

Huntsville Independent School District

Hornet Return to School Plan



Updated 8/6/2021

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Introduction:

As a school district, Huntsville ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 12th. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide a safe and excellent educational experience for our students. This will continue to be a team effort between the schools and parents.

The Huntsville Independent School District plan for the 2021-22 school year takes into careful consideration the safety and well-being of students and staff. Highlights of the District's plan include continued disinfection and cleaning protocols, social distancing and optional mask wearing.

HISD strongly encourages students, staff, and parents to wear a mask while on Huntsville ISD property. The wearing of masks is a precautionary measure. The wearing of masks benefits those that are wearing the mask and those the person is encountering. The best protection is a mask that is multi-layer cotton face covering.

Also, know that campus options may change depending on health conditions, needed school closure and ongoing guidance received from the State of Texas and the Texas Education Agency. District administrators will continue monitoring the situation along with any updates in requirements for exclusion from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Daily Self Screening:

Health Screening Self Check:

Prior to arriving to school, boarding school transportation, or entering a HISD facility, all students, staff, and guests should self-screen and be able to answer "no" to each question below. Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is **NOT** normal for them?

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





Student Health Protocols:

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- If a child tests positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the child must be excluded from school for a ten-day isolation period from the date of symptoms onset or test date if the child is asymptomatic. Within the last 24 hours of the ten-day period the child must be symptom free. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Parents are asked to report to the school nurse if their child has tested positive for COVID-19. Huntsville ISD is required to report positive cases to Walker County Public Health and the Texas Education Agency.
- If your child has been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to keep your child at home until you have received the results. Once the child has received a negative result from a PCR test, they may return to school.
- Due to the Health Information Privacy Act (HIPA), we are unable to give any information about a positive COVID-19 student or employee.
- All students should practice appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, but we are supportive of students or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- All students should regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds.

Mask Wearing:

Per GA-36 and GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear masks. HISD strongly encourages students, staff, and parents to wear a mask while on Huntsville ISD property. The wearing of masks is a precautionary measure and benefits those that are wearing the mask and those the person is encountering. The best protection is a mask that is multi-layer cotton face covering.

Transportation Protocol:

The Huntsville ISD Transportation Department offers the following guidance to parents and caregivers regarding school bus transportation for daily bus routes as well as field trips. Bus routes will run at regular capacity.

Bus Procedures:

- Each bus will be disinfected between routes and Transportation staff members will be trained in proper disinfecting procedures.





Student/Staff Common Areas:

Classrooms:

- Hand sanitizer use by students in Pre-K, or Kindergarten classrooms will be supervised by a staff member.

Library:

- High touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, chairs, door handles, technology equipment) will be disinfected regularly.

Playgrounds / Recess:

Students should practice good hand hygiene before going out to play and immediately upon returning inside the building.

Child Nutrition:

The CDC states that there is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread by food. It can, however, be spread on shared utensils and when people congregate around food service areas. Students should not share eating utensils and try to keep social distance from one another in the serving area.

Clinic/Nurse Visit Protocol:

- Hand sanitizer application will be encouraged for all before entering a campus clinic unless the student has trouble breathing.
- Students are highly encouraged to wear a mask when visiting the clinic.

Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19:

Those individuals that have a lab confirmed COVID-19 positive test are excluded from attending school for a ten-day isolation period. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

Previous Positive COVID-19 test:

If a person who has recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has new symptoms of COVID-19, the person may need an evaluation for reinfection, especially if the person has had close contact with someone infected with COVID-19.





Vaccinated Person:

A person is considered “fully vaccinated” once 14 days have passed after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or 14 days for a single dose vaccine. Huntsville ISD encourages those eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine to receive one. No person will be required or asked to identify their vaccination status to Huntsville ISD.

- If the vaccinated individual has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual, they do not have to isolate. Fully vaccinated people should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, and see their health care provider.

Hygiene for Staff and Students:

All students and staff should follow normal preventative actions while at work which includes cleaning hands and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with 60 % alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Key time to clean hands are:

- After using the bathroom
- Prior to eating
- After blowing nose, coughing, sneezing
- After eating
- Before and after providing care for another person.

Cleaning/Disinfecting Rooms/Objects and Use of Hand Sanitizer:

- In addition to our custodial service, all departments and campuses in our school district will have cleaning / disinfectant and hand sanitizer supplies available with instructions for use.
- Each campus will utilize alcohol-based sanitizer stations throughout common areas of the campus to promote safe and healthy practices.
- Sanitizer stations will be set up at the main entrances to campuses.
- Staff and students are encouraged to clean and sanitize hands throughout the school day.

Expectations for Cleaning:

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily with hospital grade or similar products.
- Disinfectant will be provided to each classroom and common areas to maximize room-to-room cleanliness.



Intervention and Support:

Student:

- Attend intervention/tutorial sessions as established by your teacher or school.
- Inform teachers when extra support is needed.

Parent:

- Allow your child to attend intervention/tutorial sessions as needed.
- Assist in supporting your child's needs by establishing and managing the daily schedule communicated by the teacher.
- Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your children to do their part.

Teacher:

- Provide intervention or tutorial sessions as needed.
- Follow student IEPs / 504 accommodations in all learning environments.
- Use data to pinpoint students' specific needs for enrichment and intervention.
- Monitor student progress with fidelity according to recommendations.
- Provide and communicate office hours or conference period for student/parent support.
- Attend and participate in professional learning.

Student Social and Emotional Supports (In-Person & Virtual):

- Kelso's Choice-A district character education program for grades PreK to 4th grade. This program will help support social and emotional learning
- Character Strong – A District character trait program has been adopted to support social and emotional learning for grades 5th to 12th.
- Trained personnel are available to provide resources and strategies to support students' social and emotional well-being.
- Trained personnel are also available to provide trauma informed practices and to support students and are well versed in how to report potential behavioral threats.

What to Expect/Social and Emotional:

Typical Reactions Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations: Anxiety, worry, or fear related to your own health status.

- The health status of others whom you may have exposed to the disease.
- Concern about being able to effectively care for children or others in your care.
- Uncertainty or frustration about how long you will need to remain in this situation, and uncertainty about the future.
- Loneliness associated with feeling cut off from the world and from loved ones.
- Anger if you think you were exposed to the disease because of others' negligence.
- Boredom and frustration because you may not be able to work or engage in regular day-to-day activities.
- Uncertainty or ambivalence about the situation.
- A desire to use alcohol or drugs to cope.



- Symptoms of depression, such as feelings of hopelessness, changes in appetite, or sleeping.

Employee General Guidelines:

- Employees must conduct a medical self-screening before reporting to work. Medical self-screening includes questions such as new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° Fahrenheit or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Employees that test positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the employee must be excluded from school/work for a ten-day isolation period from the date of symptoms onset or test date if the employee is asymptomatic. Within the last 24 hours of the ten-day period the employee must be symptom free. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Due to the Texas Department of State Health Services reporting requirements, employees must report if they have a received a lab confirmed COVID-19 positive to their direct supervisor.
- If you have been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to stay at home until you have received your results.
- Employees will not be granted “COVID-19 Leave” as in the previous year, should an employee test positive for COVID-19 or become exposed to a person that has tested positive COVID-19. An employee will be eligible to use accrued leave for their absence.
- All employees shall know, understand, and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.
- Individuals must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school/work.
- Individuals must be diarrhea free for at least 24 hours without the use of diarrhea-suppressing medications before returning to school/work.
- Employees should adhere to CDC guidance regarding frequent hand washing.
- Staff members who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, but we are supportive of students or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- Show respect, care, and compassion for others in following the guidelines.

As the public health crisis continues, we have been planning for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year with a focus on the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students, and community. As Huntsville ISD is planning our plan specifically follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health officials and the Texas Education Agency. Ensuring the safety and health of our students and teachers is our top priority.

