



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS
TEXAS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2021–2022 School Re-Entry Plan

Texas Preparatory School has been busy planning for what the return to school will look like and feel like for our students, staff, and families. Ensuring the health and safety of our school community continues to be our priority as we anticipate opening for the 2021-22 school year. Our re-entry policies are informed by guidance from federal, state and local entities, which also include Texas Education Agency and Centers for Disease Control.

Texas Preparatory School teachers and staff will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined from the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Public Health Planning Guidance and the practices adopted by Texas Preparatory Schools . Additionally, Texas Agri-Life Extension offers a free online course on Special Considerations for Infection Control during COVID-19 (2hrs). This course is intended for frontline childcare workers, but the principles of the course apply equally to those working in school settings. All Texas Preparatory School teachers and staff receive this training as part of our re-entry plan.

As your school choice for your student, we are committed to ensuring health and safety for all so that we do not contribute to number of new COVID-19 cases. To ensure this for all student families and staff, we have maintained these key Priority Values as our guide:

- Child Safety is a Priority
- Clean and safe facilities are a daily standard
- Earning the public trust is a daily practice

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.”ⁱ

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. 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. Some practices are

required for all school systems, some are required in areas with high levels of community spread, and some are recommendations. Consistently implementing recommendations to the extent feasible is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences. Additionally, systems should consider stringently applying recommended practices to adults on campuses, even when it might not be feasible to do so for students, to more fully protect adult teachers and staff who are generally at greater risk from COVID-19 than students.

There will almost certainly be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Parents, educators, and school administrators should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.

PROVIDE NOTICE: Parental and Public Notices

Developing a Plan for On-Campus Activities and Instruction

School systems must post for parents and the general public, one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction, a summary of the plan they will follow to mitigate COVID-19 spread in their schools based on the requirements and recommendations outlined here. This summary document can follow any format the school system deems appropriate to communicate the information, should broadly address the major points in this guidance, and must be posted on the school system homepage or another easily found area on the system website. Neither this summary document nor any local school systems' reopening plans are subject to approval by any government entity.

It is recommended that, within this summary, school systems designate a staff person or group that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and clearly communicate for all school staff and families who this person or group is and how to contact them.

Attendance and Enrollment

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-22 school year.
2. Student attendance may only be earned through onsite instruction.
3. School systems must provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus each day, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.
4. School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA.

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Questions for COVID-19 before Campus Access

1. School systems must require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves 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. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the recommended incubation period has passed.
2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/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.
3. Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up as discussed above, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, school systems must screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) 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.
4. Additionally, school systems must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the recommended incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. 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 school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - a. 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:
 - i. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);

- ii. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - iii. 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 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:
 - iv. Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
 - v. Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.
- The above criteria is subject to change based on the recommendation of local, state and federal health agencies.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

1. Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
2. Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
3. Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

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, the school must notify its [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. Schools must 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 3 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, 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 on any on campus activities.

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread in School **Operational Considerations**

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. Schools should attempt to have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance. They should also attempt to provide hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
 - a. School systems are encouraged to have students 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.
 - b. School systems are encouraged to teach students good handwashing techniques.
 - c. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
3. Campuses should 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.
 - a. Schools should 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.
 - b. Schools should arrange for cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.
 - c. The CDC has provided [guidance on cleaning community buildings](#) to prevent COVID-19 spread.
 - d. Schools should ensure these products are stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them, and ensuring that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.
4. Whenever possible, schools should open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building.
5. If a building has remained dormant for an extended period, we recommend you review [CDC guidance on maintaining water system safety](#) when buildings are unused for extended periods of time, and apply this guidance as appropriate.
6. The CDC provides a range of [printed resources](#) such as posters that promote protective measures and can serve as helpful reminders of best practices. Schools may use these or may create their own reminders.
7. On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks and Mask Mandates

Public Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order(s) regarding the wearing of masks and mask mandates. Schools must also comply with the local County Judge whose decisions can supersede that of the Governor's executive order. In the event the either party is challenged in courts, the school will adhere to the decision of the prevailing party.

1. For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. In addition to the executive order, school systems may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
3. It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

Student-Teacher Groupings

1. Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, encourage students to practice social distancing.
2. In classroom spaces that allow it, consider placing student desks a minimum of six feet apart when possible.
3. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, schools should plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and should consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible.

Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

1. When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
2. Schools may continue to offer extracurricular activities, at their discretion and consistent with the guidance in this document, for non-UIL extracurricular activities and with the guidance found on the UIL website for all UIL activities.
3. As is the case in typical years, school systems with policies that allow it may open facilities to the public. Operation of the facilities should be done consistent with the governor's executive orders for similar activities.
4. Campuses must plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings (of students and/or adults) in close proximity. Consider staggering school start and end times, assigning students to entries to ensure even distribution of students entering/exiting at each door, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six feet apart outside the entrance, and,

where appropriate, encouraging parents to remain outside during drop-off and pick-up.

5. Depending upon local conditions, school systems should consider eliminating assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together.
6. Consider adding dividers between bathroom sinks, especially when students cannot be at least six feet apart while using the sinks.
7. School systems should consider practices that reduce the likelihood that students meet the close contact definition (defined below) at lunch. This could include having students eat lunch at their desks. It could include the use of seats that are spaced at least 6 feet apart. It could include the use of dividers on cafeteria tables if they can serve the purpose of shielding the students from respiratory droplets with which they might otherwise come into contact. For meal service itself, consider individually plated meals with disposable food service items for students who do not bring their own lunch.

Transportation Recommendations

1. School systems should consider requiring students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
2. When possible, schools should open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
3. School systems should encourage families to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
4. Buses should be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles. During cleaning, open windows to allow for additional ventilation and air flow.

Visits to Schools

1. Parents and other adults can visit schools, as permitted by local school system policies. During these visits, parents and other visitors must follow virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school.
2. Schools systems should restrict visits in schools to only those essential to school operations.

Staffing

1. Employees of school systems, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employers, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.
2. School teachers and staff should be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by their school system. Additionally, while not developed with this exact guidance in mind, Texas Agri-Life Extension offers a free online course on [Special Considerations for Infection Control During COVID-19](#) (2hrs). This course is intended for frontline childcare workers, but the principles of the course apply equally to those working in school settings.
3. School systems should attempt to reduce in-person staff meetings or other opportunities for adults to congregate in close settings. When those meetings are necessary and cannot be done via electronic means, everyone must follow the mask protocols in this guidance, remain at least 6 feet apart where feasible, consider the use of dividers, and consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible in those settings.

COVID-19 Symptoms

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

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

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

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.

Technology Accessibility

Texas Preparatory School plans to support students in need of technology through its Technology Student Accessibility Program. Current Texas Preparatory School students will be surveyed to identify those most in need of the following technology access:

- ***WiFi Accessibility***
 - Texas Preparatory School will make select areas of its campus available to students without WiFi accessibility.
 - Days of the week and available time slots will be determined based on campus availability and will be time limited access.
- ***Technology Devices***
 - Students that have WiFi but lack compatible devices are eligible for Technology Device Leasing
 - Parents/Guardians must signature authorize and be bound by terms of use prior to receiving device

TRANSPORTATION

2020 - 2021 TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES UNDER COVID-19

Texas Preparatory School will continue to provide transportation under its regular transportation policy with modifications aligned with Texas Education Agency recommendations for COVID-19. Parents and guardians are encouraged to provide transportation for their student(s) if/when possible to reduce possible virus exposure on buses. Texas Preparatory Schools will follow COVID-19 guidance of Texas Education Agency regarding the transport of students for home to school and school to home services. Additional guidelines to be followed by students and staff are the following:

1. Each school bus may provide an additional staff member to accompany the driver as a monitor.
2. School Transportation will be limited to a maximum total of 13 seated rider positions per bus.
3. Students will observe assigned seating daily and remain seated throughout the duration of transport.
4. Students will be seated according to an every other row seat arrangement at 1 student per seat*.
5. Each student will be temperature scanned prior to boarding all school transportation.
6. Each student will be provided hand sanitizer upon boarding of school transportation.
7. Each student will need to wear a face covering while boarding/disembarking and riding transport.

**** Students sharing same household will be allowed to share seat, up to 2 students per seat.***

As a student rider, all regular bus rider safety rules still apply and any rider in violation of rules may result in loss of bus riding privileges according to transportation discipline procedure.

Transportation Access during COVID-19

To slow the spread of COVID-19 virus among bus riders, transportation will operate in a limited seat capacity. Due to this safety precaution, transportation routes will be limited to 13 seated positions, large bus. In order to provide this opportunity to the most in need students, certain modifications to route scheduling must be made in order to ensure timely arrival and availability to all in need.

To allow for the most accessibility, 2021 – 2022 Transportation Routes will be operated by assigned students with pick up/drop off locations being community centric only. Texas Preparatory Schools will consider extenuating circumstances but does not guarantee any accommodations will be made outside of the established route and/or stop locations.

Due to COVID-19 it is important to note that Transportation is subject to change to accommodate necessary safety precautions, modifications and/or closures.

Cleaning/Disinfection of Transportation

Under the guidance of Texas Education Agency, Texas Preparatory Schools will maintain a regular cleaning and disinfection schedule for all student transportation vehicles. Per the recommendations of TEA, Texas Preparatory Schools will follow according to the below action plan:

- School transportation operator will ensure the following regular cleaning/disinfecting of bus with bleach and water solution following all transportation route services:
 - All bus handrails and common touchpoints will be regularly disinfected
 - All seats and immediate seating areas such as interior body spaces and windows will be cleaned and disinfected
 - Floors and ceilings of vehicles will be mopped and cleaned daily

When possible the school buses will ride with windows down to allow fresh air to circulate.

Transportation Students with Fever or Symptoms: Responsibility of Parent/Caregiver

For the Safety of Students and Staff, parents/caregivers are reminded that sick children exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should stay home. Students that appear to exhibit symptoms or have body temperatures higher than the approved 100 degree body temperature will not be allowed to board the bus.

ESSER III Funding: *Various activities and positions cited in this re-entry plan are supported by ESSER III funding.*