



Cooper ISD



2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan {RIPICS}

- All grades PK - 12
- Learning occurs on campus with face to face instruction
- District continues enhanced health safety measures to ensure a safe, healthy and secure environment.
- District follows all Texas Education Agency requirements for schools.
- Parents are asked to ensure only healthy students are sent to school.

Updated 09/14/2021

Instructional Settings and Continuity of Services

Cooper I.S.D. values personal instruction with our teachers as the most effective learning environment for our students. **On campus learning will be required for all students. Except in limited circumstances, Remote learning will not be an option for the 2021-2022 school year.** This plan details both safety and instructional protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to have all students joining us back on campus to maximize their learning opportunities face to face with our teachers and staff!

Top priorities of Cooper ISD are the safety and academic success of all students.

Safe Return Goals for 2021-2022 include:

- Follow Texas Education Agency guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.
- Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated growth opportunities to close gaps from unfinished learning.
- Evaluate and provide intervention for the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

Assessing and Addressing the Impact of Unfinished Learning

- Use of screeners and/or benchmarks assessments to help identify student strengths, learning gaps and disabilities.
- Provide learning interventions that lead toward student progress and growth
- Incorporate differentiated learning strategies that continuously adapt for student growth.
- More instructional time to address the impact of learning lost such as:
 - During the day tutorials and small group intervention to recapture learning
 - After school tutorials providing intervention in below grade level essential skills
 - Summer school
 - Credit recovery

Mental Health and Behavioral Supports

Cooper ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships that benefit the mental, social and emotional needs of the student.

- Offering behavioral and mental health counseling services
- Offering social worker to provide outreach/services to students and families
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Continue with community partnerships and SEL curriculum to benefit the whole child
- Ensure the continuity of food service programs

Health Protocols for Staff, Students, and Visitors

The following Cooper ISD health protocols have been developed by our school nurses with an in depth review of state health department resources, CDC, and TEA requirements.

In accordance with Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-34, face coverings are not required for any student or staff member; however, masks may be worn by those who feel more comfortable doing so. Should the executive orders change, the district will review and adjust protocols.

Teacher

- All staff will continue to be trained on COVID screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.
- All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the nurse.

Student

- Students will be instructed on appropriate hygiene practices for coughs and sneezes and other mitigation practices, including hand washing, will be completed.
- If a student is experiencing symptoms they need to immediately notify a teacher.

Parents

- Parents are asked to read all campus and District communication about health and safety protocols and to reinforce with their children.
- Parents are asked not to send their student(s) to campus if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are running a fever.
- **Parents are asked to notify the nursing team to report positive cases, symptoms and/or self-quarantine.**

On Campus Parents and Visitors

- Visitors, to the extent possible and with safety precautions in place, will be permitted in schools.
- Visitors will be asked to check in at the main office. Each campus will keep a log of visitors and where they visited, for potential contact tracing purposes.
- As per state guidelines for schools, before visitors are allowed on campuses, screening will be conducted to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms, are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

Campus Environment

The focus of each campus will be to protect the integrity of classroom spaces and interactions, while maintaining as much distance as possible among different classroom groups. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom, with staff and students encouraged to utilize upon entry and exit.

- Proper handwashing techniques and hygiene procedures will be explicitly taught and regularly utilized.
- Individual student instructional supplies will be utilized, to the extent possible.
- When available, technology will be issued to individual students; any shared technology will be cleaned between users.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Field trips, to the extent practical, will resume in 2021-2022.

Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Classrooms:

Daily cleaning will be performed by the custodial staff which includes disinfecting and sanitizing work surfaces and shared objects (door handles, etc).

Teachers and staff will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies to clean high-touch areas.

Disinfectants and sanitizers will be provided in each classroom.

Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in each classroom for use when entering and exiting the classroom.

Cafeteria:

All food safety guidelines will be strictly followed by cafeteria staff

The cafeteria tables will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between scheduled meal times.

Common areas:

Each common area will additionally be cleaned and sanitized daily by custodial staff.

Restrooms:

All common restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

Handwashing will be required by all students and staff following use of the restroom.

Work areas and Offices:

The custodial staff will clean and sanitize daily, and disinfectant and sanitizers will be accessible for staff use when additional cleaning is needed.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19:

Isolation Protocols:

For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or who are feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus has contacted the parent/guardian.

In the case that any lab-confirmed individual (student, teacher, staff, or visitor) has been on campus, the school will immediately clean and disinfect the areas heavily used by the individual.

Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID, or show symptoms common to COVID (as evaluated by medical staff), they will be asked to isolate for 10 days. The staff or students that are asked to isolate with COVID symptoms only (no positive test) may return after day 5 of isolation if they receive a negative COVID test. If a staff member or student receives a positive COVID test, a second test is not needed to return. If an individual decides to get retested while in isolation for a positive COVID test, a negative test result will not shorten their isolation period.

Close Contact Tracing and Isolation Options

Lab confirmed positive close contact notification will be sent via email to parents of students exposed to confirmed positive. "Close contact" quarantines for healthy/non-symptomatic students is not a requirement.

Should a parent choose to isolate their child for ten days after close contact exposure their student will receive an excused absence. *Students are still responsible for making up missed work from an excused absence.* TEA requires students to attend a minimum of 90% of school days to earn promotion and credits.

In order to ensure these isolation days count for credit purposes and students are marked present instead of an excused absence, Remote Conferencing is an option available to your student.

Remote Conference Option

Remote Conferencing is a short term health and safety response to isolation. Remote conferencing is allowable for up to a maximum of 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year. This limited 20 day synchronous option is for students who are in isolation due to exposure, testing positive for COVID or students experiencing COVID like symptoms.

- 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. This instruction does not need to be consecutive.

- 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.

Attendance will be generated based on whether the student is virtually “present” at the official attendance-taking time. Instruction must be provided synchronously, which means two-way, real-time/live virtual instruction between teachers and students.

If the school recognizes a rise in non-school based exposures, we may require close contact students to isolate during the 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 staff (Fully Vaccinated & Unvaccinated) 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 post-exposure.

Notification Protocols:

In the case that any lab-confirmed individual (student, teacher, staff, or visitor) has been on campus, the school will notify 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). Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the schools will 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. This notification will be sent by email directly to the parent of the student exposed to the COVID positive individual.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities

Cooper ISD will continue to provide information to the community about COVID Immunization opportunities as a courtesy for those who wish to access the vaccine. However, COVID immunization will not be required for staff or students.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities(health and safety)

The recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education services locations when possible and appropriate. Individual student needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Coordination with State and local health officials

Cooper ISD will continue to address school recommendations from the Texas Department of Health Services, Hopkins County Health Department, and the Texas Education Agency and the State of Texas.

Questions:

Parents may direct all health related questions, pertaining to symptoms, screening, and/or isolation protocols to either of our school nurses:

Mrs. Addie Elliott at 903.300.3916 or addie.elliott@cooperbulldogs.net

Ms. Jinger Williams at 903.300.3865 or jinger.williams@cooperbulldogs.net

For non-medical, campus planning questions, contact:

Elementary - Mrs. Jean Howard at 903.300.3850 or jean.howard@cooperbulldogs.net

Jr./Sr. High -Mrs. Tammy Colclasure at 903.300.3910 or tammy.colclasure@cooperbulldogs.net

Plan Review and Updates

Public Comment of RIPICS Plan will occur periodically. No less frequently than every six months prevention and mitigation strategies identified by the CDC will be reviewed. Comments will be taken into account in determining whether to revise its plan and if it determines revisions are necessary the plan will be revised to address key strategies for prevention and mitigation identified by the CDC guidelines and/or regulations by Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.