



Maintaining Health and Safety

The following procedures are subject to change should underlying public health conditions worsen, requiring stricter health protocols and social distancing regulations to be mandated by the State of Texas.

The best way to prevent the spread of illness in our schools is to stay home when ill. Students should not attend school if they have a fever of 100.0 F or higher or new onset symptoms of illness. Washing and sanitizing hands often, especially before eating, after using the restroom, after blowing your nose, after coughing or sneezing, and after coming into contact with highly touched objects such as doorknobs, handrails, etc. can help reduce the spread of illness.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

- On May 18, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas — including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials — from requiring or mandating mask wearing. In accordance with the Order, masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors on Lampasas ISD campuses.

B. Physical distancing

- Physical distance is one component of protection. Lampasas ISD will consider the risk, including local COVID-19 community levels and the important role of ventilation in determining the need for physical distancing. Lampasas ISD will continue to abide by guidance provided by the Texas DSHS (Department of State Health Services) and CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Lampasas ISD will continue to allow time in the school day for handwashing and will continue to provide direction on appropriate respiratory etiquette and hand sanitizing. Signage and reminders will be posted in school buildings. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available at all campuses for students, staff, and visitors.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- The Lampasas ISD custodial team will continue to ensure the cleanliness of district facilities by implementing cleaning protocols recommended by the CDC, WHO and OSHA. To the extent possible, extra measures will be taken to clean high touch and high traffic areas. We will be looking into ways to improve the current ventilation and air purification systems in our facilities.



E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

- Contact tracing is not required at this time. Lampasas ISD will continue to follow current guidelines from CDC and the local health department (DSHS Region 7 officials). Every campus has a designated isolation area that the nurse or trained campus staff will be able to safely maintain the health of any student pending parent/guardian pick up.

F. Diagnostic and screening test

- For the 2023-24 school year, COVID-19 tests will be available on campus to students who sign-up for Goodside Health telehealth services. Testing for staff and students who are not signed up is readily available from AdventHealth Family Medicine Clinic, Ascension Seton Lampasas Health Center, Walmart pharmacy, and other local pharmacies.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

- Lampasas ISD encourages faculty, staff, and eligible students to get vaccinated for COVID-19, and will continue to partner with local healthcare providers, government agencies, and pharmacies who provide vaccinations.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

- All children and adolescents with a disability are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Special services are provided based on an individualized education program (IEP) or a 504 Plan. To effectively address the appropriate health and safety guidelines and the needs of the individual child, the special education department will utilize creative solutions, on a case-by-case basis. Safety measures for teachers and staff working with students with disabilities will be considered to ensure optimal safety for all. Accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies will follow the most current recommendations set forth by the local, county, state, and federal organizations, and the student's IEP or 504 team. These teams will determine individual plans to accommodate the needs of students such as social distancing, mask wearing, mask breaks and/or length of the school day.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services:



Lampasas ISD intends to continue to use both local and federal funds to purchase instructional materials to address the academic needs of all students, to close learning gaps, provide teacher training in best practices, provide additional paraprofessional support to assist students, and implement strategies (counselors trained through ESC cooperative) to address social and emotional needs of students. Effective with 2023-24 school year, Lampasas ISD will participate in a new online platform for student mental health. Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) provides telemedicine or telehealth programs to help identify and assess the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents and provide access to mental health services.

Lampasas ISD will also continue to offer training sessions to staff to address their physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Lampasas ISD will continue to offer physical health screenings, referrals, and services for those students enrolled in Goodside Health Telehealth services.

Lampasas ISD intends to continue to use both local and federal funds to provide additional teachers to assist students, provide instructional coaches to build capacity of teachers, provide tutorials and academic interventions for students, and conduct family engagement activities. Lampasas ISD intends to maintain levels of district and campus staff to provide and maintain educational services to students and provide learning recovery. Lampasas ISD intends to purchase additional resources such as instructional materials, software, and equipment to address the unique needs of students.

Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs (Local Education Agencies) seek public comments every six months:

- Lampasas ISD worked closely with the Region 7 epidemiology department, local health authority, TEA (Texas Education Agency), CDC, district nurse, in addition to having parent input into the final development and revision to the Safe Return to School plan. Since July of the previous year, the Safe Return to School plan has been available on the district's website and sent out to the community using several methods. Comments and questions have been revised throughout the year and revisions have been made to the plan based on this input. In addition, Lampasas ISD continues to work with the district's Stakeholder Committee to keep the plan current and updated as well as present the plan for public comment during open forum at school board meetings in June 2021, July 2022, September 2022, January 2023 and August 2023. The plan has also been shared with the two local newspapers as well as the local radio station. Numerous interviews have been conducted with detailed question and answer times provided regarding the implementation of the plan.



The district also collected data from a survey that was available to the public and to the stakeholder committee in June 2021. The plan was reviewed and discussed with the stakeholder committee members consisting of representatives including students, parents, teachers, principals, special education administrator, other administrators, board member, and other school staff. Other representatives attended to represent the interest of children with disabilities, English language learners, migrant, homeless, foster care, incarcerated, and other underserved students. The stakeholder committee met on June 3, 2021, November 30, 2021, June 30, 2022, December 14, 2022 and July 25 2023 to review and make recommendations for changes to this plan. The stakeholder committee was also contacted via e-mail on August 22, 2022, for input on changes made to the Plan due to the updated CDC guidelines. The updated plans have been presented at School Board meetings for public comment on June 7, 2021, July 5, 2022, September 12, 2022, January 9, 2023 and August 7, 2023. The Plan is posted to the school district website each time it is updated, which includes updates in August 2021, January 2022, July 2022, September 2022, January 2023 and August 2023.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent:

- Since July 2021, the Safe Return to School plan has been available on the district's website in English and Spanish. Each campus can provide translation of the plan in Spanish as well or provide alternative format upon request. The plan has been revised after stakeholder meetings based on input and new guidelines.

District Operations:

How long do I isolate due to a positive COVID test result?

CDC Guidelines 08/11/2022 Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19.

Current CDC guidelines are as follows:

- Regardless of vaccination status, stay at home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home or in public. If you had no symptoms, day 0 is the day you were tested. If you had symptoms, day 0 is the day of symptom onset.



- Day 6, perform a self-check. If no symptoms, or symptoms are improving, you can leave isolation. It is recommended that you wear a mask around other people on days 6-10.

*Must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

What are the required actions for reporting if individuals with test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been in a school? Per TEA Public Health guidance dated August 1, 2022:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/sy-22-23-public-health-guidance.pdf>

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-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. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

Will schools notify parents if individuals with test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been in school?

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, legal confidentiality requirements, and as provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, <https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission/> school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who have or are suspected of having COVID-19 and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus. As noted in the rule, exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met.

Will LISD offer a virtual option for my student?

LISD's virtual option will not be available for the 2023-2024 school year.

Will transportation services have availability for all riders?

LISD will return to full occupancy and ridership for all **eligible riders** for the 2023-24 school year.

Will there continue to be contact tracing and quarantine requirements?

At this time, Texas school districts are no longer required to contact trace or require quarantine per the Texas Education Agency.



Campus Operations:

Will face masks be required for the 2023-24 school year?

Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask; therefore, face masks are optional for any student or staff member of LISD.

Will social distancing be required?

Physical distance is one component of protection. Lampasas ISD will consider the risk, including local COVID-19 community levels and the important role of ventilation in determining the need for physical distancing

Will desk shields be required in classrooms?

No, desk shields are no longer required.

Will the water fountains be available?

Yes, water fountains will be made available for students and staff.

Will lunchrooms have any restrictions?

Campus lunchrooms will be operating under normal conditions. Please contact your student's campus for additional information.

Will I be able to have lunch with my student this year?

Yes, parents may join their students for lunch and must contact their student's campus for additional information.

May I volunteer at my student's campus?

Parents are encouraged to volunteer. Please contact your student's campus for additional information.

Will students be able to take field trips this school year?

Yes, we anticipate our campuses will be able to offer field trips for the 2023-24 school year.

If I have further questions, who should I contact?

Please contact your campus principal with further questions.

NOTE: As the health and safety for all students and staff remains a priority, LISD will continue to monitor the local health situation and communicate any updates or modifications as necessary.