible, teachers will rotate into the classrooms to limit student transitioning.
- Considerations will be made at all levels based on student needs.

## **Food Service**

All child nutrition staff will use PPE while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations. Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned between uses.

***To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted. Visitors will not be allowed during breakfast/lunch times.***

## **Transportation**

***As a response to COVID, Needville ISD encourages all families to transport their children to and from school, if they have the ability to do so.*** Bus transportation will be offered; however, the standard number of transported students compromises the ability to socially distance. ***For this reason, students utilizing bus transportation will be required to utilize face coverings.***

Students will be required to pre-register for bus transportation by **August 17, 2020** in order to ensure transportation services.

- Bus seating will be assigned.
- All students will use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Routes will be driven with windows open and a/c units on, when available, to aid in ventilation.

- All bus drivers will wear face covering.
- All students will need to use face shields, non-medical grade/medical grade face masks, covering nose and mouth while riding the bus.
- Each bus will be disinfected/sanitized.
- Transportation staff will be trained in proper sanitation procedures.
- All Needville ISD vehicles will be equipped with sanitation and cleaning supplies.
- We encourage families to transport their children to and from school.

### ***Campus Organization/Procedures***

- All Needville ISD campuses will operate on a schedule to limit student transitioning during the instructional day.
- The campus administration will monitor and adjust as necessary to best meet the needs of the campus and the staff/student body.
- When permitted, student gatherings will be held outdoors.

### **In the classroom setting:**

- Students will be seated with as much separation as feasible without disrupting the educational experience.
- For age and developmentally appropriate students, use of face coverings in classroom settings will be required.

### ***Health and Hygiene Practices***

- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility.
- Hand hygiene will be provided in classroom settings where feasible.
- Campuses will have structured times for student hand washing as appropriate.
- Students and staff will be instructed in proper handwashing techniques.
- Students and staff will be trained in proper health hygiene and disease transmission prevention measures.
- Signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings, in the restrooms, and at the entrances.

### **Campus cleaning plan:**

- Campuses will be cleaned throughout the instructional day.
- Cleaning of touch surfaces during the instructional day.
- Cleaning products will be properly stored when not in use.
- Students and staff will be trained in proper cleaning and disease transmission prevention measures.

## Use of Face Coverings – Masks and Shields

- The district encourages the use of face shields and non-medical/medical grade face masks in all Needville ISD facilities.
- Face coverings will be required in common areas for all Needville ISD staff.
- Any individual coming to campus during the instructional day will be required to wear a face covering for building access.

### **Extra-Curricular/Non-Academic Activities:**

- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.
- Non-UIL activities will follow the same COVID-19 related guidelines as UIL activities.
- Hand Washing or Hand Sanitation stations will be available for all activities.
- Use of face coverings should be implemented as feasible.

### **Visitors/Deliveries/Miscellaneous**

To limit exposure, informal campus visits will be restricted. Including during meal time. Essential meetings will be done by appointment or through a virtual format.

In the event an individual visits a campus, they must pass a screener with temperature monitoring to access a school campus and wear a face covering.

To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted.

### **Face-to-face Instruction**

Students in Needville ISD will have the opportunity to attend schools and receive instruction via face-to-face format for the 2020-2021 school year. This scenario will include a blended instructional platform that involves in-person instruction as well as the use of Google Classroom (district-wide) for specific instructional areas. ***This will ensure that students are familiar with the virtual platform in the event we have to quickly switch to an all-virtual setting.***

Several ***operational considerations*** have been identified to prevent and mitigate the viral spread inside the school setting during face-to-face instruction.

## Plans include:

- Implementation of student/employee health protocols
- Adjustments to the campus arrival/dismissal procedures
- Limitation of student transitioning during the school day
  - Students in elementary will be self-contained with one teacher.
  - Whenever possible, teachers may rotate into classrooms to limit student transitioning.
  - Students in junior high and high school will have regular campus schedules pending administrative modifications.
  - Considerations will be made at all levels based on student needs.
- Adjustments to Child Nutrition, Transportation, and Campus Organizational procedures
- Implementation of Health and Hygiene Practices with increased cleaning and signage
- Adjustments to protocols for visitors, deliveries and student gatherings

### **Choice Virtual Instruction**

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, Needville ISD will also provide instruction via virtual format. ***Virtual instruction will be offered through a Remote Synchronous Instruction format and a Remote Asynchronous Instruction format.***

**Remote Synchronous Instruction** - Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. Students are expected to be actively engaged in learning with their teacher for a minimum of 4 hours daily.

**Remote Asynchronous Instruction** - Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. The student is required to be engaged daily with work and the teacher is required to give daily feedback. Students are expected to be actively engaged in learning with their teacher for a minimum of 4 hours daily.

Secondary students will receive instruction through the on-line curriculum and/or remote virtual instruction.

For **ALL** students choosing to be educated via virtual learning, the following requirements must be met:

- Broadband internet access
- Digital device for a minimum of 4 hours each day of school
- The student will participate in all required coursework and virtual lessons during normal school hours.
- The student will have passing grades at the end of each grading period. Failure to have passing grades could result in un-enrollment in choice virtual learning and enrollment in face-to-face learning at their assigned school.
- The student will participate in all tutoring sessions required by the teachers.
- For secondary school courses, students will need to be able to come to their campus on assigned days and times to take assessments on units of study.

Final decisions on the platform and structure of virtual instruction will be made based on the number of students who enroll.

**\*\*\*\*\*Mandatory COVID-19 Closure\*\*\*\*\***

***If a mandatory COVID closure is required, virtual instruction in the 2020-2021 school year in Needville ISD will look vastly different from virtual instruction during the Spring 2020 semester closure. This may be remote synchronous, remote asynchronous or a combination hybrid model. It will take dedication from staff, students and support from parents/guardians.***

***Social/Emotional Needs***

Along with the implementation of several health and safety protocols to address student and employee needs, Needville ISD will also address the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

***Grading***

The process for evaluation and grading will be similar to what they were during the 2019-2020 school year prior to the COVID-19 closure. Grades received in a virtual format will follow the same grading guidelines as face-to-face instruction. Teachers and staff will receive additional support and guidance on effective grading practices to ensure that grades are valid and reliable for all students.