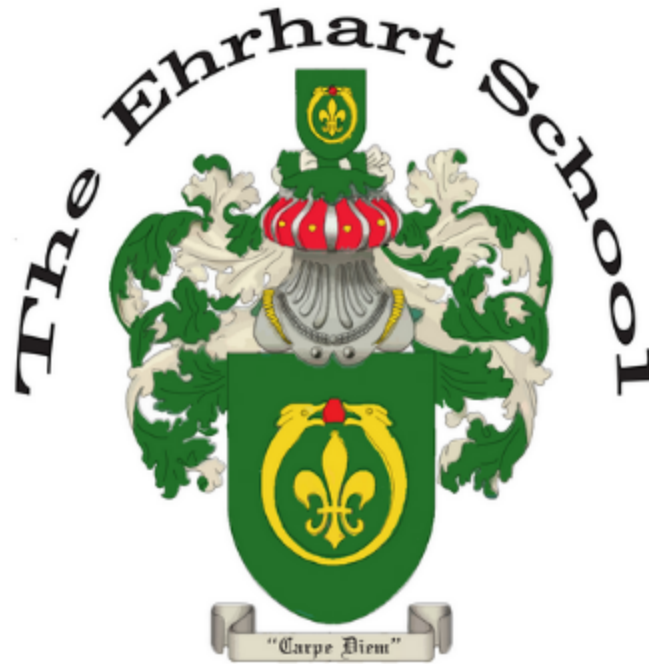


2021-2022 Strong Start Student and Staff Return Plan



In response to COVID-19 Health Crisis

Updated September 30, 2021

*The information in the The Ehrhart School Strong Start and Back to School Return Plan is subject to change with updated TEA Guidance, Guidance from Local Authorities, or Guidance from State Authorities.

*The Ehrhart School Strong Start /Continuity Plan was created with meaningful collaboration with all required stakeholder groups. The district will continue to use meaningful collaboration and engage all required stakeholders as we update this plan with guidance from TEA, The CDC, Local Health Authorities, and State Health Authorities.

Please continue to monitor the district/campus websites, district/campus Facebook pages, email, and answer the school call-outs to stay updated on all information regarding the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

K-12 Guidance from the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

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Introduction

The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by federal, state and local agencies.

Research from the 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.”

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:

There could certainly be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases in school. 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 practice.

NOTICE

This tentative plan is being provided based on the COVID-19 public health crisis, and we understand it may change daily. Changes to this plan may be implemented at any time, and throughout the course of the school year.

Leadership Team

SuperintendentMike Sims
Principal.....Kristin Torrez
Assistant Principal.....Amberly Flores
PEIMS/Child Nutrition Director.....Anita Stevens
Business Director.....Nancy Bloomfield
Programs' Director/Dean of Discipline.....Shawn Muirhead
Technology DirectorJJ Pool
Safety Coordinator.....Eric Flatten
Athletic Director.....Josh Hebert
Instructional Coach.....Kim Walker

Department Heads:

- Carmen Story
- Peggy Starnes
- Craig Bryant
- Kathryn Moore
- Eric Flatten
- Kathleen Haskins

The Ehrhart School
3420 Fannin St.
Beaumont, TX 77701

Phone: 409-839-8200

SECTION 1: SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS

Communication

- The district will use multiple communication methods to make sure that all Ehrhart faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members are informed and updated on the latest information. Please make sure you have an updated email address, phone number, and home address with the school district. Please make sure you are monitoring the following communication methods offered by the district as often as you can.
- The Return to School Plan will be provided for parents, employees, and the general public on the school website. Questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 should be directed to the campus principal, Kristin Torrez.
- Communication with the administration, teachers or staff should be by phone or email. To visit with the administration or teachers in person, you are asked to schedule an appointment. Alternatives to face-to-face conferencing such as phone or video conferring through ZOOM are encouraged.
- To stay updated on the most up-to-date information:

Teachers, students, and parents need to check their email often.

1. Visit our school website at <https://www.ehrhartschool.org/>
2. Follow our official Facebook page.
3. Google Classroom
4. Dojo
5. E-Notes

School Start Times/District Calendar

- School Start Time: 7:30
- School End Time: 3:20
- District Calendar
http://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/1014/2021-22_ehrhart_school_calendar.pdf

MITIGATE: Practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

- Custodial schedules will allow for morning, afternoon cleanings.
- Students will be sent to the nurse immediately if a staff member suspects a COVID symptom.
- Hand Sanitizer will be in each classroom for student use and throughout the hallways.
- Restrooms will have wall-mounted soap dispensers for handwashing.
- Desks will be wiped down between classes.
- Entrance and Exit points will be monitored so large groups will not be trying to enter or exit the same doorways.
- Faculty and staff will self-monitor their symptoms and health status.
- Social distancing in the hallways will be monitored by teachers.

General Disinfection Measure Protocol

General measures will be followed regularly. Ehrhart will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by custodial 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.

Disinfection is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID 19 based on testing. Disinfection should be performed as soon as the confirmation of a positive test, as practical. While the scope of disinfection is presumed to be the full site, sites may reduce the footprint to be disinfected if there is sufficient rationale to do so, and they gain consensus of the superintendent.

Notwithstanding the above, if an active employee is confirmed to have a COVID19 positive test, portions of the school may shut down for a period of 72 hours to allow for natural deactivation of the virus, followed by site personnel performing a comprehensive disinfection of all common surfaces.

Ehrhart uses EPA and CDC approved products for daily disinfecting and cleaning as well as targeted comprehensive disinfection.

Cafeteria Mitigation Practices

- Breakfast for students will be pre-packaged and set up for the students to grab and go.
- A lunch plan has been created to decrease the number of students in each lunch.
- All cafeteria staff will self screen their symptoms and health status
- The cafeteria will be cleaned after breakfast and after each lunch
- All commonly touched surfaces in the cafeteria will be cleaned multiple times a day.

School Supplies

- Each student will need their own supplies and they need to be labeled with your student's name on them.
- Students will not be allowed to share supplies.

Mitigating Practices to Prevent COVID Spread

Teachers and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document 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 have two options to return from quarantine to school or work if they do not have any COVID -19 symptoms.

Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to quarantine. Options they will consider include stopping quarantine.

Option 1 - After day 10 without testing

Option 2 - After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

Quarantine or isolation: You quarantine when you might have been exposed to the virus. You isolate yourself when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms.

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). If you have individuals that live in your household that are showing COVID-19 symptoms and/or are being tested, please keep your student at home. Once the individual in your household receives a negative test result, you may send your student back to on campus learning. 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.

Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up as discussed above, before visitors are allowed on 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. 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 10-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

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: In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

1. At least one day(24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms for at least 24 hours (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
3. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

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

A. obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis

B. Obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either

A. Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis

B. Obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.

Required Actions of Individuals with Test Confirmed Cases on Campus

- 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).
- 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).
- Consistent with CDC guidelines and with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify teachers, staff, and families of all students on a campus that have been determined to have high-risk exposure close contact with the infected student or staff members if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- 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.
- 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.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19. Any student with a fever greater than

100.0 will be sent home and must follow the proper protocol before returning to school. participate in any on-campus activities.

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

As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) 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. 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, 2 until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the DSHS rule for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

<https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission>

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 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with CDC guidelines and with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify teachers, staff, and families of all students on a campus that have been determined to have high risk exposure close contact with the infected student if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

Recommendations for Isolation, Quarantine and Testing

The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should [isolate themselves from others](#), be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to [quarantine](#) or be tested

following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread inside the School

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. 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.
3. School systems are encouraged to teach students good handwashing techniques.
4. 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.

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. 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. 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. The CDC has provided guidance on cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 spread. 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.

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. 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.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- participate in any on-campus activities.

Close Contact 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);

B. being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day ; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

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

Students who are Close Contacts

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. Given the data from 2020-21 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults, school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system should notify the student's parents.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine. However, the following people with recent exposure may not need to quarantine:

1. People who have been fully vaccinated
2. People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months

Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period.

School systems may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during the below stay-at-home period if they are in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.

Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

Staff who have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts

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.

Staff may return when the re-entry conditions have been met, as described in the DSHS rule used for students.

For staff who are not fully vaccinated who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, it is recommended that the school system require that staff remain off campus during the stay-at-home period, but this is a local employment policy decision.

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, if these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 10 days postexposure.

Sports Guidance

- All Sports will follow the protocols of the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont.

SECTION 2: Academics and Attendance

Grading Policy

- All Ehrhart students will be held to the standards of The Ehrhart School grading policy.
- Students not making progress, not completing assignments, failing for the semester, or failing for the year will be eligible for summer school.
- For promotion to the next grade level, students must complete the requirements outlined in the district grading policy.
- Students at risk of being retained will have an opportunity to sit before the Grade Placement Committee.

Ehrhart Connectivity Plan

- All KISD students will have a chromebook to use on campus.
- Chromebooks will not be sent home with students.
- Wifi is provided after hours in our school parking lot.

Ehrhart Remote Online Instruction Plan

- Currently, The Ehrhart School is not offering an online instruction option for the 2021-2022 school year

Attendance

- All students must follow district and state attendance guidelines.
- The minimum attendance for class credit rule of TEC, §25.092, will be in effect for the 2021–2022 school year. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted.
- Students that are sent home by the nurse due to an illness will have an excused absence for that day. Students will need a doctor's note or parent note to excuse them past the day they were sent home by the nurse.

- Students that are absent due to a positive COVID-19 Test, Showing COVID-19 Symptoms, or Quarantining from a high-risk exposure to COVID-19 will need a doctor's note or parent note when they return to school to receive excused absences for the time missed.

SECTION 3: Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Mental and Behavioral Health:

- The mental and behavioral health of our students is a priority. Systems are in place to offer students support at multiple levels. If outside intervention is deemed beneficial for a student, a direct referral can be made with UTMB Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine(TCHATT).
- We have two certified school counselors on campus. School counselors will provide small group and individual counseling throughout the school year as necessary.

Trauma-Informed Approach

- The Ehrhart School is committed to creating an environment where every student feels safe and supported. Through a trauma-informed approach to teaching and learning, we will address the complex needs of students; especially those affected by trauma.

The Ehrhart School Transportation Mitigation

- Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entrance of the bus.
- Each route bus will be equipped with a digital thermometer.
- A student with a temperature of 100.0 or greater will be considered to have a fever.
- Windows will be cracked when appropriate on the bus to allow for airflow.
- At the end of each transport the bus will be cleaned.
- Buses will be sprayed with our fogger machines after the use of transportation.
- Students will not be allowed to sit more than 2 students per seat.

