



COVID PROTOCOLS

Updated August 12, 2021

Mitigation

- Clean and Disinfect frequently all touchable surfaces.
- Antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in all buildings.
- Bottled water will be provided.
- Electric hand dryers and water bottle filling stations are in the process of being installed.
- Upgrading the HVAC System to improve ventilation and the removal air particles.
- Masks will be provided for anyone that desires to wear one.
- Seating charts will be required so that contact tracing will be possible.
- Strongly encourage vaccinations.

Face Masks and Social Distancing

- Face masks are **optional** for staff and students per Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-36.
- Face masks are **recommended** by CDC and **strongly encouraged** by Hitchcock ISD, especially for those with a compromised immune system or if not fully vaccinated.
- Face masks will be provided to individuals with a possible communicable illness awaiting parent pick-up.
- The CDC recommends schools maintain 3 feet of physical distance between students and 6 feet of physical distance for adults from others.
- Social distancing will be encouraged and enforced as much as is practicable.

Health Screenings and Testing

- Students, staff, and visitors are to self-screen for illness or COVID-19 symptoms at home, prior to coming on campus.
- Stay at home if ill, diagnosed with COVID-19, or have symptoms of COVID-19 (even if fully vaccinated).
- Contact the campus nurse for guidance of campus re-entry.
- Local COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites will be listed on the Hitchcock ISD website.

Contact Tracing

- If an employee or student was in proximity of an infected individual but properly wore a mask, is within a 90-day immunity period from being previously COVID positive, or is completely vaccinated, quarantining is not required unless symptomatic. However, the individuals are subject to intense monitoring by the campus nurse.
- Seating charts will be maintained and updated constantly for transportation, classrooms, and cafeterias. A copy of campus seating charts will be on file with the campus' central office for contact tracing purposes.

Quarantine

- Utilizing proper contact tracing and reporting procedures, students will be required to quarantine for
 - 7 days with a negative COVID test taken on day 5 or later
 - 10 days if no test
- Students and staff will not be required to quarantine for close contact if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 2 weeks have passed since the final dose was administered AND are currently not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Proof of vaccines will need to be provided to and validated by the campus nurse.
- Students and staff will not be required to quarantine for close contact if they are within a 90-day immunity period from previously testing positive of COVID-19.
 - Proof of lab confirmed positive test result will need to be provided and validated by the campus nurse.

- Students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset and follow re-entry criteria.
 - Asymptomatic siblings or household contacts may remain on campus unless a positive COVID-19 test is received.
- Individuals that are quarantined are not allowed on district property before, during, or after school hours within their quarantine period. This includes but is not limited to campuses/buildings, transportation, field houses, training rooms, practice/playing fields, etc.

Re-entry Criteria

- Campus nurse or nurse aide will provide timeline.
- Quarantined due to **symptoms**, regardless of vaccination status:
 - 10 days (return on day 11) from start of symptom onset, **OR**
 - After physician confirmation of alternate diagnosis, **OR**
 - After confirmed negative COVID-19 test.
- Quarantined due to **exposure** (close contact):
 - 7 days (return on day 8) after last date of contact with COVID-19 positive case **IF** received a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 or later.
 - 10 days (return on day 11) after last date of contact with COVID-19 positive case **IF** not exhibiting symptoms and does not get a COVID-19 test.
 - 20 days from start of COVID-19 positive case's symptom onset if unable to isolate in the home.

Essential Employee Quarantine

- All Hitchcock ISD employees are considered as essential employees.
 - Quarantine period or criteria may be subject to change dependent on current trends in virus spread.
- Quarantine **exception** criteria for essential employees not fully vaccinated:
 - Eating within 6 ft. of positive individual during infectious period.
 - Lives with the COVID-19 positive case and unable to isolate within the home.
 - Currently exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Hitchcock ISD ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES WILL abide by the following concerning quarantine:
 - Essential employees not meeting the criteria listed above MAY remain in work environment, but MUST abide by the following Restrictions in the Workplace:
 - **Restrictions in the Workplace for Essential Employees**
 - If an essential employee is not sent home based on the criteria above, she/he must abide by the following restrictions to remain in the work environment. Until the 14th day from date of potential exposure, essential employees must:
 - Self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms are evident
 - If symptoms arise, make a report to your supervisor and campus/district nurse and stay home.
 - Wearing a mask for the 14 days is highly recommended.
 - Keep 6-foot distance from others and limit paths of movement throughout the school or workplace.
 - Eat lunch independently.

COVID Vaccinations and Quarantine

- Vaccinated students and staff who have received their final COVID-19 vaccination and two-weeks have passed since their final dose do not have to quarantine (documentation must be provided) if they are not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Local COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites will be listed on the Hitchcock ISD website.

Visitors/Meal Deliveries

- Parents will be allowed on campus to attend Open House/Meet the Teacher on August 13th and on August 16th for the first day of school for drop offs. Hitchcock ISD facilities are closed to visitors not essential to school operations.
- In situations where a visitor must be physically present, as determined by the building principal or central office administrator, the visitor shall schedule an appointment.
- All visitors to any building, facility, or campus will self-screen at home, prior to entering a HISD facility.
- Meal drop-offs or deliveries will be allowed.

Field Trips

- Scheduling of field trips, school events, and extracurricular activities will be done with current virus trends taken into consideration. These events may be postponed or cancelled accordingly.
- Field trips will be scheduled with preventative safeguards in place. Parents and students will be informed of these safeguards and provided the option of participation. All extra events will be made optional.

***Virus trends and guidance will be continuously monitored, and district protocols will be updated accordingly.

COVID Protocols will be re-evaluated after October 8, 2021 or sooner as required by TEA and the CDC.