

## **SANTO ISD 2022-2023**

### **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

*Subject to change based on updates from local and state authorities and health officials.*

Santo ISD has procedures in place for a successful return to the 2022-23 school year, which will begin Thursday, August 18. The district continues to provide high-quality instruction as well as a safe environment to learn and work. The following is a summary of the extent to which Santo ISD has implemented CDC recommendations.

**Universal and correct wearing of masks** – Use of face coverings will follow Governor Abbott’s order GA-38, which mandates the **optional** wearing of masks in all Texas school districts.

*“No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, and no government official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering.”*

#### **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms or any contagious symptoms will be moved to an isolated setting. The school will clean areas used by an individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, staff, or visitor). The school will clean areas heavily used by the individual. Non-porous surfaces will be disinfected as needed.

Where possible, school staff will work to improve airflow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building. The use of outdoor space for learning may be utilized and physical education classes may be conducted outdoors when appropriate. Students will have access to technology devices to minimize sharing. Classroom supplies will be purchased to minimize sharing of high-touch materials. Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch surfaces, working surfaces, and shared objects regularly. Students may bring water bottles. Water fountains and bottle-fillers will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day. Disposable cups are available for anyone upon request.

Custodial staff will continue enhanced cleaning procedures and will frequently wipe high traffic surfaces throughout the day. Thorough sanitizing and handwashing practices will be followed in all areas of the kitchen and serving locations. In addition, all tables will be cleaned between mealtimes. Buses will be cleaned, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette** – training and education will include proper handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and identification of infectious disease symptoms. Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day, after blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing, following restroom use, before and after eating, and upon return from recess or outdoor activity.

Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, at entrances, and throughout common spaces. Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to sanitize or wash hands frequently. Buses will have hand sanitizer for student use as requested.

**Diagnostic testing and screening** – the school will separate any student who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Students who report feeling feverish will receive an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Students, parents, and staff will be asked to self-report coronavirus symptoms and possible exposure.

Parents must ensure they do not send their child to school if the student has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. In addition, parents should coordinate with campus administration if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Teachers will monitor students throughout the school day and refer to the school nurse if symptoms are present.

SISD provides Rapid COVID Testing to students and staff as requested by campus administration in coordination with the school nurse at no charge. Students who are less than 18 years-of-age must have a signed parent form on file to be tested.

Staff must report any symptoms or a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 and must remain off campus until they provide an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider or provide documentation of a negative COVID test from an approved COVID-19 testing location.

Any confirmed positive COVID-19 case will be communicated as necessary. Parents of close contact individuals will receive direct communication from the school. The parent will be responsible for the necessary response in coordination with the school.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities** – SISD has promoted local and area vaccination opportunities to students, staff, and the community. SISD provided work release time for staff to access vaccination opportunities. Students will **not** be required to have a COVID-19 vaccination.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies** – student IEPs are followed regardless of learning environment such that students with disabilities receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). SISD staff, including special education teachers and general education teachers, will work with students and families to ensure accommodations are provided as identified in a student's IEP.

Homebound services will be provided to students who are unable to attend school due to a medical condition certified by a licensed physician that indicates the student will or is anticipated, due to the student's medical condition, to be out of school for a minimum of 5 days or an ongoing intermittent basis.

**The school district will coordinate with state and local health officials regarding isolation, quarantine, and household contact tracing.** The school will submit required reporting to authorities.

The school district will directly communicate with parents of individuals considered in close contact through email. In coordination with the school, the parent will be responsible for managing signs or symptoms and the appropriate response to possible exposure. Individuals with a

confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis will quarantine for a minimum of 5 days.

Santo ISD will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs, students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. Santo ISD staff, including administration, counselors, and the school nurse, have been trained to provide support for students, families, and staff members with COVID-19 issues. A process will be established to help identify and provide support to students or staff, perhaps at higher risk for significant stress or trauma from COVID-19. Students seeking outside social-emotional support will be provided information for appropriate mental health resources.

The district will review and update this guideline at 6-month intervals or the beginning of each semester.