



# SIDNEY ISD's

## RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES (RIPICS) PLAN (updated 7-14-21)

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In this plan, you will find the most up to date information at this time for SISD. The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or healthy officials or as environmental conditions change. Please visit [www.sidney.esc14.net](http://www.sidney.esc14.net) for any future revisions or updates. As always, the safety and security of SISD students, families, teachers, and staff is our top priority. We cannot wait to see our students and look forward to a successful school year.

James Rucker  
Sidney ISD Superintendent

Deanna Drummond  
Sidney ISD Principal

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# **Continuity of Educational Services/Instructional Information**

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## **Face-to-Face Instruction and Remote/Virtual Learning –**

SISD will no longer offer parents the option for either face-to-face or remote/virtual learning. All students will be required to attend school Face-to-Face and attend school according to compulsory attendance laws. All COVID protocol will still be followed if a student is tested positive or is a close contact to another positive COVID case.

- Face-to-Face Instruction – Students attend school daily and follow safety, sanitation, and social distancing expectations.
- Remote/Virtual Learning (only will be used if designated by school administration) – Students participate in classroom instruction via remote/virtual learning and are expected to complete and submit assignments as communicated by the remote/virtual learning teacher(s).

### **Daily attendance**

District funding and resources are linked to attendance. Attendance will be taken each day for both face-to-face and remote/virtual learning to ensure that students are actively engaged. In addition, per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.

### **Transportation**

- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day **prior** to sending their student to board the bus or drop off in the morning.
- A student should not board the bus or attend school if they have a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and guidelines must be followed before he/she is allowed to return to school.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on the high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

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## **In accordance with TEA's Public Health Planning Guidance**

### **Prevention:**

- All teachers and staff must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined below, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 7-10-day incubation period has passed.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has symptoms as listed below, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the below conditions for re-entry are met. \*Virtual instruction is an option if a child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 7-10 day incubation period has passed.

### **Response:**

Practices to respond to individuals confirmed or suspected with COVID-19-----

Any individuals who themselves either:

- are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
- experience the symptoms of COVID-19, see below, must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the individual meets the three-step set of criteria for re-entry:
  1. At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
  2. 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication and
  3. Other symptoms of COVID-19 improve

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.

### **Mitigation Practices**

- Provide each classroom with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.
- Hand sanitizing stations located at every entrance, hallway locations, cafeteria, fieldhouse and gymnasium
- All employees will be trained to specifically follow health safety protocols
- Provide all teachers with no-touch thermometers if needed
- Modify daily cleaning schedules to ensure each space is sanitized and disinfected

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- multiple times a day; and deep cleaning of campuses once a week
  - Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
  - Classroom furniture will be rearranged to ensure maximum physical distancing and improve traffic flow.
  - Work areas will be sanitized after each class. Students will be taught and encouraged to clean their own work areas, as feasible, custodians will workstations on a scheduled basis.
  - Students are to bring their own refillable water bottles, clear bottles only, as water fountains will not be accessible.
  - Staff will monitor the classrooms, hallways, playground, and cafeteria to promote social distancing practices.
  - As of June 5, 2021, since Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-36 relating to the prohibition of governmental entities and officials from mandatory face covering or restricting activities in response to the COVID-19 disaster, no one is required to wear a mask (masks are optional), but all staff and students are still encouraged to wear masks when in the building, classroom, and/or office with others and when not able to social distance.
  - Athletics and extracurricular activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.
  - Staggered lunch schedule will be implemented for elementary, junior high, and high school students to limit cafeteria capacity.
  - SISD will offer all students and staff social, emotional, and mental health support as needed through our education service center.

### **Campus Re-entry Criteria**

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:

- at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

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## **Notice:**

SISD's Communication Plan for Parents and the Public

- Sidney ISD website (<http://www.sidney.esc14.net>)
- Sidney ISD School Messenger Notification System
- Sidney Eagle Facebook page

Contacts for concerns or questions 254 842 5500

- SISD administrators—James Rucker Superintendent ext 116 or Deanna Drummond Principal ext 122
- Front office secretary—Ashley Kinnard ext 113

\* Sidney ISD's Reopening Task Force, staff, and community members will be continuously reviewing this document and other possible structures for students safely returning to in-person instruction and the continuity of services no less frequently than every six months.

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## **Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question: Have they 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 F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting

