



**Dublin Independent School District  
Safe Return to In Person Instruction  
and Continuity of Services Plan**

**2021-2022**

## Stakeholder Statement

Dublin ISD sought stakeholder input through an online survey, a stakeholder meeting, and an opportunity for public comments through a posting on districts ESSER webpage. Stakeholders included employees, special program directors, school principals, school administrators, teachers, school staff, students, parents, employees with mental health background, and civil rights organizations.

## Introduction

The safety and well-being of all staff, students, and visitors are priority for Dublin ISD as the district welcomes all students and personnel back to our campuses for the 2021-2022 school year. Dublin ISD **will not** offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, so all students will be required to attend school on campus, unless a medical condition precludes attendance. Dublin ISD will continue practices, protocols, and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC and the Texas Education Agency. Texas is currently under Executive Order GA-36, issued on May 18, 2021, which prohibits governmental entities and officials from mandating face coverings. The goal is to collaboratively ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible.

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation, by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs

## Dublin ISD Multi-Stage Approach for Managing COVID-19

<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>MINIMAL TO LOW</b>
<b>High number of active cases in county</b>	<b>Moderate number of active cases in county</b>	<b>Small number of active cases in county</b>
<b>Cases increasing</b>	<b>Cases may be increasing slightly but staying steady</b>	<b>Cases decreasing</b>
<b>Strain on hospital beds/staff/equipment</b>	<b>Hospital/ICU beds and equipment widely available</b>	<b>More cases attributed to travel or close contact with community source</b>
<b>All infection safety protocols enacted to greatest extent possible</b>	<b>Increased flexibility of safety protocols</b>	<b>Standard infection control protocols</b>

At the end of the last Texas Legislative Session, on May 31, 2021, the Texas Legislature had not approved funding for remote learning of any kind. As a result, remote learning will not be offered at Dublin ISD during the 21-22 school year.

## **General Guidelines**

### ***Health and Safety***

Dublin ISD will continue to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors for a safe return to in-person instruction, as the district monitors the COVID-19 development. The goal of Dublin ISD is to provide a healthy school environment to foster greater academic achievement and healthier lives for all stakeholders.

### ***Health Screenings***

Staff will submit a self-screener for COVID-19 symptoms as they arrive on campus each day.

Parents/Guardians will submit a COVID-19 screener for their students each week, prior to sending their student to school on Monday. **ATTACH LINK** Parents/Guardians should monitor their students throughout the week and not send students who exhibit any of the symptoms listed on the screener and submit a new screener. If a screener is not submitted on Monday, the parent will be contacted. Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present. Visitors are required to complete a screener to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, upon entry into the building.

***If the results of a COVID-19 positive test are received after hours or on the weekend, please notify Dublin ISD immediately by calling the district medical advisor, Nurse Crystal Garcia, at 445-7088.***

### ***Campus Operations***

Campuses may open multiple entrance/exit points during arrival and dismissal times to promote social distancing. All campuses will be disinfected daily and throughout the day with special attention to high-touch surfaces. Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize between use and increase the levels of sanitization in common areas. Water fountains will be monitored by staff and available for filling of water containers only. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles each day. Face coverings are preferred for unvaccinated individuals, but are optional at this time. Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common areas. Staff will conduct instruction on effective hand-washing techniques. If a situation occurs where a person is not wearing a face covering, they should cover their cough and sneeze with a tissue or their elbow. Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, social distancing, etc...

## ***Learning Environments***

In all classrooms throughout the district, desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students. Each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer and each student will utilize the hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the classroom. The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited to safely and effectively optimize student learning. Staff will have access to cleaning supplies to sanitize high-touch areas, working surfaces, and shared objects, throughout the day. When age appropriate, students will have the opportunity to share the responsibility of cleaning their spaces. Staff will limit the use of shared supplies as often as possible, to avoid cross-contamination. Recess, the playground, and the gymnasium will be used, utilizing safety and health protocols. Teachers and staff will monitor students during transition periods to ensure students are social distancing.

## ***Cafeteria***

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served in the cafeteria, while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Students will not be allowed to share food or drinks. All surfaces in the cafeteria will be sanitized between each group that enters the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch.

## ***Transportation***

Dublin ISD provides transportation for students to and from school, while following the CDC guidelines. Family members residing in the same household will be encouraged to sit together to maximize the number of students being safely transported. All buses will have hand sanitizer for use when loading and unloading. Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes. Bus windows will be partially opened during routes to provide additional ventilation, when possible. Each student is provided assigned seating, to limit the amount of interactions between students.

## ***Visitors***

Visitors, including parents, will be restricted for essential school operations and non-emergency school visits are discouraged. Parents will not walk their student to class. All visitors who enter the building are required to COVID-19 screening protocols to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Any visitor who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or has come into close contact with an individual who is lab confirmed with COVID-19, must remain off campus until the 10-day incubation period has passed, unless they qualify for one of the options listed below in the Return to School Criteria.

### ***Medical Procedures Related to COVID-19***

Students or staff who present with COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse. If COVID-19 symptoms are present, staff members will be sent home and students will be placed in an isolation room until the parents can pick up the student from school. The nurse will provide the parent or staff member with the **Return to School Criteria**.

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, the district COVID-19 nurse and the administration will conduct contact tracing. Only those students and staff who have had “close contact” with the student or staff member will be required to quarantine.

### ***Close Contact***

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined 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; however additional factors like ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

### ***Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19***

Consistent with campus notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on campus activities. If you were determined to have had close contact, you will be individually contacted.

If an individual has been in areas on campus is lab confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department and the Texas Education Agency. Dublin ISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

### ***COVID-19 Symptoms***

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset, or in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

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

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test confirmed to have COVID-19 or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) must stay home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

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 one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- ii. The individual has improvement in symptoms; and
- iii. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

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 criteria listed above.

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) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office or an approved testing site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

### ***Accommodations for Students with Disabilities***

Any students who have disabilities will receive necessary accommodations to ensure their health and safety, while they are on campus or attending any school related events.

### ***Coordination with the State and Local Health Officials***

Dublin ISD will remain in communication with local health and state officials concerning changes or safety updates pertaining to COVID-19. These changes will be updated every six months (when appropriate) and included the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. The district COVID-19 medical response team will continue to meet throughout the year to evaluate health and safety protocols to ensure maximum health and safety for all stakeholders, as well as optimizing all learning environments.

### ***COVID-19 Points of Contact:***

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