

Buffalo ISD
Mask Discipline Matrix For Re-Opening Plan

First Offense - Verbal Warning

Second Offense - Verbal Warning

Third Offense - Parent Contact

Fourth Offense - Lunch Detention

Fifth Offense - After School Detention

Sixth Offense - ISS or at home learning



Buffalo ISD

RETURN TO SCHOOL

PLANNING GUIDE (Revised 07/31/2020)



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RETURN TO SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING
JULY 14, 2020

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Introduction

As Buffalo Independent School District and schools across the nation transition into the 2020-2021 school year, many unknowns remain in the educational world. However, in the midst of uncertainty, Buffalo ISD knows that families and communities need schools to be ready to reopen as soon as possible with guidance from local health officials and other experts. This is a moment when each of us – educators, students and their families, and communities – must unite with one another to ensure that students re-enter schools with safety as a top priority so that learning can continue, and students can develop the social and emotional connections necessary for their growth.

These past several months have served as a great reminder of the role that schools play in ensuring an equitable education for all students. Schools create conditions that support students with their social/emotional needs, develop lifelong friendships, explore their passions, and channel their energy into productive pursuits and activities. Reopening our school in a manner that is responsive to the needs of families and communities will involve novel challenges with many undetermined factors. Buffalo ISD is prepared for any scenario that may arise.

As the world around us changes and evolves, it is imperative for Buffalo ISD to learn and grow, preparing our students to be successful and resilient regardless of the challenges AND opportunities that lie before them. As we prepare for the new school year, teams of Buffalo ISD administrators and educators in partnership with local health organizations, medical professionals, education professionals in other organizations, and our Board collaborated to create this guide in an effort to organize a set of directions and protocols aligned to the guidance of medical experts to lead us as we strive to be champions for the students of Buffalo ISD.

We understand that there will be circumstances, those like we may never have experienced before, in which grace will be necessary to do what is in the best interest of our students, staff, and community. These circumstances will not be taken lightly, nor dismissed, in our efforts to ensure the enduring culture of high expectations that has been such an important aspect of the success of our students. Our collective commitment toward ensuring the health and well-being of our students is of utmost importance.

As we prepare to open our schools again, we plan to offer our families the option to choose a traditional 100% in-person teaching and learning model OR a 100% virtual/remote education platform. If there is an escalation of incidents of COVID-19 transmission, we will transition to a Blended Model or move to 100% Virtual instruction. More information about these decisions and the considerations influencing them can be found in this guide.

Buffalo ISD looks forward to working in collaboration with families and the community as our school begins for the 2020-2021 academic year!



The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and Buffalo ISD will be doing everything possible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe.



While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on four sets of

practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for all schools and others that are recommendations:

- **PROVIDE NOTICE:** Requirements for parental and public notices
- **PREVENT:** Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- **RESPOND:** Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- **MITIGATE:** Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Consistently implementing recommendations to the extent feasible is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences.

PROVIDE NOTICE

Requirements for parental and public notices

Attendance and Enrollment

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
2. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
3. Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from Buffalo ISD. If parents who choose virtual instruction want their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so; Buffalo ISD is permitting these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period.
4. Buffalo ISD will provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on



campus each day, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.

PREVENT

Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

1. Buffalo ISD requires teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms include:

- o Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- o Loss of taste or smell
- o Cough
- o Difficulty breathing
- o Shortness of breath
- o Headache
- o Chills
- o Sore throat
- o Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- o Significant muscle pain or ache
- o Diarrhea

The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the campus principal if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their child from inside the school. Regularly performing a forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended, but the practice is also not prohibited by this guidance.

3. Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up as discussed above, before visitors are allowed on campuses, Buffalo ISD will screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, Buffalo ISD will screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical,



screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who themselves either:

(a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or

(b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

o In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

i. at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);

ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared

o In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

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

(a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or

(b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

o Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

o Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

o Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.



MITIGATE

Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Operational Considerations:

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. Buffalo ISD will have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance. We will also have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom as facilities allow.

2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
 - o School systems are encouraged to have students engage in supervised handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
 - o School systems are encouraged to teach students good handwashing techniques.
 - o Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should 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.

3. Each campus will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
 - o Schools should arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This would include objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.
 - o Schools should arrange for cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.
 - o The CDC has provided guidance on cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 spread.
 - o Schools should ensure these products are stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them, and ensuring that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.

Buffalo ISD will be using the following cleaning products & implementing the listed protocols:

- Clarion 25 floor wax with antimicrobial used throughout the district



- Daily sweep and mop all floors with an antibacterial disinfectant.
- Twice a day bathrooms will be wiped down with an antibacterial disinfectant.
- Daily wipe down of the classrooms with the disinfectant: chairs, desk tops, door handles, and all other touched surfaces.
- Daily wipe down of the cafeteria disinfected after breakfast and in between and after all lunches.
- Once a week a electrostatic disinfectant will be administered district wide.
- Disinfectants used:
 - Buckeye eco E-23 neutral disinfectant
 - Buckeye eco E-15 hydrogen peroxide cleaner
 - Buckeye sani care quat (mint, lemon, pine)
 - Quest Specialty Phenomenal citrus hospital disinfectant
 - Husky 814 quat tuberculocidal spray disinfectant

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

5. If a building has remained dormant for an extended period, we recommend you review CDC guidance on maintaining water system safety when buildings are unused for extended periods of time, and apply this guidance as appropriate.

6. On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

1. For the purposes of this document, 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. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.

2. Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks.

3. In addition to the executive order, school systems may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.

4. It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks



or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

Student-Teacher Groupings

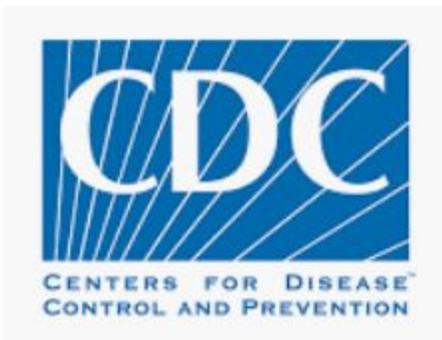
Where feasible, without disrupting the educational experience, encourage students to practice social distancing.

1. In classroom spaces that allow it, consider placing student desks a minimum of six feet apart when possible.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, schools should plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and should consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible.

Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

1. When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of the likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
2. Schools may continue to offer extracurricular activities, at their discretion and consistent with the guidance in this document, for non-UIL extracurricular activities and with the guidance found on the UIL website for all UIL activities.

According to the Center for Disease Control



COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as [hand-washing](#), [staying home when sick](#)) and environmental [cleaning and disinfection](#) are important principles that are covered in this guide. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school staff can take to help lower the risk of exposure

to and the spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).



One of the actions that can be taken to help lower the risk of exposure is the use of face coverings. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be repeatedly reminded not to touch the face covering and to **wash their hands** frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students' families on **proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings** (CDC, 2020).

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. **Children** have similar symptoms to adults and generally experience mild illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms **may** have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all-inclusive. Other symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

Universal Precautions Recommended by the CDC



Hand Washing Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Physical Distancing Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Masks and Face Shields Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover or plastic face shield when around



others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a mask or shield when they have to go out in public, for example, to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face cover or plastic shield is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants work well.

Academic Experience

Will my child be safe at school? Based on guidance from the CDC, the Texas Education Agency, and other medical professionals involved in leading the fight against COVID-19, Buffalo ISD has developed a proactive plan that places student and employee safety at the forefront of returning to school. Classroom teachers and support staff will play an increasingly important role in the health and wellness of students. Additional safety measures beyond the daily and hourly classroom checklist include:



- Parents and students in grades 3-12 should understand that in some classrooms, social distancing may not be possible due to classroom size and/or number of students in the classroom. Therefore, teachers and administrators have full discretion and authority to determine when and where students wear masks or face shields. Students are welcome to provide their own appropriate masks/shields. Buffalo ISD has purchased disposable masks/shields for students that will be available on the first day of school. Replacement masks/shields are the responsibility of the parent or guardian. If a student has a medical condition that would prevent the use of wearing a mask, a note from a medical doctor is required.



- All students will be checked for body temperature status upon entry to the school each day. If they are in the normal range, they will be allowed to enter the building based on established procedures. If a student or staff member registers a temperature that reaches the CDC defined level of concern (**100.0 degrees or higher**), they will be directed to a



designated holding area away from others. The student or staff member will then be given a second temperature screening with a different thermometer. **If the second temperature check is also 100.0 degrees or higher, the student or staff member will not be allowed to stay on campus.** In the case of students, a parent will be contacted and asked to come and pick up their child to be taken home. The student should be picked up by a parent within an hour of being contacted if possible. Staff members will be directed to leave campus.

- To the extent possible, students will be spaced throughout the classroom to promote social distancing.
- Traditional water fountains will not be available. Students should bring their own personal water bottle to be used at school.
- We will limit the use of community supplies (pencils, calculators, lab equipment, machinery, P.E. equipment, etc.) that are difficult to disinfect in the classroom or at recess.
- There will be no assemblies or large group meetings allowed during the school day.

On the first day of school and throughout the first two weeks, these new safety procedures will be taught and practiced in all of our classrooms. Parental support and reinforcement of these new measures will be critical in providing the safest possible environment for our students. We appreciate your assistance.

How will recess look different? The school will develop a recess schedule that limits the number of students on the playground or within a specific area of the playground. Appropriate social distancing will be maintained.

Will my child be safe at arrival and dismissal? Arrival and dismissal can be challenging with large numbers of students congregating, making it difficult to socially distance. This year, due to the anticipated slower entry into the building resulting from increased safety protocols, Buffalo ISD will be adjusting staff and student arrival times. Buffalo ISD will utilize two entrance points to reduce congestion. Students will enter either the main entrance or the bus entrance depending on how they arrive at school. Signs will be placed outside as a reminder for students to socially distance themselves from their peers while entering the building or standing outside.

BELL TIMES



Buffalo Elementary, Lower Junior High, and Upper Junior High staff will arrive no later than 7:30 a.m. Buffalo High School staff will arrive at 7:40 a.m. Each staff member will attest to a self-screening prior to advancing to their classroom or office area.

On the elementary, lower junior high and upper junior high campuses, students will be



allowed to enter the building starting at 7:30 a.m., 7:40 a.m. for the high school, and will have temperatures checked at either the main entrance or the bus entrance, based on how they arrived on campus. If temperatures fall below the defined level of concern, students will proceed directly to their first hour classrooms. Please note the new adjusted start times and dismissal times for each campus.



Adjusted Start Time & Dismissal Time for Each Campus

Elementary	Lower Junior High	Upper Junior High	High School
7:45 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	7:55 a.m.
2:45 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	2:57 p.m.

Additional considerations for families include:

Parking lots will be more crowded than usual, please allow for extra time to drop students off.

If possible, drive your child to/from school each day to reduce the number of students riding the bus. Upon dropping your child off, please remind them that their first responsibility as they enter the school is to either wash their hands or use the hand sanitizers available.

Please show patience with district employees as they implement new protocols. Arrival and dismissal procedures (i.e., temperature screening in a.m.) may initially take more time than in previous years.

I do not feel comfortable sending my child to school, what are my options? If you do not feel comfortable sending your child back to school this fall, there will be a 100% at-home online option offered and you should choose this option. The goal is to partner with families to develop the best possible instructional delivery plan for students during this pandemic period.

How will I track my students' attendance? If a child is virtual, the teacher will verify the students have logged in which shows up in the online classroom.

Buffalo ISD is offering both Traditional In-Person and At-Home Online Instruction. Both programs will follow Buffalo ISD's TEKS-based curriculum. Families will be asked to select one of these options when they complete their enrollment or information review in the Parent Portal which will be open starting the week of July 20. Parents will receive a letter in the mail with the student's Parent Portal ID needed for the registration process. Should a family want to change their student's selection, there will be a two week "grace period" at the

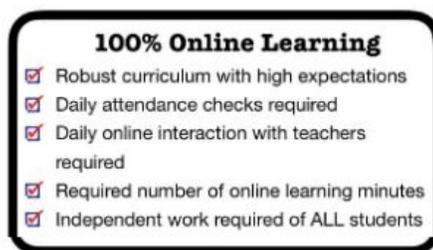


beginning of the 1st 6 Weeks to make any changes to student placement. Changes must be requested by midnight on August 25, 2020, by emailing or calling their student's campus using the contact information at the top of the campus website. Changes to the selection can also be made at the end of the six-week grading period.

Please note: Students in both programs are subject to compulsory attendance laws. All students enrolled in at-home online instruction must check-in and engage in learning activities in all classes **daily**. Students must be in attendance for at least 90 percent of the time the course is offered in order to receive credit or a final grade.

In-Person Instruction

Buffalo ISD plans to offer In-Person Instruction, five days a week, at all BISD campuses. Traditional In-Person Instruction will require additional health and safety precautions because the safety and well-being of students, families, and staff will remain Buffalo ISD's top priority. Traditional In-Person Instruction will consist of a safe environment that is in alignment with local health protocols. Social distancing will be adhered to as much as instructionally possible. While we have completed a great deal of work ensuring that our Learning Management System will allow for a rigorous and meaningful learning experience, and that all Buffalo ISD teachers are trained and adept at teaching your students in a virtual learning environment, we still believe that the traditional model of teaching and learning (in-person) is most effective at meeting the needs of the "whole child."



At-Home Instruction

In Buffalo ISD, our At-Home Instruction Learning Model will require support from caring adults at home and within the online/remote classroom environment. Courses and course content are created to ensure that students continue learning at the pace of the current Buffalo ISD scope and sequence. Students in grades PreK-12 will use Google Classroom as a learning platform. Classes within the At-Home Online Instruction Learning Model are created and taught by Buffalo ISD teachers and staff and requires students to participate in an asynchronous model that will include synchronous learning. Students in the At-Home Online Instruction option will have opportunities to engage in real-time learning with the teacher via the computer or other electronic device. There will also be learning activities to complete each day. Lessons will consist of direct instruction as well as a combination of guided practice, independent work, collaborative group work, and formative assessments.



Lessons could include video clips with guiding questions, graphic organizers, time to share, checks for understanding, and reflection opportunities. Students are expected to engage daily and participate in each class following a daily schedule. Parents will be required to meet with the teacher and sign a 2020-2021 BISD At-Home Learning Parent & School Compact which outlines expectations for At-Home Learning.

The Asynchronous Model is a curricular experience where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic device while accessing course content and/or other resources using the Google Classroom Learning Management System (LMS) in grades PK – 12. Asynchronous Learning may include **Synchronous Learning**, which is two-way, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students through the computer or other electronic devices. This method may be used in conjunction with an asynchronous model, meaning the teacher may designate some class time when the entire class is online at the same time for direct instruction or a demonstration. Synchronous learning might also be used to deliver a course remotely when it is not available in an asynchronous format. This would mean that much like going to school, a student would be expected to be present for a given class period each day that would be delivered remotely via the Learning Management System (LMS).

How will my child learn some of the important standards that may have been difficult to learn through virtual education last spring? Teachers will be collaborating to determine which standards that were taught in the spring of 2020 that are crucial to student success at the next grade or course level and develop plans to ensure mastery and understanding during the first few weeks of school, re-teaching and reinforcing these standards when necessary for student learning progression. Buffalo ISD will be using a new Learning Management System (LMS) called Google Classroom in order to improve the quality of the on-line learning experience.

It is important to distinguish between online school and the emergency at-home learning that families experienced last spring. Our 100% At-Home Learning option will reflect rigor, time commitment and format of traditional online courses. Students will experience a greater level of engagement with in-depth material and instruction more reflective of a traditional in-person model. These programs will not feel similar to the flexible schedules and limited scope associated with the emergency lessons our teachers were asked to provide students last spring during state-mandated school closures. All staff will be trained in the use of the LMS.

It is our belief that students are best served, both academically and social and emotionally, by being present at school with their peers and the supporting teachers and staff at Buffalo ISD. While we have completed a great deal of work ensuring that our Learning Management System will allow for a rigorous and meaningful learning experience, and that all Buffalo ISD teachers are trained and adept and teaching your students in a virtual learning environment, we still believe that the traditional model of teaching and learning (in-person) is most effective at meeting the needs of the “whole child.”



Specials Classes

How will my student's elective classes look different this academic school year? Buffalo

ISD is committed to providing all curricular opportunities possible while following the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Texas Education Agency. Pending further guidance from state and local health officials, to the extent possible, Buffalo ISD will adhere to the most current recommendations concerning social distancing, gathering size and personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff at the time of the curricular opportunity. **Staff and students will be required to wear either a cloth mask or a shield, especially when social distancing is difficult.**

To the extent possible, Buffalo ISD expects all classroom activities to be performed while adhering to CDC and Texas Education Agency recommendations, including but not limited to:

- Weather permitting; students will go outside for all physical education activities.
- A larger space will be considered to accommodate for social distancing if designated classrooms are too small to allow for appropriate student numbers and/or spacing.
- Commonly touched surfaces and equipment will be avoided when possible. Those surfaces and/or objects will be disinfected before and after use when avoidance is not possible.
- There will be no shared school supplies.
- Upon the return of library books, each book will be disinfected prior to recirculation.
- Clear guidance will be established for students to follow when entering and exiting classrooms.



Breakfast and Lunch Procedures

Will my child be safe at lunch? Students will eat in the cafeteria and maintain social distancing protocols.

How will my child be protected during meal times? All Food and Nutrition staff members are thoroughly trained in food safety. The Health Department routinely audits school kitchens and Buffalo ISD has been awarded top ratings for cleanliness. Using the public health guidelines, Buffalo ISD plans provide meal service for students in the cafeteria at this time.



Transportation

What steps will be taken to ensure my children are safe on the bus? Riding the bus may be a necessary mode of transportation for some students; however, riding the bus does come with added risk to COVID-19 exposure. **Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to bring their children to school if possible.** Buffalo ISD has established protocols to reduce, **but not eliminate**, the chances of COVID-19 transmission while on the bus.

- Members of the same family may sit two to a seat.
- Students will have assigned seating



Failure or refusal to practice appropriate protocols may result in loss of bus riding privileges.

Throughout the pandemic, drivers will be required to wear face masks. As previously noted, students will also be required to wear a mask/shield. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals. Touch surfaces on the bus such as handrails and seats will be disinfected after every route.

What can I do to help ensure my children are safe on the bus? Every student should wash or sanitize their hands before getting to the bus stop in the morning and afternoon. **Please ensure our child has a face mask and remind your child not to touch other students, or to share toys or common items like cell phones.** Remind your child to practice safe distancing protocols. Buffalo ISD strongly encourages you to bring your student to school, if possible, to mitigate chances of COVID- 19 transmission.

Social, Emotional and Health Wellbeing

How will the social/emotional health of my child be addressed when classroom instruction resumes? Support staff (Counselors and Social Workers) will work to do the following:

- Provide support for staff regarding typical childhood reactions to stress and trauma.
- Collaborate with teachers on activities to address student mental health upon return to school.
- Collaborate with community agencies on best practices.
- Provide classroom lessons on school expectations and structure around health safety and social distancing practices to help students re-adjust to a full school schedule.

What kinds of PPE (personal protective equipment) will be available in the school?

- All staff and students not possessing one, will be provided one effective cloth mask or face shield that is the appropriate size and will be required to wear it at appropriate times throughout the school day. All additional masks/shields are the responsibility of the individual or parent/guardian.
- Face shields will be provided to nurses for use when conducting procedures on students.
- Touch-free thermometers are available for school use.
- Sanitizers/cleansers, hand soap, and tissues are provided throughout all buildings.
- There will be a designated room for students/staff that exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 that will be disinfected regularly and modified to avoid contamination.

Building Visitors

What should I do if I need to come to the school for any reason? We strongly encourage you to do as much communication and business as you can via email or the phone, without coming to the school. **If you need to**



come to the school for any reason, you must have an appointment.

Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up as discussed above, before visitors are allowed on campuses, Buffalo ISD will screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, Buffalo ISD will screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

My child takes medication and I'm required to give it to the nurse, how do I bring medicine to school?

Continue to do what you have done in the past and get the documentation completed by your physician. When you have the medicine and the consent form, please arrange a time to meet with the school nurse. Someone will meet you outside the building to get the medication and the form.

How do I pick my student up early from school? Please ring the buzzer at the door when you arrive at school and let the office know that you need your child to be checked out early. A staff member will come to the door and ask that you sign the student out.

The school day has started and my child is late. Should I walk him/her into the office? If you are bringing your child to school after the start of the day you should walk up to the school and ring the buzzer. A staff member will meet you at the door so that you can appropriately sign your student in.

I have an IEP/504/Other parent meeting; can I come to the building to attend? IEP meetings will be held on campus unless parents request another format (by phone or virtually). IEP team members can participate virtually if the parent is in agreement. IEP meetings may be held virtually unless parents are unable to participate online due to lack of technology. In these cases, district screening protocols and social distancing measures will be followed.

Will my child's class go on field trips? Teachers will work to provide rich experiences through virtual trips to limit potential exposure to COVID-19 during the pandemic.

Will face coverings be required? **Employees (and students) will be required to wear a cloth face mask or a shield whenever possible while at work, and always when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed or is not feasible.** Employees are required to wear face coverings in public spaces (at work), when entering and exiting the building and when using common areas such as bathrooms, kitchens, hallways and lobby areas. Employees will use coverings in accordance with CDC guidelines. The district will provide employees with face masks/shields, but employees may use their own. All school levels will maintain a small inventory of disposable masks and gloves as a backup.



Acknowledgements

Buffalo ISD would like to acknowledge several individuals, groups, and organizations for the collaborative work that has resulted in this informative Return to School Guide:

Buffalo ISD Administrative Team

Buffalo ISD Parents, Students, and Staff

Buffalo ISD Board of Trustees