



**May Independent School District**  
**“Tiger Strong”**  
**2021-2022 Return to School Plan**

*May ISD is committed to the health and safety of every student and staff member as well as our community. We will follow the guidance and best practices of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), Brown County Health Department, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and local governance.*

**General Health & Safety Protocols**

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- The District will store these products safely and ensure that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.
- Students, teachers, staff, and essential campus visitors/volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize and wash hands frequently.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- Visitors and volunteers will be limited, including lunch.
- May ISD is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry to the campus.
- 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.

### **Health Self-Screening for Staff & Students.**

Students and staff are encouraged to self-screen before coming to school by asking the following question (TEA mandate):

Have you recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for you?

- ☐ Fever or chills
- ☐ Cough
- ☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Muscle or body aches
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Congestion or runny nose
- ☐ Nausea or vomiting
- ☐ Diarrhea

Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.

Teachers, staff, and students must report to campus/district administration if they 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, teachers, staff, and students must report to campus/district administration if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined in this document.

### **School Nurse Procedures**

- Campus nurse will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Minor health needs may be handled in the school office area to reserve the health clinic space for students experiencing symptoms or fever.
- Attendance clerks will be trained to communicate the protocol for students/staff who are absent for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Regardless of age, students who come to the school nurse showing symptoms will be required to wear a mask until a parent arrives to take them home.
- School nurse offices will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## **Protocols for Individuals Confirmed, Suspected, or Exposed to COVID-19**

Any individual, including teachers, staff, students or other campus visitors/volunteers, who either a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or b) experience symptoms of COVID-19 (as described in this document) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to the campus until the school screens the individual to determine if the current CDC and/or local guidelines for campus re-entry have been met.

### **Confirmed COVID-19**

If an individual who has been in a school is **lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**, the District must notify the Brown County Health Department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

In the case of an individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when a medical professional certifies all current CDC and/or local criteria has been met.

### **Suspected COVID-19**

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**, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19. The individual may not return to the campus until the individual has met current CDC and local health criteria.

### **Exposed to COVID-19**

Individuals, including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors, and volunteers, who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, must meet current CDC and/or local criteria in order to return.

It adds that after stopping quarantine, people should:

- ***Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.***

- ***If they have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact their local public health authority or healthcare provider.***

### **Bus Transportation Protocols**

- Families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
- Bus drivers will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

### **Lunchroom Safety**

- May ISD plans to utilize the school cafeteria as much as possible for student meals.
- Modifications to lunch procedures will be based on what is feasible for each lunch period and grade.
- Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Seats, tables, door handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected regularly.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Masks**

- For 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.
- Masks will be optional for all students and staff.

### **Handwashing & Hand Sanitizers**

- Students and staff will be trained in proper hand washing protocols to prevent COVID-19 and the spread of germs.
- MISD teachers will encourage student handwashing for 20 seconds at least two times each day. In addition, all students will be encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
- Handwashing stations are available in restrooms and some classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and common areas.

### **Social Distancing Protocols**

- Staff will help promote social distancing in shared spaces and hallways.
- Social distancing becomes a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to a MISD facility. Anyone causing a disruption or unwillingness to follow MISD safety protocols, putting students/staff at unnecessary risk may be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- Schools will adjust all meetings to best meet the needs of all participants, whether it be face to face or through Zoom.

### **Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols**

- MISD custodial employees have been trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily in classrooms, common areas, and on high-touch surfaces.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant in a spray bottle with cleaning cloths provided for employees and students to use in high-touch areas throughout the school day.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

### **Protocols for Confirmed COVID-19**

The District 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 three days have already passed since that person was on campus.

### **Face to Face Instruction**

The key to returning to successful, sustained in-person instruction will be our commitment to health and safety guidelines (below). In-person instruction will resume on August 18. Students will follow regular schedules and course assignments.

## **Safety Guidelines for Face to Face Instruction**

The District has budgeted for the necessary cleaning and sanitization supplies needed to open the school in August. The Texas Education Agency also provided additional supplies to school districts. All classrooms will be equipped with plenty of hand sanitizer and bathrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT**

As it has always been, the health and safety of our staff and students remain our highest priority. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, this guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread. These protocols and guidelines will be modified based on public health and governmental directives, and advancing scientific knowledge on the transmissibility of COVID-19. We also believe that educating our students about proper hygiene techniques and necessary safety measures to prevent the spread will not only keep them safe but will also keep their respective families safe.

<b>AT HOME BEFORE SCHOOL SCREENING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school. Details for self-screening are outlined in this document.</li><li>• Parents must ensure they do not send a student to school on campus if a child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.</li></ul>
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<p><b>ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL</b></p>	<p><b>ARRIVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid early drop-offs in the morning as much as possible.</li> <li>• It will be encouraged that parents/guardians/older siblings, etc. will not be permitted to walk students inside the school building.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISMISSAL.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early pickups are discouraged before dismissal time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents picking up students during the day will be encouraged to call ahead, so the student will be in the office waiting.</li> <li>○ Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## **CLASSROOM**

Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:

1. Hand sanitizer stations
2. Access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces.

Teachers will:

- Encourage hand hygiene before entering the classroom and after group activities.
- Increase the space between desks and utilize every square inch of available space to create distance between students.
- Establish student responsibilities to clean personal areas and materials/supplies with hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other self-cleaning products

Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Teachers and staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

<b>ISOLATION PROTOCOLS</b>	<p><b>Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms</b></p> <p>When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.</p> <p>Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up by the student's parent/guardian.</p> <p>The District will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as it is feasible.</p> <p>District communication will be provided to the staff, and families of students who had close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.</p> <p>Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the district will notify staff and families of all students on campus if a lab confirmed COVID-19 case is identified.</p> <p>Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.</p>
<b>COMMON AREAS AND TRANSITIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus specific transition procedures will be created to facilitate social distancing protocols.</li> <li>• When transitioning between classes, students will travel as far to the right as possible.</li> <li>• Access to hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the campus.</li> </ul>

<b>WATER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will need to bring water bottles from home to use water bottle filling stations on campus.</li> </ul>
<b>CAFETERIA: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May ISD plans to utilize the school cafeteria as much as possible for student meals.</li> <li>• Modifications to lunch procedures will be based on what is feasible for each campus and grade.</li> <li>• Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.</li> <li>• High touch areas will be disinfected regularly.</li> <li>• Staff will reinforce physical distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria when feasible.</li> </ul>

<b>RECESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will be working on schedules and routines that teach children to maintain safe distances from each other.</li> <li>• Children will sanitize their hands at the beginning and the end of recess.</li> </ul>
<b>VISITORS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All visitors will be limited until further notice..</li> </ul>
<b>PARENT MEETINGS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual or phone calls are always an option for parent meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are encouraged to screen children daily before allowing them to board the bus.</li> <li>• Families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.</li> <li>• Bus drivers will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer is on all buses.</li> <li>• When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.</li> </ul>
<b>EXTRACURRICULAR / ATHLETICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and staff will be trained in COVID-19 protocols.</li> <li>• All participants, coaches, and directors will follow the rules established by the University Interscholastic League and Texas Education Agency.</li> <li>• Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from May ISD, UIL, and TEA.</li> <li>• UIL guidance can be found on the UIL website.</li> <li>• Bus travel will follow the transportation guidelines provided by May ISD and TEA.</li> </ul>
<b>DECISION POINTS ON WHEN TO CLOSE A CLASSROOM AND/OR BUILDING</b>	<p><b>May ISD will adopt the suggested TEA guidelines for the closure of a classroom and/or a school building.</b></p>

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT/MENTAL WELLNESS**

- May ISD counselor will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols
- Counselors will develop strategies and support for students, families, and staff members for each phase of recovery (before re-opening, immediately after reopening, and long-term support.)
- Counselors will develop a referral system for individuals who need targeted support as well as access to school employed and community mental health professionals.
- A process will be established to help identify and provide support to students or staff, perhaps at higher risk for significant stress or trauma from COVID-19. This process should involve conducting psychological triage to determine who needs crisis intervention support through a review of data about students and staff that they received during the closure.