



## CCISD COVID-19 PROTOCOLS 2021-2022

Copperas Cove ISD has received COVID-19 guidance from the Governor of the State of Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The guidance differs among the various resources and leaves few choices for local school districts.

Copperas Cove ISD also sought stakeholder input through several district staff meetings, one stakeholder meeting, one board meeting and an opportunity for comments at a public hearing during May and June of 2021. CCISD also has a link posted on [www.ccisd.com](http://www.ccisd.com) where stakeholders can review and send comments concerning the plan. Stakeholders included employees, special program directors, school principals, school administrators, teachers, school staff, students, parents, employees with mental health backgrounds, and school board members. After stakeholder input, adjustments were made to this plan.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order Number GA-38 on July 29, 2021 prohibiting public entities who receive taxpayer funding from requiring COVID-19 vaccines or the wearing of face coverings. However, based on guidance from DSHS and the CDC, CCISD encourages individuals, especially those who are unvaccinated, to wear face coverings while on campus. CCISD encourages students and staff to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.

### **For All Individuals Vaccinated or Unvaccinated:**

The DSHS has issued the following rules regarding COVID-19 in schools:

- 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 lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the criteria for re-entry are met.
- CCISD Staff must ensure they do not come to campus if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are awaiting test results or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the criteria for re-entry have been met.



**Return to Campus Criteria:** The DSHS has issued the following School Readmission Criteria:

- For students or staff who are symptomatic or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19:
  - At least ten days have passed since symptom onset or positive test results; and
  - At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (ie. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication); and
  - The individual has improvement in symptoms (ie. Cough, shortness of breath).
- For students or staff who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19 but are asymptomatic (no symptoms), the individual must be excluded from school for 10 days.

Individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 but who are **not** evaluated by a medical professional or lab-tested for COVID-19 must stay home until the return to campus criteria are met.

Individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 may return to campus prior to meeting the above criteria if:

- the individual obtains a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis

**Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms on Campus:**

- Students who exhibit any of the symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent to the nurse’s office for assessment. If the nurse determines the symptoms warrant removal from campus, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up their student and they must meet the return to campus criteria listed above.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to pick their student up from school within one hour of notification. The student will remain isolated until they are transported home.
- Staff members will be notified to leave the campus until they meet the return to campus criteria listed above.

**Screening – Staff and Students**

Before entering any CCISD facility, all students and staff should self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms. If the student is not old enough to self-screen on their own, an adult guardian should perform the screening for them. Remember, if a child is not feeling well, parents should keep them home.



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### Self-Screening Symptoms List

- Fever equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Chills or exaggerated shivering
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset of headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Close Contact and Contact Tracing

According to the Public Health Guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency on August 5, 2021, CCISD will report staff and students who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to the 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). In addition, CCISD must report any person who has been in a school and is lab-confirmed for COVID-19 to the Texas Department of State Health Services. According to the Public Health Guidance updated by TEA on August 19, 2021, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts. CCISD will notify parents using the parent/guardian email address in our student management system, Skyward. Parents are asked to update the email address if they change email accounts.

### Quarantine for Close Contacts:

CCISD can no longer require quarantine for staff or students exposed to an individual who is positive for COVID-19. Close contact determinations are based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. According to the Public Health Guidance issued by TEA on August 5, 2021, 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. While the district strongly encourages quarantine for those who are unvaccinated, we cannot require it at this time. Students who quarantine for exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual



will have their absences excused. Students who self-quarantine and participate in remote conferencing each day will be counted as present for each day of their absence. (See Remote Conferencing)

**Self-Quarantine Guidelines for exposure to an individual lab-confirmed positive for COVID-19 based on the Public Health Guidance from TEA:**

For those fully vaccinated:

- Per the CDC, individuals who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, the CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms. The CDC also encourages the exposed individual to wear a mask for 14 days following exposure or until they receive a negative test result.

For those not fully vaccinated (based on CDC guidance):

- A full ten (10) days have passed from last date of exposure without testing
- A full seven (7) days after exposure and have received a negative test result from a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) acute infection lab test (test must occur on day 5 or later).

**Employees:**

- Staff must notify their campus nurse or supervisor (if no nurse is present) and the Director of Human Resources and Payroll, Katherine Lewis at [lewisk@ccisd.com](mailto:lewisk@ccisd.com) if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Staff members who are lab-confirmed positive for COVID-19 or awaiting test results for COVID-19 must remain off campus until they meet the return to campus criteria.

**Students:**

- Parents should notify their campus nurse if their student has COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms.

**Remote Conferencing:**

Based on the Remote Conferencing FAQ updated by TEA on August 19, 2021, Remote Conferencing is now allowable for school districts. Remote conferencing is defined as remote instruction in which a student at an off-campus location is able to virtually participate in classes provided by a teacher on the



student's campus. The district may count instruction provided through remote conferencing as classroom time and count the student in attendance, provided the criteria below are met:

- The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition
- The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year, except in limited circumstances. To exceed the 20 instructional day maximum, the district must apply for a waiver requesting an extension of remote conferencing that must include an explanation of the circumstances.

In addition to the two requirements above, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
- The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition as listed in Texas Administrative Code 25 §97.7, which includes COVID-19.
- The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19. Parents must provide a statement or documentation that a student has been in close contact with someone who has an eligible communicable disease, including COVID-19.

Students in grades pre-K to five must receive the equivalent of four hours of instruction with at least two hours of synchronous instruction each school day. Students in grades six to twelve must receive at least four hours of instruction through synchronous instruction each school day. This instruction does not need to be consecutive.

CCISD will begin offering Remote Conferencing to those students who qualify the week of September 7. In order for parents to request Remote Conferencing for their student, they must complete the Remote Conferencing request form and submit it to the campus principal. When submitting the request, a doctor's note confirming a positive COVID-19 test result must be included.

#### **On-Campus COVID-19 Testing:**

CCISD will be offering the BinaxNOW COVID-19 rapid test through the nurse's office on each campus for symptomatic students and staff. The BinaxNOW test is administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. According to the Texas Division of Emergency Management Services and the TEA, the BinaxNOW has a sensitivity rating (true positive rate) of 97.1% and a specificity rating (true negative



rate) of 98.5%. However, this test is only an indicator of the presence of the COVID-19 virus. A formal medical evaluation and certified laboratory verification is necessary to indicate a confirmed infection.

**Student Testing:** Permission slips are required for all individuals under 18 years old. Students 18 years and above do not require parental permission to be tested, but the test administrator will ask the student for consent before administering the test. Permission slips have been posted in Skyward Family Access. Once a parent or guardian completes the permission slip, their student will be eligible for a COVID-19 test. If a student under the age of 18 arrives in the nurse's office presenting symptoms of COVID-19, the test administrator will check to see if a permission slip is on file. If so, the test administrator will contact the parent and inform them that their student is presenting symptoms and that they will be administering the BinaxNOW test. Test results are available 15 minutes after the test is administered. The test administrator will contact the parent and inform them of the test results. If the student is positive, the parent will be asked to pick their student up from school within one hour. The results will also be shared with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law. For more information, see the information under the COVID-19 Testing section of this website

**Staff Testing:** Any staff member exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms may request to have the BinaxNOW test performed on them. Results will be shared with the staff member and with the local health department and Texas Department of State Health Services. If the staff member is positive, they will be asked to immediately leave the campus and meet the Return to Campus Criteria before returning to campus.

For staff members 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 at the start of the day, at least once every other day until the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> day. This testing will be done in the nurses office on each individual campus.

**Visitors:**

Because of the recent surge in COVID-19 positive cases, Coryell County has been designated as a COVID hot spot. As a result, CCISD will continue to restrict visitors to campus to those essential to school operations.

- Parents/Guardians are asked to schedule appointments for campus visits. Parents are encouraged to use either the telephone or email when feasible for communication.
- Parents/Guardians should remain in their vehicle during student drop-off and student pick-up.
- Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to deliver food to their student for lunch without administrator approval.



- Parents will not be permitted to eat with their student, go to the cafeteria or escort their student to class.

The district will reevaluate these procedures at the end of the second six-weeks and will base any changes on the data available at that time. At the conclusion of the first six-weeks, case counts were still high enough to warrant a restriction on visitors.

**CCISD Mitigation Strategies:**

CCISD Custodial Services will continue with rigorous cleaning and disinfection of all high traffic and high touch areas. Every classroom will be sprayed with an approved viral disinfectant daily.

CCISD Transportation Services will continue to spray each bus daily with an approved viral disinfectant. Students will have assigned seating and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver. Face coverings are optional for drivers and riders but are strongly encouraged for unvaccinated individuals.

CCISD Child Nutrition Services will continue to implement disinfection practices in all areas of the kitchen and serving area. For the 2021-2022 school year, all students will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch per USDA waiver #85. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, except at Mae Stevens Early Learning Academy where ongoing construction will require them to eat in the classroom.

Every campus has an ample supply of hand sanitizer. Every classroom has been provided with hand sanitizer and all common areas of the school will have hand sanitizer available. Staff and students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer and to wash their hands frequently.

**Extended District, Campus or Program Closures:**

In the event the District, campuses or programs are ordered closed during the 2021-2022 school year, CCISD will publish through all available communication channels more information regarding specific updates pertinent to the closure period.