

# **AUBREY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

**PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.**

# School Health Operations Requirements

June 5, 2021

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-34, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-34 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect June 5, 2021, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance.

This guidance addresses:

- On-campus instruction
- Administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses
- Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- Any other activities that teachers, staff, or students must complete

## *Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School*

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its [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. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an [online form](#). The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

## *Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks*

Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-36 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-36.

School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Additionally, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC, see [here](#).

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year:

- Quarantine for asymptomatic individuals who report having had close contact with a COVID-19 confirmed case is now optional for all staff and students.
- Symptomatic individuals require quarantine.
- Desk shields are optional for Aubrey ISD students.
- Face coverings are optional in all Aubrey ISD school facilities, events, and buses.

All additional COVID-19 protocols will remain in place including social distancing inside facilities (when possible) and the encouraged use of hand sanitizer and hand-washing. A parent's decision to quarantine would pertain to children who have come into close contact with a positive case and do not have any symptoms. Lab-confirmed positive cases reported to the campus will continue to quarantine for 10 days from the date of the positive test. Confirmed positive tests will still follow the district's COVID-19 protocols. Parents who choose to quarantine their child must adhere to the COVID-19 protocol requirement of 7 days with a negative test or ten days without testing. Such absences will be counted as excused absences.

Staff and students or their parents will continue to self-monitor for symptoms prior to coming to campus. The self-screening should include a temperature check at home. Staff and students (or parent/guardian of a student) must report to the campus nurse if the staff member or student has 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.

All visitors will be subject to screening by way of a symptom-screening form.

Students participating in UIL extracurricular activities will continue to follow the UIL's COVID-19 safety guidelines and procedures and must also follow the requirements while competing at an opponent's venue.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your campus nurse.

## **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, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
3. During a period of quarantine or illness, the student will follow the excused absence protocol in making up classwork.

## **Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access**

1. All Aubrey ISD employees must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus or entering district facilities each day. (Symptoms are listed at the end of this document.) Teachers and staff must report to the campus nurse 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.
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 contact the school nurse and submit an absence excuse note.
3. 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.

## **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 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the campus nurse screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication);
  - Symptoms improved; and
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

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

Or:

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis.

**Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases:**

1. If an individual who has been in a school during the infection period (48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms) and is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify the local health department and Texas Education Agency, 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).

**Symptoms for quarantine:**

- Have **one** of the following:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste or smell
- Have **at least two** of these symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Fatigue
  - Diarrhea
  - Nausea/Vomiting
  - Congestion or running nose