SEALY ISD
Reimagine & Reconnect
2020-2021

Sealy ISD 2020-2021 COVID-19 Reopening Plan

A World of Opportunities
SEALY ISD

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General Message

Parents and Staff,

The purpose of this handbook is to communicate Sealy ISD's plans for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. First off, please understand that our plans must be aligned with state guidelines and I can assure you state guidelines will change multiple times as we approach the new school year. Additionally, trends and what we know about COVID-19 will change rapidly. We will adapt and adjust as necessary to keep our students and staff safe.

We will have two learning options available to our families. Traditional face to face learning on-campus and remote learning opportunities. We believe the best place for students to learn is in the classroom with their teachers and peers. We also understand that families and students have unique circumstances that might require them to learn from home.

The following reopening handbook will outline all aspects of face to face and remote learning. We are working hard to ensure that students and staff returning to campus will be safe and have as close to a routine school day as possible. We are also working hard to ensure that students learning from home have access to high quality learning opportunities. There will be future communications as we solidify a comprehensive plan for remote learning.

To best serve all students it is important for us to get accurate counts of who will be learning face to face and who will be learning remotely because staff and resources will need to be allocated proportionally. We will be communicating soon on how you can declare which option is right for your student. Additionally, we will provide families with opportunities to give us feedback on the Sealy ISD Reopening Plan. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions please reach out. No doubt we are operating in unprecedented times but I am confident we will have a very successful 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for allowing us to serve your students.

Best regards,

Bryan Hallmark

Resources

Sealy ISD collaborated with a number of people and organizations in developing our reopening plan. We appreciate the guidance, support, input, and resources from the following people and organizations:
- School leaders from across the state,
- Region 6 Educational Service Center,
- Texas Association of Community Schools,
- Texas Association of Mid-Sized Districts,
- Services Solutions Corporation (SSC),
- Southwest Foods Excellence,
- Texas Association of School Administrators,
- Sealy ISD Safety Committee,
- Texas Education Agency,
- University Interscholastic League,
- American Academy of Pediatrics,
- Families who participated in the Sealy ISD COVID Instructional Survey,
- Staff members who participated in the Sealy ISD COVID 19 Staff Survey.

Below is a link to the Public Health Planning Guidance document from the Texas Education Agency. Additionally, there are links to the guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which greatly influenced TEA's guidance.

TEA Public Health Planning Guidance
American Academy of Pediatrics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sealy ISD COVID-19 Response Protocol

Prevention

No confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff.

STAGE 1

- Health prevention measures are in place
- Daily cleaning protocols including frequent cleaning of common spaces
- Limited visitor access to facilities
- Daily monitoring of virus trends in the community and county

Mitigation

One or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 at one facility.

STAGE 2

- Individuals in that area will be advised of SISD Confirmed/Suspected Exposure protocols
- Affected areas are closed for deep cleaning
- Self-health monitoring & preventions information and stay home if ill communication to all persons at the facility
- A short term closure of the classroom and/or facility may be necessary

Modified Operations

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in a specific area (i.e. classroom)

STAGE 3

- Individuals in that area will be advised of SISD Confirmed/Suspected Exposure protocols
- Affected areas are closed for deep cleaning
- Self-health monitoring & preventions information and stay home if ill communication to all persons at the facility
- A short term closure of the classroom and/or facility may be necessary

Facility Closure

Confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeds 10% of facility occupancy.

STAGE 4

- Entire facility will be closed for deep cleaning (48 hours)
- All students and staff will be shifted to Remote Learning model
- All campus/facility activities will be postponed
- Individuals in that area will be advised of SISD Confirmed/Suspected Exposure protocols
- District-wide communication to staff/parents with self-health monitoring guidance will be sent out

District Closure

Confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeds 15% of district facilities occupancy.

STAGE 5

- All SISD facilities will close for at least one week
- All students and staff will be shifted to Remote Learning model
- All district activities will be postponed
- Deep cleaning of all district facilities and buses
- District-wide communication to staff/parents on progress toward reopening

School Calendar

2020-2021 School Calendar

We will not be adding additional days to the school calendar if at all possible. The state requires that we educate students for 75,600 minutes per year. In the event that we miss extended periods of time due to COVID 19 and are required by the state to make up those minutes, we will:

- Use all additional minutes built into our calendar.
- Capture additional minutes in the mornings, as students will report to their homerooms instead of gathering in the gymnasium, cafeteria, hallways, etc. due to COVID-19.

By capturing additional minutes in the morning, using our professional learning waiver, and additional minutes already built-in to the calendar, we would have the flexibility to close for up to 3 weeks without having to make up time. As a last resort, we would add time to the end of the school year.

In the event that we close due to COVID-19, we use these strategies in the following order:

1. Shift to remote instruction.
2. Utilize additional minutes.
3. Add minutes to the school day.
4. Add the time needed to meet instructional time requirements to the end of the school year.

Sealy Independent School District

2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Calendar Highlights:

July
1st –10th: District and Campuses Closed

August
6th – 7th: New Employee Orientation
10th – 18th: Teacher In-Service (No school for students)
19th: First Day of School

September
7th: Holiday (Staff and Students)

October
8th – 9th: Austin County Fair Holidays
12th: Teacher In-Service (No school for students)

November
23rd – 24th: Staff Comp Days (No school for students)
25th – 27th: Holiday (Staff and Students)

December
18th: Half Day
21st – 31st: Holiday (Staff and Students)

January
1st: Holiday (Staff and Students)
4th -5th: Teacher In-Service (No school for students)
18th: Holiday (Staff and Students)

February
22nd: Teacher In-Service (No school for students)

March
12th: Bad Weather Make Up Day/Holiday
15th-19th: Spring Break
22nd: Teacher In-Service (No school for students)

April
2nd: Holiday (Staff and Students)
5th: Bad Weather Make Up Day/Holiday

May
27th: Last Day of School (Early Dismissal for Students)
28th: Teacher In-Service

1st 9 Weeks: Aug. 19 - Oct. 16: 39 Days = 17,550 minutes
2nd 9 Weeks: Oct. 19 - Dec. 18: 39.5 Days = 17,790 minutes
3rd 9 Weeks: Jan. 6 – Mar. 11: 45 Days = 20,250 minutes
4th 9 Weeks: Mar. 23 – May 27: 45.5 Days = 20,490 minutes
Total Minutes of Instruction: 76,080 (75,600 Required)
Total Instructional Days: 170
Total Teacher Work Days: 187

Calendar Key:
- School Closed/Holiday
- Teacher In-Service Day (no school for students)
- Half Day
- Staff Comp Day (4)
- Bad Weather Make-Up Day/Holiday
- New Staff In-Service
[- Beginning of 9 Weeks
] - End of 9 Weeks

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Cleaning/Disinfecting Protocols

Classrooms, Libraries, Gym
- All 'high touch' areas will be disinfected during the instructional day including student and teacher desks, group tabletops, and door handles between class periods using SSC provided microfiber cloth, alcohol wipes, and approved virucide disinfectant provided by Sealy ISD and SSC.
- Custodial staff (SSC) will deep clean all classrooms at the end of each day in addition to general cleaning using SSC's disinfection program that includes CDC approved disinfectants and best management practices that incorporate wiping down using a 'two' wipe method the following:
  - Teacher Desk, telephone, computer
  - Pencil Sharpener and metal whiteboard surfaces
  - Student Desk and tables,
  - Student Chairs
  - Door handles
  - Light switches/plates

Third bullet point moved to the next page. See "Disinfecting Protocols"

Common Areas
- All 'high touch' areas will be sanitized by SSC twice daily using CDC approved sanitation methods. Spaces include:
  - Offices,
  - Front desk,
  - Conference areas
  - Non-porous surfaces in hallways
  - Building Entry and Exits
  - Front office spaces, counters, and plexiglass
- School clinics will be sanitized between student visits.
- Custodial staff will deep clean at the end of each day using SSC's disinfection program that includes CDC approved disinfectants and best management practices that incorporate wiping down using a 'two' wipe method.
- Facilities equipped with 'fresh air' dampers will be opened. Units with variable drives set to 30% during occupied hours, campuses with fixed opened 100%.
- All campus Air Handling Units are equipped with UV lights and will continue to operate as designed.
- District already uses and will continue to use "B" High-Efficiency HEPA air filters
- All campus spaces will be routinely 'fogged' monthly as precautionary in addition to regular deep cleanings.
- Custodial staff will use virucide to disinfect all areas twice daily

Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
- Custodial staff will spray down and sanitize restroom 'high touch' surfaces twice daily.
- Drinking fountains will only be used to fill water bottles, we recommend students bring their own pre-filled water bottle.
- Custodial staff (SSC) will deep clean all restrooms between periods using SSC's disinfection program that includes CDC approved disinfectants and best management practices that incorporate wiping down all areas using a 'two' wipe method.
    - Bathroom handles, toilet flush, shower controls, taps
    - Switches
    - Door Handles
    - Dispensers, paper towel holders
    - Toilet Seats, splash walls

Disinfecting Protocols

- **In the event a student/staff member becomes ill**, campus administration will immediately initiate a COVID Sanitizing Response (CSR). All areas suspected of COVID exposure will be identified and sanitized before re-entry in accordance with the following:
    - Campus identifies affected staff and students, sending them home after contact tracing interview
    - The campus administration identifies and notifies exposed areas.
    - Students and staff immediately removed from all areas of possible COVID exposure and spaces sealed. A visual marker is used to identify the contaminated areas to prevent accidental re-entry by others
    - Campus administration notifies by phone, email, or text Special Projects team.
    - SSC will prioritize sanitation of suspected exposure performing treatment within 60-minutes.
    - SSC will isolate and sanitize any confirmed COVID exposure in accordance with CDC guidelines.
    - SSC will disinfect and clean all affected areas with an EPA approved virucide using deep clean procedures and an electrostatic fogger.
    - After cleaning, SSC will remove the visual markers and notify campus administration the area is safe for re-entry.

Disinfecting Products Used

We use a number of different products in different situations. Generally, disinfectants used are based on the amount of time they need to cure on the surface to be effective and whether or not they create a residual barrier. All of our disinfectants are FDA and EPA approved. Disinfectants include:
- Oxivir (1 minute kill time) used during the day
- Virex (10 minute kill time) used in the evenings
- GR-AD (Dries on the surface) used in deep cleanings and provides a 30 day residual barrier.

Student Hygiene Protocols

Student and staff hygiene is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Sealy ISD will follow the suggested protocols set forth by TEA in conjunction with other health organizations as outlined below:

- All Sealy ISD staff and substitutes will receive training on managing, instructing and promoting student hygiene protocols

- On the first day, a student attends school on campus, instruction will be provided to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other practices that will promote their safety. These practices will be reinforced daily through repeated lessons and visual and verbal reminders.

- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in all classrooms and at the entrances of all campuses
  - Students and staff will sanitize their hands every time they enter and exit the classroom.

- Anyone entering a campus or a classroom will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands upon arrival

- Students will be taught to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. They will have the opportunity to wash their hands at least twice a day in addition to prior to eating and after using the restroom or returning into the building from outside. When possible and age appropriate, hand washing will be supervised

- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cover them in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, hands will be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer will be used.

To maintain physical distancing in order to lessen the spread of COVID-19, Sealy ISD will implement the following protocols:

- Students and staff will maintain a distance of 6 feet apart when feasible
- Student desks will face one direction when possible
- In the cafeterias we will ensure children remain as socially distanced as possible. When space limits our ability to distance students while seated we will utilize

physical barriers. Tables, chairs, and dividers will be disinfected between each use.

- One way hallways and/or staggered passing periods will be enacted to provide physical distance
- Markings will be added to the floors as a visual reminder to physically distance
- Assemblies and large group gathering will not take place
- Field trips will be suspended until guidance is received saying they are safe
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use outdoor spaces when appropriate
- Student belongings will remain separate from others
- Students will be encouraged not to share items with others
- Shared use of technology will be limited and will only take place after proper cleaning of the electronic device

Health Screenings

These protocols apply to all Sealy ISD students and staff. All SISD students and their parents are asked to pay attention to their own health management and behaviors to be personally protective and limit the risks posed to others. It is impermissible to act negatively toward any student who is actually (or is suspected of being) infected with COVID-19 or whose family members are infected or suspected. It is very likely that this situation will impact all of us in some form. We need to assure that we work together as a district-community family to successfully meet the challenges posed by COVID-19.

STUDENT HEALTH SCREENING PROTOCOLS
COVID-19 Health Screening
As part of the registration process, in order to bring awareness to the symptoms of COVID-19, all families will be required to view our COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire.

The health and well being of our community begins with responsible self-screening at home. Students who are not feeling well and/or are exhibiting a fever SHOULD NOT be sent to school until they are symptom and fever free for at least 24 hours. Parents of Sealy ISD students are expected to conduct a personal health screening of their children on a daily basis. The personal health screening includes self-assessment of all of the following symptoms on a daily basis:

- Daily temperature screening prior to arrival. Temperature must be less than 100.
- Affirmation that you have not been in contact with anyone who is positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Affirmation of not having a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing.
- Affirmation of not having the following symptoms: chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain/aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea.

Sealy ISD expects each stakeholder to conduct the following self-screening each day prior to accessing SISD buses or buildings. If you answer YES, to any of the following questions you are to stay home until you have been symptom free for at least 24 hours.

Screening Questions:
- Have you been in contact with anyone who is positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you had a fever greater than 100.0 F in the last 24 hours?
- Have you had a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing?
- Have you experienced an unexpected or severe onset of any of the following symptoms?
    - chills,
    - repeated shaking with chills,
    - muscle pain/aches,
    - headache,
    - sore throat,
    - new loss of taste or smell,
    - Diarrhea, vomiting or nausea,
    - Cough,
    - Congestion/runny nose

School Clinic Protocols

Our campus nurses and clinics are prepared to keep our students and staff safe. They will also provide valuable information and support to our families during the time of COVID-19.

If students feel or appear ill, complain of being feverish, or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent to the campus clinic for evaluation. Per the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
- 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

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as they learn more about COVID-19. The campus nurse can also provide an updated list of symptoms per the CDC.

Upon evaluation, if students are running a fever of 100.0 F or greater, exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, or exhibit any other symptoms of illness listed in Sealy ISD policy, students will be sent home immediately. For a complete list of symptoms, conditions, and illnesses please visit our student handbooks located at www.sealyisd.com.

If students exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, the following protocol will be observed:
- Ill students will immediately be moved to a separate area of the clinic or an adjacent room and be isolated from others

- Ill students will be encouraged to put on a mask

- A parent/guardian will be notified and asked to come pick ill students up immediately. If a parent/guardian is not available, Sealy ISD will contact other persons listed on the emergency/allowed pick up list

- When possible, sick students will be escorted to their parent/guardian through a location of the building to a door that will limit the interactions they will have with others

- If the school nurse or school administrator determines the student is in an emergent situation, EMS will be called and the parent/guardian notified.

- The area(s) occupied by sick students will be cleaned quickly and as thoroughly as possible

- Upon receiving notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or students, the nurse or school administrator will notify the local health officials

- Per CDC guidelines, parents/guardians of students with asthma who require a nebulizer treatment may be required to pick their student up and administer the nebulizer treatment at home. Parents/Guardians will also be notified if their student visits the clinic to use his/her inhaler

- Nurses/school officials may request a signed medical release in regards to any newly diagnosed or chronic health issues your child may have in order to attend classes

Please help keep our students and staff safe by keeping your child home if he/she exhibits any signs or symptoms of any illness.

Confirmed or Suspected Exposure Protocols

Individuals who are Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals—including teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors—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:

- at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual is symptom-free (e.g., cough, congestion, shortness of breath) but not including loss of taste and smell; and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared or in the case of an asymptomatic person, 10 days since receiving a positive test result.
- If a person is symptomatic after 10 days (minus the loss of taste and smell) or receives an additional positive test result during his/her quarantine period, the quarantine will be extended to 14 days and a Dr. release may be requested in order to return.

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 two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests (PCR- not a rapid test) at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html

Individuals in Close Contact with Someone who is Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19

Individuals – including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed positive for COVID-19 should follow the following guidelines:

- Students Grade 4-12 and Adults:
  - Need to quarantine at home until one of the following criteria has been met:
    - 10 days have passed since his/her last contact with the positive person and he/she has had no symptoms (return on day 11)
    - 7 days have passed since his/her last contact with the positive person, he/she has had no symptoms *AND* he/she was tested on or after day 6 and received a negative test result (return as early as day 8 with a negative test result)
- Students Grades PK-3:
  - Need to stay home through the 14-day incubation period (return on day 15)

Exceptions to the Above Quarantine Guidelines

Individuals who can provide documentation of any of the following, will not need to quarantine following close contact with a person who has tested positive or is presumed to have COVID-19:
- A COVID-19 positive test result from within the past 90 days and is also symptom-free
- A COVID-19 positive antibody test result from within the past 90 days and is also symptom-free
- Proof that the person has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within the last 90 days and is also symptom-free

(These exceptions are subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC.)

Close Contact:
- Someone who:
  - was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, while not wearing a mask or face shield
  - provides care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
  - has direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
  - has shared eating or drinking utensils with a positive person
  - has been sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow gotten respiratory droplets on them from a positive person

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.

Beginning 1/26/21: Individuals, ages two or older, who have traveled to another country via an airplane must adhere to the following guidance from the CDC after traveling:

- <u>Get tested</u> 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel.
    - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days (return to campus on day 8)
    - If your test is positive, <u>isolate</u> yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel

(This guidance does not apply to individuals who have traveled to another country via car or bus.)

Identifying Possible COVID Cases on Campus

- SISD 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.
- SISD will disinfect 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 will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Reporting Positive or Suspected Cases

Sealy ISD is responsible for balancing individuals need to know relevant health information to protect and promote their own well being, with the rights of our staff and students provided by the protections of the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

We know it is impossible to anticipate every scenario we will face over the upcoming months. However, we hope the following reporting protocols help parents and guardians understand what information they can expect from Sealy ISD in the likely event of positive or suspected COVID-19 cases in the district.

Positive COVID-19 Case Reporting

If Sealy ISD is made aware that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, but is able to confirm that the individual <u>HAS NOT</u> been on any SISD properties, buses, or campuses since the onset of symptoms, SISD will list the positive case on the appropriate district and campus websites but <u>WILL NOT</u> implement district wide communication protocols.

If a Sealy ISD staff member or student is identified as testing positive for the COVID-19 virus and HAS BEEN on SISD properties, buses, or campuses the district will follow the chain of communication identified below:

- Sealy ISD will notify the local health department and other appropriate governing agencies.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.
- If a participant is determined to have had close contact every effort will be made to contact them and their families prior to the campus wide communication when possible.
  - Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine who came into close contact with whom.
  - District wide reporting will only include the campus and grade level in which the positive case occurred.

Example Scenario:
A Sealy ISD Elementary student test positive in the 5th grade:
- Parents of an elementary student on that campus will be notified that a 5th grader has tested positive on that campus.
- Campus/District personnel will contact those families or staff members who have been close contact with the student testing positive.
  - School/District personnel, with input from the individual and/or their family, will determine the appropriate next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation considering student age, if face coverings were worn, and the degree of contact).
- The district will report on the district website the campus and grade level of the positive case.

Suspected Cases

Suspected cases will not be reported district wide. Suspected cases will be reported to individuals and/or families of students who have been in close contact with an individual who is suspected of having COVID-19.
- School officials, with input from the individual or their representative, will determine the appropriate next steps (Which may or may not include self-isolation considering student age, if face coverings were worn, and the degree of contact).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Protocols

Face coverings are a proven strategy for slowing the spread of COVID-19. The District will provide two (1 neck gaiter & 1 cloth mask) washable masks for all Sealy ISD students. Additionally, Sealy ISD will provide face shields to all employees.

Masks
- For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.

- Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks.

- In addition to the executive order, school systems may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.

- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

PPE Use for Students

Elementary
- <u>Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd Grade</u>:
  - Masks are optional for students from ages 3-9.
- <u>4th & 5th Grade</u>
  - Masks are required for fourth and fifth-grade students during transition periods, arrivals, and dismissal. Campuses will designate settings when it will be appropriate for students to remove their masks.

Secondary
- All 6-12 graders must wear masks during transitions and in the classrooms during activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. Campuses will designate settings where it will be appropriate for students to remove their masks.

PPE Use for Staff

Staff will be issued a face shield that is to be worn at all times when they are not socially distanced from students and staff. We believe students need to be able to see the faces of their teachers to optimize learning.

Visitors on Campus

To keep our students and staff safe we will be limiting access to our buildings during the school day. Campus visits will be limited to essential business which could include:
- Parent/Teacher conferences,
- ARD and 504 meetings,
- Student Pick Up and Drop Off During the School Day, etc.

Please understand that the following practices will not be allowed in an effort to keep our campuses safe until further notice:
- Dining with your student,
- Lunch deliveries,
- Parent/Guardian classroom visits

Excluding before and after school student drop offs and pickups, all visitors accessing Sealy ISD campuses will have to complete the following health screening below by responding yes or no to district staff.
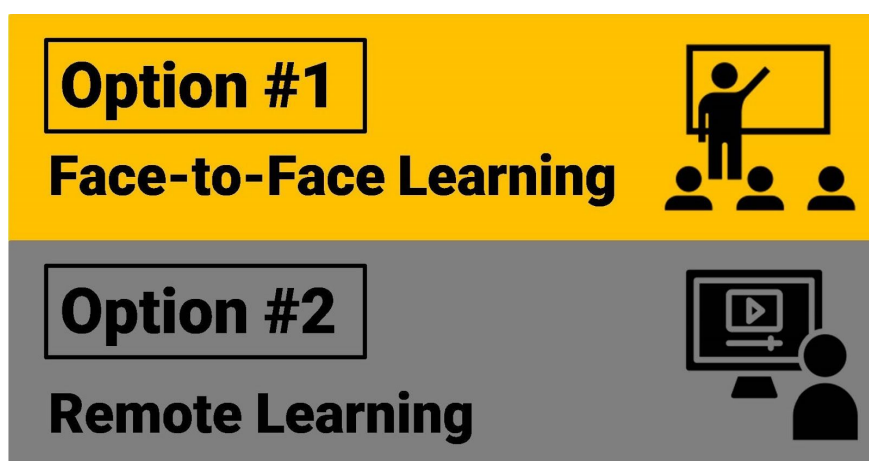
Screening Questions:
- Have you been in contact with anyone who is positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you had a fever greater than 100.0 F in the last 24 hours?
- Have you had a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing?
- Have you had any two or more of the following symptoms:
    - chills,
    - repeated shaking with chills,
    - muscle pain/aches,
    - headache,
    - sore throat,
    - new loss of taste or smell,
    - Diarrhea, vomiting or nausea,
    - Cough
    - Congestion/runny nose

Any visitor responding yes to the questions above will not be allowed to enter the campus for 14 days. Please help us keep our students and staff safe.

Teaching and Learning

Across both face-to-face and remote learning environments, the Sealy ISD scope and sequence and instructional framework will be used throughout the school year. Google Classroom will be used to ensure consistency in delivery and unify face-to-face and remote learning environments.

Option #1
Face-to-Face Learning

Option #2
Remote Learning

Option 1:   Face-to-Face Learning (Brick and Mortar/On-site)

This is the traditional school environment and format students are most familiar with when thinking of school. Sealy ISD plans to open schools on August 19, 2020. The backbone of this school setting is in-person instruction in addition to the utilization of the digital learning management system, Google Classroom, and our online instructional resources for other in-class supports. Google Classroom will also be utilized as a virtual resource that provides a platform for continuous learning should there be an intermittent need to close schools and continue with home instruction due to COVID-19. Safety protocols previously mentioned in this plan will be implemented on all campuses and adjusted as directed by the TEA, DSHS, or county officials.

Key Considerations:
- Regular in-school instruction by Sealy ISD instructional staff
- All core and elective courses are offered
- Access to technology and learning software
- Transportation for eligible students
- Extracurricular activities (as allowable by TEA, UIL)
- Counseling services

Option 2:   Remote Learning

This is a home-based school environment with an instructional framework that encompasses a schedule in which students are able to engage in both asynchronous and synchronous instruction with instructional staff delivering a blend of real-time/live instruction, recorded instruction, web-based instruction, and the use of Google Classroom. Students (and parents) can communicate and request support from teachers when needed. Students engage with their academic material on a daily basis and the remote learning instructional schedule will meet the minimum number of required daily minutes per the TEA for each grade level **(Note: this is a significant increase in daily academic work and commitment from students who choose to work remotely compared to what was in place last Spring)**. Instructional staff will provide students with weekly feedback and progress monitoring. It is essential that students participating in remote learning have a dedicated technology device (multiple devices if multiple students in one home) and consistent internet access at home.

Key Considerations:
- Access to Sealy ISD instructional staff and curriculum resources
- **PreK thru 5th Grade have a <u>required minimum of 180 instructional minutes (3 hrs) per day</u> of direct work with academic content**
- **6th thru 12th Grade have a <u>required minimum of 240 instructional minutes (4 hrs) per day</u> of direct work with academic content**
  - Electives will extend the day longer than 240 minutes
- A student must complete the 9-weeks grading period before returning to face-to-face option for school
- Real-time and self-paced instruction will be provided
- Parent has a more significant role in monitoring and coaching student(s)
- Internet and technology (computer/laptop) is required
- Less direct access to counseling services
- More limited course selections for secondary students
- 90% attendance rule in effect

Special Programs

Bilingual and Dual Language
- Students receiving services as a student in a Bilingual or English as a Second Language program will receive appropriate linguistic support in either face-to-face or remote learning; In-person instruction is preferred to adequately address linguistic needs.
- Dual Language Opt-in students (students from native English speaking homes) choosing remote learning will NOT be able to participate in Dual Language Immersion. The student will receive instruction in English only during their enrollment in remote learning.   Reentering face-to-face Dual Language Instruction will be allowed after the first and second nine weeks.

Gifted and Talented
- Students in PK-5th will receive GT support through pull out classes if they choose face-to-face instruction (though this may look a little different from our typical formats as we look to balance class sizes and the number of students who choose face-to-face or remote learning)
- Students will receive GT support through online and video support if they choose remote learning (the structure of this support will be determined and adjusted as the year progresses)

The TEA definitions for synchronous instruction and asynchronous instruction:
Remote Synchronous Instruction: *Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day, and funding is generated when attendance is recorded daily at a locally selected snapshot time. Synchronous instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device or over the phone. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, 28.002*

Remote Asynchronous Instruction: *Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, 28.002*

Transportation Protocols

SISD families are encouraged to drop students off/pick students up, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.

The following safeguards will be implemented on buses:

- Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Bus drivers will be required to wear masks
- When possible, drivers will open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- Buses will be sprayed with disinfectant after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles. During cleaning, open windows to allow for additional ventilation and airflow.
- The same PPE guidelines for school apply on the buses.
  - PK-3 Masks are not required
  - 4-12 Masks are required

Please help us keep our students and drivers safe by providing transportation for your student when possible.

Extracurricular Activities

We believe extra-curricular activities are an essential part of the overall student experience. We will make every effort to participate in contests, shows, and performances so long as we can keep our students safe.

A number of our programs fall under the direction of the University Interscholastic League and will follow the guidelines and regulations set forth by the UIL. Examples of these programs include athletics, band, one-act play, UIL academics, etc. We also have extra-curricular activities that belong to other organizations or stand alone such as; FFA, drill team, student council, student clubs, etc. All extra-curricular groups will follow the applicable protocols below:

Locker Rooms - Locker rooms are full.
- We will have each participant sanitize their lockers before they leave each day.
- They will be required to bring their own towel and toiletries.
- If we need to split groups while getting dressed we can have a 5-8 minute leadership talk for the ones waiting
- Non Season participants will not enter the locker room until the in season athletes are done.
- We will have one entrance per dressing room with two different exits as an option.
- No personal attire will be allowed to stay in their locker overnight.
- Follow all current and future guidelines established by the UIL and Sealy ISD.

Facility Cleaning -
- Wipe down all hard surfaces that will be used before or after practice
- Individuals wash hands for 20 seconds before and after practice or competitions
- Hand sanitize throughout practices and competitions
- Appropriate clothing to reduce the transmission of sweat
- Encourage showers
- Wash clothes immediately or allow athletes to take home to wash
- Follow all UIL and Sealy ISD guidelines

Transportation -
- Follow Sealy ISD transportation protocols when traveling
- Allow parents to take only their child to and from competitions with a letter given to a coach or sponsor before departure.

Social distancing at Contest/Events/Activities -
- In the event that social distancing is required at competitions, we will create specific seating arrangements for all venues.
- Please understand that in certain instances beyond our control where we may not be able to allow spectators into shows or competitions, we will prioritize attendance as follows:
    - Essentials (Coaches, participants, officials, event staff, medical staff and security) & media.
    - Parents, immediate family
    - Spectators until capacity is met

Hydration - Very Important
   a. Bring own water bottle
   b. Hydration stations will be available to refill water bottles and clean them after use.
   c. Stations will be sanitized after use.
   d. Implement all new UIL guidelines

Other Considerations
   a. No handshakes before or after games
   b. Masks will be worn when possible
   c. Health screenings

Student Attendance

2020-2021 Attendance Basics

- The requirement for students to attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course or to be promoted to the next grade level remains in force for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of remote learning.
- Any parent may request remote learning. If a parent chooses remote learning and then wants their student to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they may do so, but the district may limit these transitions to occur ONLY at the end of a grading period IF it will be <u>beneficial to the student's instructional quality.</u>
- SISD must provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school in person, on campus.
- During the first 3 weeks of school, SISD is allowed to temporarily limit access to on campus instruction in order to effectively phase in back-to-school procedures which may be new as a result of the pandemic and the requirements for in-person instruction.
- SISD will post required notice to parents regarding their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-10 pandemic with a document published by TEA.

Attendance Methods

<u>Remote Learning</u>
Attendance will be measured for each student, each day. The Texas Education Agency requires remote learning students to engage in academic work **each and every day of the week**. The approved engagement methods are listed below:

- Daily progress in the online learning platform, as defined in the approved learning plan; or
- Daily progress via teacher-student interactions, as defined in the approved learning plan; or
- Completion/Turn-in of assignments from student to teacher (potentially via email, online, or mail).

<u>Face-to-Face Instruction (On-campus)</u>
Attendance is recorded for students who are physically present at school at the locally selected snapshot time.

Counseling Services/SEL Supports

Regardless of the learning approach chosen, it is the vision of the Sealy ISD counselors to assist every student in acquiring the academic, career and personal/social skills to reach their fullest educational potential and successfully manage their lives as healthy, responsible, competent and productive citizens of the world who respect themselves and others. Sealy ISD will continue to implement this vision during the time of COVID-19 by:

- Conducting teacher and staff professional learning on social and emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed classrooms
- Providing students with in-class and online activities/resources to support students' social and emotional learning and mental health
- Supporting SISD families with additional resources to help them manage and maintain their personal mental health while guiding and supporting those around them

Cafeteria and Food Services

In order to minimize exposure and maintain adequate social distancing during breakfast and lunch periods, no outside food deliveries will be accepted and there will be no visitors allowed in SISD cafeterias. SISD will also take the following steps to increase student and staff safety:

- Lunches served by SISD child nutrition will be pre-plated or "Grab and Go"
- SISD will offer a limited menu excluding things like salad bars and self serve stations
- Students may eat in various locations throughout the building and outside to maximize social distancing. If students are eating in the cafeteria, they will be spread out in order to meet suggested CDC guidelines
- Disposable utensils and individual condiment packages will be used
- Cafeteria, serving, and eating areas will be cleaned between uses
- All SISD child nutrition staff will use face coverings/masks and gloves while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations
- Food deliveries are prohibited until further notice
- Drive-thru meals will be available for families participating in remote learning at Maggie B. Selman Elementary

Special Education

Sealy ISD will ensure that students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). We will ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's individualized education program (IEP). Sealy ISD will prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and communities in all decisions. In planning for school closure and the potential distance delivery of educational services (including special education and related services), Sealy ISD and school staff will prioritize decisions and actions based on health and safety first, communication with staff and families, and then consider requirements of IDEA and state law.

- Students with disabilities will follow the same guidelines and protocols with special consideration given to meet their individual needs

- Students who are entitled to instructional and related services through an ARD (Admission, Review and Dismissal)/IEP, 504 Plan, etc. **and** who choose to enroll in remote learning will be required to convene an appropriate meeting to revise their supports and services to ensure the District meets their individual needs

- Special education instructional and related services will be provided in accordance with the ARD/IEP either virtually or face-to-face

- Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis

- Expectations should not be lowered for students when instruction is being received at home

- Provide direct service (instructional and related service) minutes in alignment with IEP schedule of services

- ARD meetings can be conducted virtually

- All state/federal required timelines for ARD meetings and evaluations (initial and re-evaluations) will continue to proceed regardless of instructional delivery model

Website: https://www.sealyisd.com/departments/special_education

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