

LIPAN ISD
Return to In Person
Instruction and
Continuity of
Services (RIPICS)
PLAN
2021-2022



Strong Tribe, Strong Tradition

Better Together

Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Lipan ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school in August 18th. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide the excellent education to our students, which will include only in-person instruction. As the public health crisis continues, we have been planning for the opening of the 2021-22 school year with a focus on the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students and community.

Please know that this document is one that will change as new guidelines are presented. Our planning process has continuously evolved around new information and guidance that we

receive from the Texas Education Agency. Our COVID-19 Task Force has planned with the following key priorities and focus areas in mind:

District Priorities

- Public Health and Safety
- Instructional Continuity
- Maintaining Workforce
- Parent Choice
- Equity
- Innovation
- Communication

Task Force

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Attendance and Enrollment

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-22 school year and each school year thereafter
2. During periods of school closure or periods of individual student quarantine, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction (only if outlined and approved by TEA).
3. Lipan ISD will be open for in-person learning. Masks are optional by cleaning protocols will still be in place, especially hand sanitizer, wiping flat surfaces, and fogging as needed.

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

1. All Lipan ISD Employees must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus or entering district transportation each day. (Symptoms are listed at the end of this document). Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. THIS WOULD FALL UNDER THE SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the incubation period has passed. THIS WOULD FALL UNDER THE STAY-AT-HOME PROTOCOL. **All employees who have been fully vaccinated within the last twelve months or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 240 days will be exempt from self-isolation or stay at home protocols.**
2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 10-day incubation period has passed. **All students who have been fully vaccinated within the last twelve months or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 240 days will be exempt from self-isolation or stay at home protocols.**
3. During student drop-off and pick-up, parents will need to remain inside their vehicles.

4. Before being allowed into campus buildings, all visitors must be screened to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. In addition, visitors must be screened to determine 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 the 10-day incubation period has passed.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - 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:
 - 1) at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - 3) at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - 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.
 - 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) receive a confirmation that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>
 - **Individuals who have been fully vaccinated within the last twelve months or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 240 days will be exempt from self-isolation or stay at home protocols.**

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- The district will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

- The district will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- **Students who have been fully vaccinated within the last twelve months or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 240 days will be exempt from self-isolation or stay at home protocols.**

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, 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).
2. The district will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the district will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in the school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any campus activities.

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Operational Considerations:

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. The district will have hand sanitizer at each entrance, in the hallways and in every classroom.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
 - Students will be encouraged to practice handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
 - Students will be taught good handwashing techniques.
 - Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to 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.

3. Campuses will institute effective cleaning practices including more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day.
4. On the first day a student attends school on campus, the district will provide instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted by the school.

Student-Teacher Groupings

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, the district will encourage students to practice social distancing (3 feet).

Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

1. When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
2. The district will continue to offer extracurricular activities consistent with the guidance in this document, for non-UIL extracurricular activities and with the guidance found on the UIL website for all UIL activities.

School Transportation

1. The district will encourage students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding a bus.
2. The district encourages families to drop students off rather than have them ride the bus to reduce possible virus exposure.
3. Buses will be sanitized daily, or more frequently as needed.

Visits to Schools

1. Parents and other adults can visit schools, as permitted by local school system policies.
2. During these visits, parents and other visitors must follow virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school.

Staffing

1. Employees of the district, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by Lipan ISD, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.
2. School teachers and staff will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by the district.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for persons with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes.

if either occurred at any time in the last 10 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

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.

CLOSE CONTACTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE STAY-AT-HOME PROTOCOL

Screening Questionnaire Information

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, the district will only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation (School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic).
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, the district will destroy those individuals’ responses.

Stay at Home Protocol

Staying home allows individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to monitor their symptoms during the period in which they may be infectious. These individuals should separate themselves from others outside their home, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health entity.

The stay at-home period is:

- 10 days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- 7 days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14

A vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if the following conditions are true:

- The exposed individual is fully vaccinated (at least two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or the first dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 240 days and recovered do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

- Individuals who develop symptoms again within 240 days of their first bout of COVID19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

Self-Isolation Protocol

Self-isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID19 (including those who are sick with the virus and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Emergencies and Drills

Lipan ISD will continue to follow its emergency actions of Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/clean-disinfect-hygiene.html>