

Chillicothe ISD Continuity of Services Plan

07/20/2021

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Chillicothe ISD's Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in Hardeman County.

Chillicothe ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Texas Education Agency, as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

The drivers leading the Chillicothe ISD Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan are current Texas Governor orders and funding provided by the Texas Legislature for remote learning.

Chillicothe ISD will abide by all current Texas Governor Orders. It is CISD's expectation that students, staff, and community will comply with all public health procedures described in this document while engaged in school district activities as per Chillicothe ISD's current policies, rules, and regulations.

**Texas is currently under Executive Order GA-36 issued on 5/18/21 which prohibits governmental entities and officials from mandating face coverings.

As of the end of the last Texas Legislative Session on May 31, 2021, the Texas Legislature had not approved funding for remote learning of any kind. As a result, remote learning will not be offered in Chillicothe ISD during the 21-22 school year.

Face coverings are, currently, preferred but optional. Anyone is free to wear face coverings at anytime.

Physical distancing of at least 6 feet will be encouraged at all times. Please note, 6 feet of distancing is not possible in some settings.

Water fountains will be monitored by staff and available for filling of water containers. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle each day.

Students may not share food or drinks.

Staff will work to maintain physical distancing in restrooms where possible.

Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE), if possible. PPE will be provided by CISD as needed.

Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces.

Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands.

Students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. Elementary students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess. All secondary students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.

If in a situation without a face covering, students, staff, and visitors should 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.

Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Campuses may open multiple entrance/exit points during arrival/dismissal to promote social distancing.

Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day as well as other times of the day.

Campuses will review options to limit locker use.

Campuses will be routinely disinfected with special attention to high-touch surfaces.

Classroom doors may be propped open to reduce high-touch areas.

Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, etc.), including how to sanitize between use. Hand sanitizer will be available in all common areas.

Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc...

Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students.

The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited.

Staff will have access to cleaning supplies to sanitize high-touch areas, working surfaces, and shared objects regularly.

Students will share in the responsibility of cleaning their spaces.

Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.

Recess and the playground areas will be used utilizing safety/health protocols.

Students may not share food or drink.

Meals will be in disposable packaging and condiments and pre-wrapped silverware will be included with all meals.

“Grab and go” meals for breakfast may be utilized to lower numbers in the cafeterias.

All areas will be sanitized between lunches.

CISD will continue to provide bus transportation, but parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily, if possible, as it is the safest means of transportation due to COVID-19.

Family members will be encouraged to sit together so as to conserve spacing.

All buses will have hand sanitizer for use when loading/unloading.

All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily between trips.

Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation when at all possible.

Face coverings are encouraged but not mandated on buses.

Visitors, including parents, will be restricted for essential school operations. Non-emergency drop-offs...i.e. snacks, lunch, instruments, Sonic, etc. are highly discouraged.

Parents will not walk their student to class.

All visitors who enter the building and school activities/events are encouraged but not mandated to wear a face covering.

Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible.

Physical distancing measures will be used for all meetings that are not able to be virtual.

Any visitor who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or has come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed unless they qualify for one of the options listed below in Return to School Criteria.

If COVID-19 symptoms are present: staff member will be sent home, and student will be isolated from other students until they can be picked up.

Consistent with campus notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities. If you were determined to have had close contact you will be individually contacted.

Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have 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 degrees Fahrenheit

Loss of taste or smell

Difficulty breathing

Shortness of breath

Fatigue

Headache

Chills

Congestion or runny nose

Shaking or exaggerated shivering

New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);

Sore throat

Significant muscle pain or ache

Diarrhea

Nausea or vomiting

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.

Return to School Criteria

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

o 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 one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);

ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms; and

iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

o 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.

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

District communication will be provided to the staff and students who come in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 *See Notification Procedures

CISD will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive.