

Brazos I.S.D.

"Excellence in Education Since 1974"

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BRAZOS ISD Return to School Plan

2021-2022 **REVISED**

Reviewed 1/6/2023 – no changes

January 21, 2022:

Dear Brazos ISD staff, students, parents and community:

After review of current CDC guidance and with the input from the Brazos ISD Board of Trustees, district leadership team, and guidance from local, state, and national health authorities; the enclosed procedures and protocols have been developed and recently revised. These procedures and protocols are subject to change based on direction from local, state, and national authorities.

The significant revision to this plan is that staff and students who are confirmed COVID-19 positive, shall not return to the district until 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,

1. **AND** symptoms have improved (cough, shortness of breath, etc.),
2. **AND** at least 24 hours fever free (under 100⁰ Fahrenheit) without fever-reducing medications.

Students who are currently COVID-19 positive may return once the revised protocols are met.

Brazos ISD is focused on offering a quality education for each student within our district, and will remain diligent in our efforts to support a safe community.

Thank you,

Scott Rogers

Superintendent

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

To report a positive COVID-19 case or questions about symptoms, please contact:

- Amy Sodolak, BISD District Nurse, at asodolak@brazosisd.net, 979-478-6032 or
- Linda Toman, Clinical Assistant, at ltoman@brazosisd.net, 979-478-6045.

SCREENING

Parents/Guardians are expected to screen their students each day for symptoms of communicable conditions, including COVID-19, and notify the school nurse if symptoms exist. Please do not send your student to school with symptoms of a communicable condition.

Employees are expected to self-screen each day for symptoms of communicable conditions, including COVID-19, and contact their supervisor prior to coming to work if symptomatic.

COVID-19 symptoms to screen for include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Symptoms of communicable conditions can be found here:

https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/health/schools_childcare/School-Health.aspx

SYMPTOMS OF A COMMUNICABLE CONDITION WHILE ON CAMPUS

When the district nurse determines that a student or staff member on campus displays symptoms of a communicable condition according to 25 Texas Administrative Code §97.7, she will contact the campus principal and make arrangement for the student or staff member to be sent home. Parents/guardians will be notified and must make arrangements to pick up your student. After being sent home, students/staff should contact the district nurse with updated health information as it becomes available, preferably a diagnosis from a professional health care provider, before returning to school. Otherwise, test confirmed COVID-19 students/staff must follow the **COVID-19 revised Return to School Plan** which in summary states:

1. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,

2. **AND** symptoms have improved (cough, shortness of breath, etc.),
3. **AND** at least 24 hours fever free (under 100⁰ Fahrenheit) without fever-reducing medications.

COVID-19 TESTING WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

Students or staff who choose to be tested and are waiting on test results but are NOT exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, should attend work and school until results are returned. If a positive result is returned, then follow the revised protocol.

STUDENT ABSENCES

The student handbook explains that a doctor’s note is required for an absence due to illness after three consecutive days. For student absences due to illness lasting more than three days, please contact your student’s counselor to assist with organizing work to be completed.

STAFF ABSENCES

Staff who expect to be absent for more than five days should call Kim Clark for information about applicable leave benefits.

COMMUNICATION/PARENT NOTIFICATION

The COVID-19 Public School Case Report is submitted weekly by the superintendent or his designee to Texas Health and Human Services. Data from these submissions will be made available on the Brazos ISD COVID-19 information page. It will include the date of the positive COVID-19 notification, whether student or staff, campus location, and student grade level.

FACE COVERINGS

Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order May 18, 2021, which prohibits governmental entities in Texas – including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials – from requiring or mandating mask wearing. After June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on a campus. Therefore, mask usage is not required at BISD schools or facilities effective June 5, 2021. However, masks are permitted if an individual chooses to wear one.

DAILY CLEANING PRACTICES/HVAC

- Classrooms and restrooms will be disinfected daily.
- High-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Disinfectant wipes will be provided in each classroom.
- All campuses will have a minimum of one electrostatic applicator to provide rapid disinfection.
- BISD will purge the school’s HVAC systems two hours before school begins daily and also clear out stagnant air for two hours after school.

- Each HVAC system will run at the maximum outside air setting and maximum allowable air exchanges all day without compromising comfort levels.
- Each HVAC filter is the highest rated filter allowed by the system.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer them to the nurse if they exhibit symptoms of a contagious disease.

Classrooms will have:

- Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations
- Access to disinfectants to sanitize working surfaces
- Masks available in each room

Teachers will:

- Encourage proper hand hygiene before entering the classrooms and after group activities
- Keep classroom doors open, when possible, to improve circulation and reduce the touching of door handles
- Have access to disinfectant to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces shared regularly

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed in each cafeteria.
- Tables and seats will be wiped down after each lunch period with disinfectant.
- No visitors allowed in the cafeteria except on designated days and/or school approved events.

EXTRACURRICULAR/FINE ARTS/ATHLETICS

- All extracurricular, fine arts and athletic events will follow participation guidelines set forth by the UIL (University Interscholastic League).
- FFA will follow guidelines provided by the district.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in gym facilities and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Bus travel will follow guidelines provided by Brazos ISD.

TRANSPORTATION

- Parents will screen children daily before allowing them to board the bus.
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided on school buses at student/parent request.
- All transportation vehicles used to transport students will be regularly sanitized after each AM and PM route or activity daily.

WATER

As a safety precaution, all built in water fountains within and around the building will be turned off. Students are asked to bring their own shatterproof, labeled, water bottle to carry with them during the school day. The water containers will be filled by the staff at

appropriate times throughout the day.

VISITORS

- The number of visitors may be limited, and visitors may only be permitted in designated areas of the campus.
- Before visitors are allowed on campuses, visitors will self-screen for symptoms of contagious illness including COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a visitor has COVID-19, or if they are showing any symptoms of a contagious illness, they must remain off campus until they meet the recommended quarantine guidelines set forth by the CDC.

BRAZOS ISD INSTRUCTION

Instruction for all campuses in BISD will be face-to-face, in person instruction with safety protocols and procedures as outlined in this document. Remote instruction is no longer available. Students affected by COVID-19 and associated protocols will be advised on a case-by-case basis and provided assignments during their absence.