



**2021-22**

**Leonard ISD Return to  
School & Continuity of  
Services Plan**

Revised 1/14/22

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Leonard ISD's Return-to-School & Continuity of Services Plan will be re-evaluated as necessary to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Leonard, Fannin County, and surrounding area. Please know that Leonard ISD will follow recommendations for school operations from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

### **2021-22 Instructional Delivery Model**

For the 2021-22 school year, Leonard ISD will provide In-Person learning on campus with safety protocols in place. There will be no remote instruction available.

### **Virus Prevention Strategies**

#### **Screening -**

- Leonard ISD will continue to require all employees to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school each day.
- LISD encourages parents to perform a daily COVID-19 screening of their student.
- All staff and students should assess if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following symptoms in a way that is not normal for them.
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- New uncontrolled cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain, ache
- Diarrhea

Any individual who possesses COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, must remain off campus until he/she meets the current CDC and/or TEA criteria for re-entry.

- Anyone who has had sustained close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must report this information to the school and follow current TEA Public Health Guidelines.
- A vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test confirmed individual if the following conditions are true:
  - The exposed individual is fully vaccinated
  - Have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.
  - Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

- Individuals who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

**Visitor Procedures:**

- Visitors/parents should self-screen prior to visiting any campus or facility.
- At this time, parents will be allowed on campus for scheduled meetings/special events during the school day but must first check-in at the campus office. Those with COVID or COVID like symptoms should not enter the campus.
- No visitors will be allowed during meal times at any campus until further notice.

**Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School****Hand washing/Sanitizing and Etiquette**

- Students and staff should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and high traffic areas such as the cafeterias, gyms, etc.
- When sneezing, individuals should sneeze into a tissue. Dispose of the tissue and immediately wash/sanitize hands. When a tissue is not available, individuals should sneeze into their elbow or hands and immediately wash/sanitize hands.

**Masks and Face Coverings**

- Masks/face coverings are encouraged but are optional for staff, students, and visitors.
- Staff and students choosing to wear a mask/face covering will not be treated differently.

**Water Fountains**

- Water fountains may only be used as refillable bottle stations. Students/staff are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school.

**Physical Distancing**

- Campuses will do their best to accommodate social distancing when possible, but social distancing is not feasible in many situations at school.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting**

- Frequently touched points in the school will be disinfected regularly (this includes door handles, bathrooms, desks, tables, etc.)
- Each campus will be cleaned throughout the day. Electromagnetic sprayers will be utilized to sanitize on a regular basis

**Transportation**

- Students riding the bus will have hand sanitizer available upon entering the bus.
- Masks are optional on buses.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Social distancing will not be possible on school transportation.

## **Staying Home**

- Students and staff should stay home when they have:
  - o a fever over 100.0
  - o been test confirmed to have COVID-19
  - o have COVID-19 symptoms

## **Response to a Case of COVID-19 on Campus**

- Any person who has been test-confirmed to have COVID-19 should self-isolate for 10 days after symptoms first appeared OR test-confirmed, whichever occurred first.
- Parents and staff are required to report a test-confirmed case of COVID-19 to a campus administrator or nurse.
- Parents/staff will be notified by email within 24 hours via School Messenger when there is a positive case on their student's campus. Due to confidentiality purposes, no names or identifying information will be shared.

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

- Any individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or who experiences COVID-19 symptoms must stay home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school systems screens the individual to determine if the 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.
    - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
    - the individual has improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath); and
    - At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but 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.
  - 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 -
    - Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on alternative diagnosis, or
    - 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.

## **Students and Staff Displaying Symptoms of COVID-19 at School**

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19 or his/her temperature is 100° F or higher, the campus isolation plan must be followed. The school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. The campus will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms, offer a disposable mask for the student to wear until they are picked up, and isolate the

student in the isolation area until the student can be picked up by a parent/guardian or designated emergency contact(s). The student will be monitored while isolated. Students should be picked up within one hour from the time the campus contacted the parent/guardian.

- Classmates may be removed from the affected classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be properly disinfected.

### **School Nurse's Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19**

- Students or staff who present symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse.
- Leonard ISD will continue to offer COVID-19 rapid testing administered by the school nurse. Students will need a parent to complete the permission form prior to being tested.
- Before any student is sent home sick, they must see the campus nurse. It is very important that school nurses know the reason a student is being sent home ill. This will aid in keeping everyone as safe as possible. Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will also isolate themselves from students and other staff members. The campus nurse will make the determination whether the staff member should be sent home immediately.
- Symptomatic - Not Due to COVID or Close Contact - Students or employees who experience symptoms of COVID-19 but who have not been determined to have close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 may provide COVID test results in order to be able to return to work/school prior to the 10 day period. This option is voluntary. Staff and students who do not want to participate in testing will be required to quarantine for the remainder of the 10-day period. Symptom monitoring must continue for the full 14-day incubation period.

### **Close Contact is defined as:**

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- Being within six feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to confirming lab tests.

### **Close Contact Tracing**

·Leonard ISD must report all positive COVID-19 cases to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office, Region 2 & 3 as well as to TEA. DSHS, not the school, will make the determination regarding close contact tracing if a confirmed case is reported.

·According to TEA, as a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. Given the data from 2020-21 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults, school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system should notify the student's parents.

·Parents of students potentially exposed to a confirmed COVID positive case will have the option to quarantine their student. However, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine if they have been in close contact with a family member in their home confirmed with COVID-19.

·These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local, regional or state health authority.

·At any time, if the student or staff member begins showing symptoms, then the student or staff member should seek guidance from a medical health professional before returning to school and must meet the return to school guidelines. Once the student or staff member returns to school, they must be assessed by the nurse prior to going to class.

## **Instructional Continuity of Services**

Leonard ISD is ready to receive all students back to campus for the 2021-2022 school year! LISD has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs due to unfinished learning and their social, emotional, and mental health needs. As we move into the 2021-2022 school year, we affirm our commitment to provide quality instructional opportunities to prepare our students for the future. Early data indicates that school closures and disruptions during the pandemic have resulted in unfinished learning for many students.

To address this, LISD has applied for and received a portion of ESSER funds which allows the district access to tailored, targeted support to address the challenges posed by COVID. Based on stakeholder feedback and district and campus collaboration, ESSER funds will be used in several ways to address student and staff needs. The goal of these funds is to close learning gaps and improve student outcomes in an inclusive and supportive school community. LISD will support teachers through professional development adding interventionists to targeted campuses; and provide additional support staff to support students identified as EL, Special Education, and At-Risk. A significant area of focus is on recovering the learning loss through the use of accelerated instruction. High dosage tutoring, extending instructional time, and after school enrichment are strategies to help students make academic gains. Student and staff social and emotional needs are an important component of instruction as well.

Additional instructional priorities include technology enhancements and upgrades. Closing student learning gaps also requires steps beyond development and refinement of the district's curriculum. The district has expanded campus staffing to better support students. Campuses will engage in data driven meetings focused on core content instruction that analyzes student data through progress monitoring with the goal of meeting grade level standards as measured by various measures (TPRI, STAAR/EOC, CCMR, MAP Testing, etc.).

Student Absences as a Result of Illness - When a student is absent from school due to a positive COVID diagnosis (or other communicable illness) or if ordered to quarantine by a medical authority, parents may:

- In grades PK-5, make arrangements to pick up their child's missed schoolwork and/or utilize the SeeSaw platform by calling the campus office to report the absence.
- Students in grades 6-12 may access missed work through Google Classroom but should still notify the campus office to report the absence.

Physical Education and Recess - Whenever possible, physical education classes will allow for maximum physical distance between students. Students should maintain 3 feet of physical distance, especially during periods of exertion. Any activities bringing students into close physical contact, or requiring multiple students to touch or handle the same equipment, will be minimized. Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided.

Recess is an excellent way to allow students to engage in physical activity and socialization. Campuses will reinforce safety guidelines to limit the number of classes per recess group. Students will have access to playground equipment and will have the opportunity to use sanitizer after the recess period.

UIL and Extracurricular Events - Athletic and extracurricular events will resume normal processes and competition for the 2021-2022 school year. These activities will follow guidelines set forth by the UIL, TEA and other organizations who establish safety standards for these programs. The teacher/instructor of the respective programs will provide specific program guidelines regarding COVID.

Social/Emotional Needs - Leonard ISD employs school counselors and partners with Children's Health to provide TeleBehavioral Health Services. These professionals will focus on awareness of mental health, promote healthy coping skills, provide short-term counseling, and crisis intervention. Staff may provide assistance regarding situational concerns related to the pandemic such as anxiety, depression, grief and loss, or difficulty transitioning back to in-person learning. Counselors may provide recommendations for area resources that treat mental health issues.

Periodic Review and Revision of Plan - During the period of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER III), Leonard ISD will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and LISD will seek and take into account public feedback during the review process. Any revisions made to this plan will include updated public health guidance from federal, state, and local health authorities.