



Bland Independent School District

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR GUIDELINES

COVID RESPONSE & PROTOCOLS

COVID protocols and requirements for the 2021-2022 school year will be based on both Texas requirements and recommendations from public health experts. Bland ISD is planning for as normal of school year for our students as possible.

Student instruction will be in-person **only**. Face masks will **not** be required. A number of health and safety protocols will be in place to help prevent transmission of COVID. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide quality education to the students in the Bland ISD.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Parents, students, and staff members should self-monitor for symptoms and NOT attend school activities if experiencing COVID symptoms. We ask that parents and staff members continue to contact the school if they are experiencing COVID symptoms that have not been diagnosed by a healthcare provider as unrelated to COVID.

Students and staff will be excluded from activities and must quarantine if they:

- Test positive for COVID
- Are experiencing COVID like symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis)
- Have a household member who test positive for COVID

COVID-19 Symptoms

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

- 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

Screening Staff & Students

- Staff will self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to each school day.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their children for COVID symptoms each day prior to sending them to school. It is imperative that parents/guardians follow this protocol to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students and staff members who display symptoms will be requested to be tested for COVID. An alternative diagnosis or negative test will allow students or staff members to return to school.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID, such individual is assumed to have COVID, and the individual may return to the campus after 10 days of self-quarantine as long as the individual is symptom free.

Lab-Confirmed Positive Test of COVID

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID will not be allowed on campus for 10 days of onset of symptoms.

- Students will participate in remote online learning during quarantine.
- Following 10 days of self-quarantine, they may return to campus if they have recovered and exhibit no symptoms.

Parents of students potentially exposed to a positive case at Bland ISD will be notified directly. These students will NOT BE EXCLUDED from activities unless they are experiencing symptoms OR a parent chooses for their student to be excluded or quarantined.

- Students and staff potentially exposed to a confirmed COVID positive case will be notified.
- Parents of students potentially exposed to a confirmed COVID positive case will have the option to quarantine their student.

DISINFECTING & SANITIZING

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will support the health and wellness of students and staff.

- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Hand washing will be supervised for elementary students.
- Staff will have access to disinfectants to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Campus Cleaning & Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom will be disinfected daily.
- All restrooms will be disinfected throughout the day.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Campuses will continue 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.

In addition to daily cleaning, Bland ISD is contracted with GermBlast to provide deep cleaning. GermBlast is an on-site disinfection service that kills 99.999% of microorganisms in the environment that cause illness and infection.

TRANSPORTATION

Student drop off and pick up will be at the back of Bland Elementary/Middle School. The buses will drop off and pick up at the front of the building.

- Buildings will be open at 7:15 a.m. for students who arrive early.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk their student into the building during the daily arrival schedule.
- Staff will guide elementary and middle school students to their first period class. High school students will report to the cafeteria or commons area prior to first period.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip focusing on high-touch surfaces.

VISTORS ON CAMPUS

- Parents and visitors will be allowed on campus for school scheduled meetings and events.
- Parents and visitors should self-screen before entering the campus.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk their student into the building during the daily arrival schedule.
- Parent groups such as PTO, booster clubs, and youth sports associations, will be allowed to utilize district facilities for meetings or other activities during non-school hours with District approval.

FOOD SERVICE & WATER

- Breakfast and lunch will be offered every school day to all students at no cost.
- Parents or visitors will not be allowed during meal times.
- Students are encouraged to bring water bottles. Refilling stations are available.