

Bellevue ISD

Back to School Plan
2021-2022



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Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Bellevue ISD looks forward to welcoming students back for the 2021-22 school year on **August 25th**. Despite the challenges of COVID and its variances, our district will continue to provide an excellent education to our students. As the public health crisis continues, we plan to continue to be open for the upcoming school year with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students, and community. The school plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency, and state and local health officials.

Because of current state funding requirements, Bellevue ISD is offering an in-person learning model only.

The situation with COVID is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The website will provide you with the most up-to-date information.

Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, the school will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other relevant information to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

The virus that causes COVID can infect people of all ages. Bellevue ISD has developed this plan to do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID are hospitalized or have severe symptoms.

Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.”

While it is not possible to eliminate all risks of furthering the spread of COVID, there are many steps that can be taken to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This plan contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread:

- Communication: Provide Parental and public notices
- PREVENT: Practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- RESPOND: Practices to respond to a test-confirmed case in the school
- MITIGATE: Practices to reduce likely spread inside the school.

The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in this plan are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Some practices are required for all

campuses, some are required in areas with high levels of community spread, and some are recommendations. This plan will address safety concerns for students, staff, and visitors.

It is possible that there will be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID cases in schools. Parents and educators should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices. If such closures occur, the school must make up the days/minutes to obtain the required number of minutes in the Texas Education Code. As per Texas Education Code, (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered to be awarded credit or be promoted.

Communication: Provide Parental and Public Notice

Bellevue ISD will continue to communicate with surrounding school districts, local and state health authorities, and TEA to monitor the spread of COVID. The school will relay all pertinent information to parents via school messenger, email, the school website, or Facebook page to keep you advised of the current situation. The designated communication team regarding all COVID19 related issues at Bellevue ISD will consist of the following personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct those to our designated team.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| ● Superintendent | Wade Wesley |
| ● Principal | Lori Shoemaker |
| ● Counselor | Johney Chandler |
| ● Athletic Director | Colby Broussard |

Bellevue ISD will post for parents and the general public, at least one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction, a summary of the plan to mitigate COVID spread in the schools based on the requirements and recommendations outlined by the Texas Education Agency. This plan will be posted on the school website.

Prevention: Practices to prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Requirements

- Staff will be required to complete a self-screening process before entering a district facility. The district may require further screening of employees, at any time, based on the current state and federal guidelines.

- A Parent or Guardian will be required to screen their children for COVID symptoms each day before sending them to school utilizing the screening process listed below. Additional screening may be conducted during the school day.
 - Parents must not send a child to school if they are sick or have been sick and are displaying COVID symptoms listed below.
 - Parents must not send a child to school if they have a confirmed case of COVID or a household member with a confirmed case of COVID.
 - Parents must not send a child to school if they have a household member awaiting COVID test results or are awaiting their own test results.
 - Parents must not send a child to school if they have been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID.

See COVID Symptoms and Close Contact definition on the last page of this document.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID

Notification of Positive Test Result

- Teacher/Staff: All employees of Bellevue ISD are instructed to immediately inform the school district in the event that a positive test result of COVID.
- Student: If your child has received a positive test result of COVID, please notify the school office at 940.928.2104 as soon as possible.

Individuals experiencing symptoms, listed on the last page of this document, should stay home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until conditions for re-entry have been met.

Closures / Quarantine Periods

Bellevue ISD will strive to remain open to the maximum extent possible. Should a need arise for school closure, the school will close for a period of not more than 5 days in order to sanitize and disinfect the school. All days that the school is closed, must be made up during the school year or added at the end of the school year

Parents will be notified of the length of a school closure by administration.

Quarantine Requirements

- Staff members displaying COVID symptoms will follow district protocols, including isolation from students and other staff members and will be sent home.
- Current guidance and procedures from the CDC and TEA does not allow the school district to perform contact tracing and require quarantine requirements.
- For students displaying symptoms of COVID or are feeling feverish, the campus office personnel will provide an assessment to determine if a student needs to be sent home.

- o Students who are ill will be separated from their peers. The school will contact the parent/guardian to pick up the student.
- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID, the school will notify county health authorities, employees and parents, 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).
 - o NOTE: No teacher nor student name as receiving a positive test will be released by the school district. Considering the limited number of personnel, names will likely get out, but the school will not be the cause of the release.
 - o The school will close off areas heavily used by an individual with a lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.

Returning or Reentry to school.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID will be permitted to return to school when the conditions below are met:

- At least 24 hours fever-free without using fever-reducing medication.
- If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID, such individual is assumed to have COVID, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has met the conditions listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

- obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
- Obtain an acute infection test (at a physician’s office, at an approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID.

Respond: Practices to Respond to a Confirmed Case in School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID, 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. Schools will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a test-confirmed COVID case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.
4. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school, is test-confirmed to have COVID, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form.

Mitigate: Practices to Mitigate the Spread Inside the School

Preparation for School Operations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, the school will implement health and safety procedures that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory. (e.g., PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency, and other jurisdictional policies.
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings.

Hand Sanitizing and Washing

Hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, before eating, and entering classrooms. Breaks will be provided for hand washing.

- Supervised handwashing will be monitored and taught for our youngest of students, with every opportunity to encourage proper techniques to all our students.
- Multiple hand sanitizing opportunities will be available for Bellevue ISD employees and students throughout the campus in locations such as the office, classroom, lunchroom, etc.

District Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for

students and staff. The school will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are commonly touched throughout the day. This includes objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets. The school will arrange for cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, if the same room will be used by multiple class groups. The school will follow CDC guidance on cleaning buildings to prevent COVID spread and will ensure cleaning and disinfecting products are stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them. The cafeteria will be cleaned between lunch periods.

Whenever possible, schools will open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building.

Restrooms

- Staff should supervise and limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

Personal Protective Equipment / Face Masks

At this time, Bellevue ISD students and staff will have the freedom to wear protective equipment if desired, but it is not required. When using a mask the following guidance is recommended.

- 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.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some extracurricular and co-curricular activities.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings while eating and drinking.
- Families are requested to supply a student face covering.
- Face Coverings are NOT allowed to:
 - Have inappropriate pictures, emblems or writing that is offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
 - advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under school policy.
- Individual needs regarding face coverings will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the campus principal.

Visitors to Campus

Visitors will be screened with questions regarding symptoms and be denied access if any symptoms are reported or witnessed.

- Only essential visits will be allowed.
- UIL and school-sponsored activities will be considered essential, and all government required social distancing measures will be strictly enforced. UIL guidelines will be enforced and can change at any given time, just as all governmental requirements.
- If activities can be staggered, every effort will be made to decrease crowd sizes.
- Parents are discouraged from entering the campus.
- Virtual tools will be considered to conduct meetings such as PTA meetings, Booster Club Meetings, FFA Meetings, Foundation Meetings, Alumni Meetings, ARDs, LPAC, etc.

School Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival at School

- The school doors will open at 7:25 am. Please do not drop your child off at school before 7:25 am.
- Upon arrival, students will go to their Designated Entrance. A school employee will be at each door to greet students upon arrival.
 - Bus students, PreK, and Kindergarten students will enter the Northeast side door near the PreK/Kindergarten classroom.
 - Parents of PreK and Kindergarten students will be allowed to walk students to their child's classrooms until the 2nd week of school.
 - Students driving to school will enter the North door on the end of the gymnasium.
 - All other students should be dropped off and enter the west door on the South side (door closet to the Library) of the district.

Dismissal from School

In an effort to manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time, staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders, or grade levels will be utilized. The school will also use separate exits for car riders, bus riders, walkers. Bellevue ISD employees will monitor all designated exits.

Bus Transportation

Although the district is implementing the safety protocols and disinfecting, families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible exposure on buses.

- Due to the inability to social distance on the school bus, students who ride the school bus are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Bus windows will be open, as permitted by weather, to allow outside air to circulate.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Cafeteria Breakfast and Lunch

- Based on social distancing guidelines, the Principal will determine areas that may be utilized for breakfast and lunch. These areas could include classrooms, the library, or other large areas within the school district.
- Bellevue ISD teachers and staff will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote social distancing practices.
- Hand sanitizing will be available in the cafeteria.

Standard Classroom Procedures

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations regarding social distancing applicable to the classroom square footage.

Teachers and staff will ensure high-touch areas in the classroom are wiped down between classes. Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:

- Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations.
- Access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces.
- Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.

District Health and Safety Training

On the first day, a student attends school on campus; the school will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene and other mitigation practices adopted by the school district. These practices include covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover a cough or sneeze with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash. Then, hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

Safety Training for Protocols and Procedures

Teacher/Staff

- Teachers attend training and develop classroom procedures consistent with TEA, District, and CDC guidance.
- All staff will be trained on COVID screening, identifying symptoms, preventing spread, and sanitation of work areas.
- All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the campus office if a student is showing any symptoms.

Students

- Students will participate in training specific to newly adopted health and safety protocols.
- All students will be trained on information about COVID screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.
- If a student is experiencing symptoms, they need to notify a teacher immediately.

Parents:

- Parents are asked to talk to their students about COVID symptoms and prevention strategies.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics and extracurricular activities support the goal of providing a well-rounded educational experience for students within the reopening process. The district will follow UIL guidance for physical and social distancing, restricting the size of gatherings for indoor and outdoor spaces, disinfecting equipment, and other health and safety precautions.

COVID19 Symptoms and Close Contact Definition

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID, 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 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions by:

- being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); Being coughed on; or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 20 minutes *however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.*

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

Current guidance and procedures from the CDC and TEA does not allow the school district to perform contact tracing and require quarantine requirements.