



## **Lancaster ISD COVID-19 School Reopening Letter (Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Procedures)**

August 24, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we plan for returning to school at Lancaster ISD, we recognize that this will be an unusual school year, but we remain committed to supporting your child's learning, as well as his or her safety. This document outlines the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are some steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. The Lancaster ISD strategy for opening and operating is outlined below. A more detailed plan can be found on our district website by [clicking here](#).

### **Prevention**

To prevent COVID-19 positive individuals from entering our campuses, your child's school will have the following COVID-19 symptom screening procedures in place:

- All staff will be required to self-screen daily.
- All visitors will be required to screen upon arrival. Visitors **will not** be allowed on campus without scheduling an appointment in advance.
- Parents are asked to proactively identify when their student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 and to keep them home. **Attached is the screening document you should use to identify possible COVID symptoms or exposure.**

If your child does not pass the screening, **do not** send them to school. Contact the School Nurse and notify your doctor immediately. If a parent indicates that a student is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms or has had close contact with an individual who has been lab confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will retain that information until the student meets the criteria for return to school.

### **Criteria for Return to School**

**Individuals must meet all of the criteria listed in one of the boxes below in order to meet the conditions for reentry to school** after he/she shows symptoms, gets a positive COVID-19 test result, or has had close contact with someone who has been lab confirmed to have COVID-19.



### Lab Confirmed Positive

**All 4 criteria must be met:**

- at least two days (48 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); **and**
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc...); **and**
- at least fourteen days have passed since symptoms first appeared; **and**
- pass the screener for reentry.
- **NOTE: Students that participate in athletics and other similar UIL activities (band, cheerleading, etc... ) will need to be cleared to resume participation in the activity by a physician.**

- NOTE: Please note that **per TEA guidelines**, students **are not required to have a negative COVID-19 test result in order to return to school** if they meet all of the criteria listed above. This means that it is possible for some students to remain positive and return to school.
- **For the safety of all staff members and students, parents are strongly encouraged to obtain a negative acute infection test result for your child at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) or from your child’s physician.**

### COVID 19 Symptoms Criteria

**All 4 criteria must be met:**

- at least two days (48 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); **and**
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc...); **and**
- at least fourteen days have passed since symptoms first appeared; **and**
- pass the screener for reentry.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the stay at home period, the individual must provide either:

- a doctor’s note indicating an alternate diagnosis; **or**
- an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that is negative for COVID-19 or from your child’s physician.

### Close Contact Exposure

- Individuals who have had “**CLOSE CONTACT**” with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 should stay home through the 14-day incubation period and are not allowed on campus. **NOTE: This period may be extended if the close contact is living at home with the individual.**
- Individuals who have had close contact with someone who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 will be required to pass the screener for reentry.
- This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 as:
  - a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); **or**
  - b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes.

# LANCASTER

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

422 S. Centre Ave.  
Lancaster, TX 75146  
(972) 218-1400  
(972) 218-1401 FAX  
www.LancasterISD.org



Dr. Elijah Granger  
Superintendent

## Mitigation

Our district will be taking the following steps across each of our campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- All adults in the building will wear masks.
- All students ages 10 and above will be required to wear masks, particularly when they are within six feet of one another, except when participating in activities that cannot be conducted with a mask on, such as eating, or unless it is not developmentally appropriate for the student to wear a mask.
- All students will be required to wear a face shield (provided by the district).
- On the first day a student attends school on campus, students will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the campus and upon entry into the school building.
- Bell schedules and/or student schedules may be adjusted to limit mobility and large groups in classrooms and/or common areas.
- Students will be required to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds frequently throughout the day.
- Frequently touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- When feasible, practices that reduce the likelihood that students have close contact with one another and remain six feet apart will be implemented.

## Response

In the event of a COVID-positive case on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- The school may be closed for up to 5 days and all areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until cleaned and disinfected.
- All teachers, staff, and families of all students in that school will be notified.
- Individuals that have been identified to have **close contact** with the lab-confirmed case will be notified to stay at home for 14 days.
- Teachers and students will transition to remote instruction.
- The local health department will be notified.

We hope that this letter provides you with information about our plan to decrease the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Communications Department at [info@lancasterisd.org](mailto:info@lancasterisd.org) or visit our website at <https://www.lancasterisd.org/>.

While this will be a challenging year, we believe it can also be a great one, and we look forward to supporting your child in his or her learning journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elijah Granger  
Lancaster ISD Superintendent

**Lancaster ISD Vision:**  
*Every Graduate A Success!*