

FRUITVALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-2022 **RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN** *IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19*

**OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF.**

Updated 1/27/22

*Changes to public health situations over the course of the school year
may necessitate changes to this guidance.*

INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to the district. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state and local agencies.

This plan outlines our protocols and guidelines for a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. This plan has been reviewed by various stakeholders and approved by the Fruitvale ISD Board of Trustees. In addition, this plan was posted for public comment. The district will continue to review this plan periodically. Please contact your child's campus principal if you have any questions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our students and employees the following guiding principles have been put in place:

1. EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY MEASURES
2. HEALTH GUIDELINES
3. SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

PRACTICES

FISD will:

1. Implement practices to prevent the virus from entering the school.
2. Respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school.
3. Implement prevention and mitigation practices to reduce the likelihood that an outbreak occurs on campus.

ON CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

Fruitvale ISD will discontinue the virtual learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. All instruction will be delivered on-campus, face-to-face. We will continue our use of Canvas as a learning platform to support teaching and learning in the new school year. For specific questions about on-campus instruction at specific campuses, please contact your child's campus principal.

Long-term virtual instruction will not be available for the 2021-2022 school year. When a student is out due to a documented medical reason from a US Physician the student may attend Remote Conferencing where they engage in synchronous instruction with a teacher for 4 hours a day. This option is available when a positive test for a communicable disease as established by the Texas Department of State Health Services is provided to the school nurse, or the student has a note from a US Physician to be excluded from in-person instruction. During this time, the student will be considered present if they attend 4 hours of synchronous instruction, each day of the approved absence. Synchronous instruction opportunities will be limited based on staffing. Please contact your campus principal for specific times and availability. Students attending through Remote Conferencing must have the camera on and be in view of the instructor at all times. Students must be appropriately dressed and actively participating in canvas or with the instructor.

When Remote Conferencing is not available, students who are absent, may access materials online via Canvas in an effort to stay up-to-date on instruction. This does not constitute time in class for students. Students (or parents of our youngest students) are encouraged to communicate absences with their teacher(s). Students will have the opportunity to make up work once they return to school.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend class at least 90% of the days the class is offered to receive credit. (Refer to the Fisd Student Handbook for additional attendance information.)

Students who do not meet the required in-person attendance requirement must go through the Attendance Committee. Please contact the campus principal if you have questions. While long-term remote/virtual instruction is not an option for the 2021-2022 school year, students are encouraged to stay up-to-date through our online learning platform, Canvas.

Students who are absent from in-person instruction may not attend any extracurricular or club activities through the Fisd on the day of the absence. Coaches/directors/sponsors should check daily attendance before allowing a student to participate in a practice, performance, or competition.

FACE COVERINGS

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 authority 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. Face coverings should adhere to dress code expectations.

CLOSE CONTACT OR EXPOSURE DEFINITION:

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 3 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 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 symptom logy may affect this determination.

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY

Fruitvale ISD has implemented increased cleaning protocols, hand sanitizer stations throughout the facilities and in classrooms, self-screening protocols, and education for our staff and students on hand washing and classroom cleaning measures. We built outdoor pavilion classrooms and created outdoor classroom spaces for our students and staff. Disinfectants will be used for deep campus cleaning. Our staff and student safety is our number one priority.

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

FISD will not allow normal visitation to our campuses. Visitors to campus must have a scheduled appointment.

EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees and students, we will be requiring employees to complete a self-screening on Time clock plus with questions related to COVID-19 symptoms including:

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

Have they 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
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

All screening information will be kept confidential by Human Resource and the district nurse. Teachers and staff must report 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. Additionally, staff must report if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 that lives in their home, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 5-day incubation period has passed.

HANDOUT: SELF-SCREENING PROTOCOL

Parents must ensure they do not send their student to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

BEFORE COMING ONTO CAMPUSES OR BUSES

At the beginning of the year and the start of every week of on-campus instruction, FISD parents will screen students prior to coming onto campus or the buses. FISD is permitted to prevent any individuals from loading the bus or entering the building who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

HEALTH PROTOCOL

- All district staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- Students, teachers, staff, and essential campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Tissues will be provided in each classroom and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown into the trash immediately and hand washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- No outside visitors or parents will be allowed to enter the student areas of the school, the district will plan a monthly on campus lunch with families to allow for limited interaction with families in the cafeteria.

PROTOCOLS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED, SUSPECTED, OR EXPOSED TO COVID-19

As provided by the Department of State Health Services Rule, 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. If an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19, they will quarantine according to the CDC guidelines. 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, until the conditions for re-entry are met.

COVID-19 CASE FORM

If an employee or student becomes ill on campus/district, he/she will immediately report to the district **nurse's isolation room** and the case form will be completed.

The nurse must complete the **HANDOUT: Suspected COVID-19 Case Form** and call the local health authority and seek advice regarding transportation and location.

The nurse and others attending the suspected infected person should also wear a protective mask and gloves while working with the suspected infected person.

The nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work or call the parent of the student to be picked up and go home. *Unless required by the local health authority, the name of the employee/student should not be provided.*

The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.

POSITIVE CASES AND TEACHERS, STAFF, OR STUDENTS SHOWING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Schools should close off areas used by a sick individual (student, teacher, or staff) until they can be disinfected.
- Per TEA Public Health Order (1/7/22), any teacher or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 5 days and be fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to the school program. If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset; fever free for

24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications, and other symptoms have improved. For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

- Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 5 days and be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications before returning to the school program.
- The district will accept COVID home test for positive cases, but will not accept these for a return to school. The district will accept a medical note from a doctor's office return date if it differs from the school plan.

GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and those around you. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Please notify the district on a positive COVID case so that cleaning of your work area may be done in district. Please follow your medical professional's guidance on quarantine. The district is not determining quarantine times, but encourages everyone to follow the medical advice of their doctor.

LAB CONFIRMED CASE RESPONSE

- Local Health Department Notified
- Areas Closed for Cleaning

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Fisd employees, students, parents, and visitors should practice staying approximately 3 feet away from others.

Social distancing becomes a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to the Fisd facility.

PERSONAL WORKSPACE

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace (teacher desk, phone, etc) throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. Disinfectants should be stored securely in classrooms when not in use.

SHARED WORKSPACE

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their shared workspace in shared areas multiple times throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. Fisd has alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The Fisd Custodial Team will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time.

Please note that proper equipment such as acceptable disinfectant and PPE should be used when cleaning individual workspaces.

FACILITIES CLEANING

The safety of our employees and students are our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep cleaning of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated below.

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	At least 4 times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

The goal is to establish a sanitary baseline before the site opens. The site should be 100% disinfected prior to anyone returning to work.

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES PROTOCOL

- Fisd custodial employees will be trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily in every classroom, common areas, and on high touch surfaces.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant wipes and or disinfectant in a spray bottle with cleaning cloths provided to employees to use in high touch areas throughout the school day.

DEEP CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOL

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID 19 based on testing. Deep cleaning should be performed as soon as the confirmation of a positive test, as practical. While the scope of deep cleaning is presumed to be the full site, sites may reduce the

footprint to be deep cleaned if there is sufficient rationale to do so, and they gain approval of the superintendent.

CAFETERIA AND MEAL PERIODS

- Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Students will be provided with healthy meals Monday-Friday regardless of instructional setting or days on the campus, free of charge.
- Lunches are staggered to limit capacity
- Deep sanitizing of tables, chairs and walls will be done daily.
- No parents/visitors during lunch time, except on scheduled monthly days.
- Students may bring their own meals or be served individually plated meals in the cafeteria. A microwave will be provided in the cafeteria for warming food. The district will not allow outside food deliveries to our offices this school year.
- Some students will also be able to eat in our outdoor pavilion, which will provide for additional safety and space.
- Each table and seat will be disinfected after usage.

PREVENTIVE MATERIAL INVENTORY

- Confirm school district has an adequate supply of soap, disinfection, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues
- Confirm a supply of gloves and other protective gear
- Touch less thermometers on-site for employee and student screening

RESTROOM USAGE DURING THE WORK DAY

Provide supplies for employees to clean up after themselves in staff only restrooms.

RESTROOMS/ LOCKER ROOMS

Eliminate contact with others, such as handshakes. Avoid touching surfaces touched by others to the extent feasible. Avoid anyone who is coughing, sneezing or appears to be sick. Wash hands before exiting the area.

OUTDOOR SPACES

Fruitvale ISD added multiple outdoor classrooms and spaces for students. There is a reduced risk of spreading the virus outdoors so we are going to have multiple areas available for outdoor classes and lunches for students. We will also try to support more outdoor PE programs for students. Playgrounds/PE equipment will be sanitized frequently.

TRANSPORTATION CHECKLISTS

Sanitation logs will be turned in to the Transportation Director after completing your last route. All surfaces must be cleaned with a disinfectant solution.

HANDOUT: TRANSPORTATION SANITATION CHECKLIST

- Hand sanitizer will be at the entry of all buses.
- When possible, windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate throughout the bus.

BUS DRIVERS/BUS PROTOCOLS

Bus drivers or custodial staff must disinfect the buses at a minimum:

- Right after the morning and afternoon routes or after each trip

Bus drivers must not report to work if they have a positive COVID-19 test.

- Fruitvale ISD will provide bus transportation.
- Drivers will be trained in COVID-19 Protocols.
- Hand sanitizers will be installed on all buses and are to be used by students when entering and exiting the bus.
- When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

ARRIVING/DISMISSAL

- HRE will allow one day of two guardians walking in HS, PK, and Kindergarten students the first day. All other students will be dropped off and no visitors will be allowed on campus to walk students to class.
- Parents are encouraged to drop their child off at school to reduce possible virus exposure. We are discouraging school transportation.
- Students will be provided hand sanitizer stations and be encouraged to use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building.
- Parents will not be allowed to drop off before 7:30 a.m.
- Parents/guardians will not be able to leave their cars or enter the building. We ask that parents make appointments and if necessary, return at a time when students and staff are inside of their classrooms.
- Parents who wish to pick up their student before the end of the school day will need to call ahead so that the child can be sent or accompanied to parent vehicles upon arrival.

Parents may not schedule a pickup between 3:00 and 3:30 for a child.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The district/campus counselors will develop or provide videos and resources for parents and teachers to access. The counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs.

STAFF TRAINING

- **First Day Training/Orientation:** Align local protocols and procedures with this manual
- **Cleaning Crew Protocols:** Disinfection methods, comprehensive cleaning training

It is very important that all employees understand the safety requirements, protocols and expectations to ensure everyone and their communities stay safe and prevent the spread of the virus.

We will structure the training plan to effectively disseminate information to all teams and audiences.

Content Covered:

- Disinfection Measures
- Transportation

- Isolation protocols
- Daily self-screenings
- Visitors
- Cleaning Crew Protocols

HANDOUT: PowerPoint for First Day Orientation

COMMUNICATION METHODS

To stay updated on the most up-to-date information:

1. Teachers, students, and parents need to check their email often for school messenger information.
2. Visit our district website
3. Follow our District Facebook page

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

- Students and staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- All participants, coaches, and directors will follow rules established by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT/MENTAL WELLNESS

- Fruitvale ISD counselors will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Counselors will develop strategies and support for students, families, and staff members.
- Counselors will develop a referral system for individuals who need targeted support as well as access to school-employed and community mental health professionals.
- Students in need of social-emotional support will be provided tiered interventions which could involve referral for additional school-based services or referral for outside mental health support.