



# 2023–2024 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 2022 - 2023 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 new COVID-19 cases in our community. 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 Texas Preparatory School will 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.”<sup>i</sup>

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: <sup>ii</sup>

- 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 class/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**

Texas Preparatory School will 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.

For any questions or concerns regarding this plan, the public is encouraged to contact the staff listed below:

<b><u>Contact for COVID-19 Related Concerns</u></b>	
<b>Texas Preparatory School</b> - Austin - San Marcos	<b>Elton D. Fite Jr.</b> 512.557.2839 elton.fite@bgcsct.org

**Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School**

***Screening for COVID-19 before Campus Access***

1. Schools will encourage 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 will 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. Students will not be required to be screened for COVID-19 prior to attending school.

3. All Visitors, Staff and Students will not be screened prior to entry to campus
4. Additionally, schools will 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 as per the most recent CDC guidelines for quarantine or isolation, and cannot return to campus until they have met all criteria for quarantine or isolation protocol as expressed below:
  - 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 will 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 will 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 will 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 will 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 will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students if a lab-confirmed contact traced COVID-19 case identifies any students, teachers or staff as having potential contact with the positive case individual(s).

### **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. Schools are encouraged to teach students good handwashing techniques. c. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows with used tissues being disposed of immediately and hands washed immediately following use of tissue for sneezes or coughs.
3. Schools will 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 will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This includes 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 will 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 will 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 will 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, Texas Preparatory School will follow and apply the recommended [CDC guidance on maintaining water system safety](#) when buildings are unused for extended periods of time 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, schools will 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. Texas Preparatory School will comply with the local County Judge whose decisions can supersede that of the Governor's executive order. In the event 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, Texas Preparatory School may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate per guidance from local health authority.
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, students will be encouraged to practice social distancing.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within **three** feet of one another, schools will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and will consider use of outdoor learning spaces for increased airflow when possible.

### ***Use of Non-Classroom Spaces***

1. When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), students will gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
2. Schools will continue to offer extracurricular activities consistent with the

- guidance in this document.
3. As is the case in typical years, schools will open facilities to the public in a manner consistent to this guidance.
  4. Schools will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings (of students and/or adults) in close proximity.
  5. Schools will consider minimizing the number of assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together.

### ***Transportation Recommendations***

1. Schools will require students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding school transportation.
2. When possible, schools will open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
3. Schools will encourage families to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
4. Buses will 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 will be allowed to 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. School systems should restrict visits in schools to only those essential to school operations.

### ***Staffing***

1. Employees must continue to meet their work expectations, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.
2. School teachers and staff will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by Texas Preparatory School. 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. Schools will attempt to reduce in-person staff meetings or other opportunities for adults to congregate in close settings via use of Video/Web Conferencing software. In-Person meetings will be held when necessary, staff will be encouraged to suit their preference for masks and/or social distance.

### ***COVID-19 Symptoms***

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consideration for the following questions will be made:

- 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. for adults, being within six feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;
- c. for students, being within **three** 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, schools will 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. Texas Preparatory School is 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, schools will destroy those individuals’ responses.

### **Academics**

Texas Preparatory School is committed to providing engaging, TEKS-based instruction to all students and will utilize technology to enhance and support instruction as all teaching and learning will be 100% face to face and in-person at both Texas Preparatory School campuses for the 2022 - 2023 school year.

### ***Attendance and Enrollment***

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 2022 -2023 school year along with the requirements listed below:

1. Student attendance may only be earned through onsite instruction.
2. Schools will 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.
3. Schools will be 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.

### ***Curriculum***

The Academics Team will deliver professional learning, instructional resources, and provide systems of support to both campuses to ensure students learn their current grade level content while simultaneously mastering the essential skills they may have missed in the last year and a half. Academic instruction will focus on power standards - those skills that are the critical building blocks of learning for success this school year and beyond.

Since student health and wellbeing are foundational for being able to accelerate and succeed in learning, campuses will emphasize strong social and emotional learning experiences, as well as clear interventions for mental health and trauma exposure as needed. This whole child approach to curriculum will ensure all students are able to learn, grow, and become successful career and college ready graduates.

### ***Instruction***

Students will engage in learning experiences that are on-grade level and participate in instruction that reinforces essential skills from previous grades. Students will be working in small groups to learn specific skills they may not have finished due to disruptions in learning from COVID-19.

In order for students to accelerate their learning and master essential skills from earlier grades, Texas Preparatory School is offering a range of tutoring opportunities during and after school. Whenever possible, tutors will work side-by-side in classrooms with teachers to assist with small groups and one-to-one instruction. The tutoring activities will meet the requirements of HB 4545 for students who did not pass or did not take the Spring 2022 STAAR/EOC assessment. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more information regarding accelerated instruction.

### ***Assessments***

Texas Preparatory School is one hundred percent committed to ensuring that students return to learning on grade level with the opportunity to complete any learning they may not have finished in the last year and a half. Students will be assessed to show

which standards are still needed in order to be successful this school year and in the future.

These beginning, middle, and end of year assessments will monitor student progress in the content and show exactly where students have excelled and where they need more support. Texas Preparatory School will also be administering 9-week assessments that are aligned to grade-level state standards to ensure that students' learning is exceeding expected growth.

### **Social Emotional Learning & Development**

Texas Preparatory School is committed to ensuring the social and emotional health and wellbeing of all students. Direct instruction and support are provided to students in the area of social emotional learning (SEL) and wellness. Implemented by classroom teachers, Texas Preparatory School uses the following SEL curriculum:

Elementary & Intermediate (K-6 Grade): Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Triple Play: Healthy Habits

Additional therapeutic and support services resources will be made available to families in need by parent request or recommendation from the Special Education Coordinator.

### **Other Services**

#### ***Special Education***

Texas Preparatory School is committed to ensuring a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) for all students identified as needing special education service. To ensure provisions of FAPE students' service plans will align to all regulations and guidance outlined by the State, all students' service plans are individualized and based on each student's unique need as determined by the ARD committee.

#### ***Dyslexia Service***

Texas Preparatory School ensures continuity of service for students receiving dyslexia services.

#### ***504 Services***

Texas Preparatory School will continue to provide service for Section 504 as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Student services for section 504 will align to all regulations and guidance outlined by the State.

#### ***English Language Learner Services***

English Language learners will receive all required services. "Neither state nor federal law provide flexibility to LEAs (school districts) in times of emergency regarding their obligation to provide equitable access to the curriculum for English learners through

bilingual education and English as a Second Language (ESL) services.

The LEA must ensure that to the greatest extent possible, each English learner can be provided language program service commensurate with the student's English language proficiency level." (TEA COVID-19 FAQ: English Learner Guidance, May 26, 2020)

### **Food Service**

Texas Preparatory School students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost during the 2022-2023 school year as part of the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.

All meals will be made available via individual disposable packaging with condiments and plasticware individually packaged to compliment meals.

To ensure sanitary and clean conditions for all students, all eating and serving areas will be sanitized between meals.

### **Technology Accessibility**

Texas Preparatory School plans to support students in need of technology through its Technology Student Accessibility Program. Pending necessity to close a campus or any individual class, current Texas Preparatory School students will be surveyed to identify those most in need of the following technology access:

#### ***- WiFi Accessibility***

- Texas Preparatory School may 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.
- Texas Preparatory School may provide students a District managed wifi enabled cellular hotspot device.

#### ***- 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**

#### ***2022 - 2023 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 seating capacity may be limited based on local confirmed case numbers or recommendation from local health agency.
3. Students will observe assigned seating daily and remain seated throughout the duration of transport.
4. When possible or necessary due to confirmed case numbers, students may be seated according to an every other row or seat arrangement at 1 student per seat\*.
5. Each student will be temperature scanned prior to boarding all school transportation and will be temperature scanned upon entry to school.
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/d 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 allow for the most accessibility, 2022 – 2023 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 100.4 degree body temperature will not be allowed to board transportation.

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