



We are Better Together, Stronger Than Ever: SWISD COVID-19 2021-22 Health & Safety Plan

As we reflect on the past school year, there is no doubt of the challenges posed to our students, families, staff, and the SWISD community. We are most proud of the work we accomplished last year while working with extreme purpose to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible. SWISD will continue to prioritize the safety and health of our students and staff during the upcoming school year.

We are excited to have our SWISD students back for the 2021-22 school year. Per the Governor’s Executive Order and the Texas Education Agency, in-person learning will be the primary mode of learning offered this school year, and we are exploring alternative learning opportunities currently. We understand that some of our SWISD families have extenuating circumstances concerning the health of their students and/or family, and we encourage you to reach out to your child’s campus Principal to discuss your specific circumstances, concerns, and options. Please visit the [Virtual Learning Options FAQs](#) for more information.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away. SWISD will continue to work diligently to implement a plan based on the most up-to-date public health guidance, scientific data, and governmental guidance. We will continue to review, adjust, and communicate changes to our protocols and plan due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccination

Vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine helps lower the risk of contracting COVID-19, spreading it to others, and it has been shown to be effective in preventing severe illness. SWISD strongly encourages staff and eligible students to get their COVID vaccine. SWISD has worked to bring numerous opportunities for the SWISD community to receive the vaccine and will continue to work with local community organizations to provide more options. Click [here](#) to find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer the COVID-19 vaccines.

Face Coverings/ Masks

In the interest of student and staff health & safety, Southwest ISD will implement a Temporary Indoor Facemask Requirement for all students, staff, and visitors while inside district facilities and on school buses. This requirement is effective as of August 23, 2021. This action will allow our schools to be open, it will minimize the number of students having to be quarantined, and it will contribute to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Hygiene Practices: Hand Washing & Respiratory Etiquette

Regularly washing hands is an effective way to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and avoiding the spread of the COVID virus and other germs (CDC, 2021).

SWISD encourages the practice of [regular hand hygiene](#) (i.e., washing hands/use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) and [respiratory hygiene/cough](#)

	<p>etiquette. Proper hand hygiene education and respiratory etiquette will be integrated into our students’ curriculum.</p> <p>SWISD will have hand sanitizer stations available at entrances of buildings & other designated locations within the campus building. In addition, hand sanitizer stations are also available in each classroom.</p> <p>SWISD custodial staff will diligently monitor soap dispensers and hand sanitizer stations to ensure soap and hand sanitizer is always available</p> <p>Proper hand hygiene education will be integrated into students’ curriculum. Hand hygiene will be practiced as part of the daily classroom routine and during, but not limited to, the following times as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upon entering the school building ● Before & after lunch/snack ● After using the restroom ● Before and after recess ● After coughing or sneezing ● When hands are visibly dirty
<p>Student and Staff Screenings</p>	<p>Students & staff should self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and/or contagious illness at home before attending school/work. SWISD will no longer perform temperature checks or require staff to fill out the COVID-19 screener online. Therefore, it is imperative that staff and students stay home if exhibiting signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or a contagious illness. This action is imperative to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others. Refer to the SWISD Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine protocols.</p>
<p>Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine Protocols</p>	<p>Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, will continue in collaboration with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD). A close contact (someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person without the appropriate and consistent use of masks) who is not fully vaccinated will be asked to quarantine for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 days from the date of last exposure <i>OR</i> ● 7 days from the date of last exposure with a negative COVID-19 test on or after the 5th day. <p>If students or staff are exhibiting symptoms of COVID or receive a positive COVID-19 test, the isolation protocol will be followed. Staff/students will be asked to remain at home until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms (when symptoms first appeared) or from the date of the test if no symptoms are experienced (asymptomatic)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND ● Other symptoms have improved <p>Those who are exhibiting symptoms can return earlier if they meet either of the below criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clearance by a doctor to return to school based on alternative diagnosis OR ● A negative test result from a PCR test (Click here for testing locations in Bexar County) <p>All positive cases will be reported to SAMHD and the Texas Department of State Health Services.</p> <p>Parents will receive notification for test-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>Physical distancing is a strategy that contributes to the effectiveness of SWISD’s layered approach against COVID-19, and SWISD will continue to promote physical distancing of at least 3 feet to the fullest extent possible when feasible.</p> <p>Masks are encouraged to be used among those who are not fully vaccinated and cannot maintain distance. Plexiglass desktop barriers will be available for classroom use.</p>
Cleaning & Disinfecting	<p>SWISD will provide daily and weekly routines to clean and disinfect District facilities and campuses with a concentration on frequently touched surfaces. All campuses will be equipped with one electrostatic applicator for disinfection purposes.</p> <p>Employees and students are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.</p> <p>SWISD will clean and disinfect areas that a COVID-19 positive case occupied within the last 24 hours.</p>
Screening Testing (Asymptomatic Testing) & Diagnostic Testing	<p>Screening testing helps to identify pre-symptomatic (before the development of symptoms) or asymptomatic (without symptoms) cases that may be contagious so that further transmission of COVID-19 can be prevented. SWISD will hold weekly asymptomatic testing in our campuses. Asymptomatic testing will be performed on a voluntary basis and in collaboration with Community Labs.</p> <p>You can register by going to https://register.communitylabstesting.org/register. Those who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to participate.</p> <p>Parents, students, and staff will be referred to community locations for diagnostic testing if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.</p>

Ventilation	SWISD has installed improved HVAC equipment in District campuses. Improving ventilation helps in reducing the number of virus particles in the air and is an important additional layer to the District's plan.
Transportation	Buses will operate at full capacity during the 2021-22 school year. Parents should screen children daily prior to boarding the bus, and students who are sick should stay home. Masks are recommended to be worn during bus transportation. In addition, SWISD buses will require seating charts, encourage the use of hand sanitizer upon boarding, open windows to allow for airflow mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and siblings will sit together. Buses will be cleaned routinely after each route to campuses.
Visitors	Visitors are welcomed on SWISD campuses for scheduled appointments, meetings, and conferences. Each visitor will be required to adhere to SWISD visitor policies and procedures.