

Safe Return to School

Bynum ISD is committed to providing the best academic instruction to our students and at the same time provide a physically safe environment as possible under the current conditions. BISD recognizes that this school year will come with new challenges for our students and staff, we will embrace the opportunity as presented and do our very best to create a positive experience for our students. At this time, BISD will only be offering in-person instruction for our students for the 21-22 school year. Our goal is to return to a traditional daily academic schedule blended with guidelines to keep our staff and students as safe as possible through mitigation procedures. Remote learning will not be offered at any time for students.

District Mitigation

- All students will receive daily temperature screenings.
- All student areas including classrooms will be disinfected daily.
- All classrooms and restrooms will have sanitizing stations.
- Students will need to bring a bottle of water, which can be refilled at refilling stations during the day. Fountains will be off.
- All students and staff are encourage to wear a mask. Masks will be available.
- All staff members will be required to screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
- Procedures and plans are in place to reduce crowds, i.e. lunch periods, passing, periods, drop-off/ pick-up

Extra-curricular/UII

- Activities are tentatively scheduled to start at normal times; however, these activities will be modified as needed including limiting seating capacity should the need arise.

Bus Procedures:

- Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus and must be used upon entry onto the bus
- Masks will be available
- Bus Procedures are subject to modification with positive case. I.e. required social distancing, temperature screening, Etc.

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

- 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).

- 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).

Masks

- Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 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-38.
- School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Students Who Have COVID-19

- As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the DSHS rule for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

Students Who Are Close Contacts

- While contact tracing will no longer be done at school, students who have been exposed to someone that test positive from within the family or home will need to observe TEA's recommended stay-at-home period.
- Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period.
- For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative test result 5 days after the close contact exposure ends.

These mitigation guidelines were developed in conjunction with BISD stakeholders and are subject to change as new information becomes available at the discretion of the superintendent. The district will only resort closure as a last resort.