

Bowie ISD Return to School



Updated June 2021
Updated January 2022
Updated August 2022
Updated December 2022

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SECTION 1: SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS

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Changes to the public health situation over the course of the school year may necessitate changes to this guidance.

The plan is available in Spanish.

El plan está disponible en español.

The plan will be available in an accessible format for people with disabilities, upon request to Kathy.Jackson@bowieisd.net or 940-872-1151.

INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students (to include appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities), and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to the district. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, ix.)

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, viii.)

Section 1: Safety of Students, Staff, and Visitors



TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 or SUSPECTED WITH COVID-19

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, v.)

Any individuals are either: (a) lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the individual has met all re-entry criteria:

Re-entry criteria:

1. At least **2 4 hours** have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
2. You have improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc); and
3. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first occurred for students and 5 days have passed for staff. **Updated December 2022**



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) receive an acute infection test that he/she is free of COVID-19.

Bowie ISD will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services by:

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, x.)

CAFETERIA AND MEAL PERIODS

Students may bring their own meals or be served individually-plated meals and will be spaced throughout the cafeteria to create distance between students.

BISD will use disposable food service items.

Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols. Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria each period when allowable. High surface areas will be disinfected between service periods and use.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs. Counselors will be available to assist parents with any questions regarding the social-emotional needs of their student. Staff may also be contacted to receive information about additional community-based resources and support.

STAFF AND STUDENT TRAINING

- 1. Back to School Training/Orientation** - As we return to school, BISD will provide instructions to students on appropriate hygiene practices.
- 2. Cleaning Crew Protocols** - Disinfection methods, comprehensive cleaning training

It is very important that all employees understand the safety requirements, protocols, and expectations to ensure everyone and their communities stay safe and prevent the spread of the virus.

We will structure the training plan to effectively disseminate information to all teams and audiences.

Content Covered:

- Disinfection Measures
- Transportation
- Isolation protocols
- On site health screening
- Daily self-screenings
- Cleaning Crew Protocols



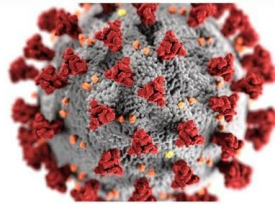
PRACTICES TO RESPOND TO A LAB CONFIRMED CASE IN THE SCHOOL

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED

If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law and regulations, including confidentiality requirements and FERPA.



AREAS CLOSED FOR CLEANING

BISD 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 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.



ALERT NOTIFICATIONS ARE SENT

Consistent with our school notification requirements, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.

No longer applicable Dec. 2022

GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and those around you. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC.

Please do the following

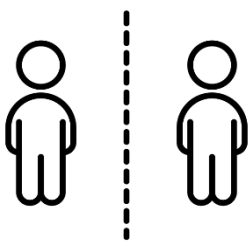
1. In case of an emergency, call 911 and let them know you have been exposed to COVID-19, then follow their instructions.
2. If the individual experiences symptoms, he/she must stay at home until the conditions outlined below have been met. **Updated Dec. 2022**
 - At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
 - You have improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc); and
 - At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first occurred for students and 5 days for staff. **Updated Dec. 2022**

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, vi.)



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. BISD employees, students, parents, and visitors should practice staying approximately 6 feet away from others where feasible without disrupting the educational experience.



(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, ii.)

Traffic Flow – Students will be social distanced as much as possible within the space given.

Classrooms – Students will be social distanced as much as possible within the space given.

Common Areas – Students will be social distanced as much as possible within the space given.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)



In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE may be needed to prevent certain exposures. PPE can include:

Per GA-36 and GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. Individuals will be allowed to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, i.)

Masks: Face masks are an important part of personal protection, as well as hand washing, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts. Schools are required to comply with the Governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Any person that wishes to wear a mask while on campus will be allowed to do so. All masks must meet dress code rules concerning appropriateness and should be worn appropriately. Section III will address specific mask guidelines for extracurricular / UIL participants.

August 26th, 2020 Montague County Judge Kevin Benton informed Bowie ISD that the number of active COVID-19 cases in the county went above 20. Per Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29, Montague County no longer qualifies for the exemption from face coverings.

It may not be developmentally appropriate for some other students, including some students with disabilities, to wear masks. Any questions concerning mask requirements should be directed to your campus principal.

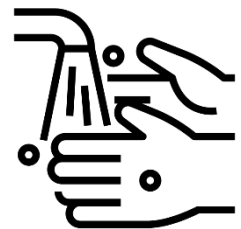
March 22nd, 2021 Bowie ISD board of trustees voted to revoke all face covering requirements for students and employees, as allowed by Executive Order (GA-34) of the Governor of Texas and guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency.

Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38. School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Gloves: Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection. Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands. Please remember to wash your hands properly as it is the number-one defense against any virus. Additionally, the proper removal of gloves reduces the risk of being exposed to contamination. Please note that social distancing should still be practiced even with the use of gloves and masks.

In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow



FACILITIES CLEANING

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, iv.)

The safety of our employees and students is our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before employees and students return, cleaning steps are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection.

PRACTICES TO MITIGATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF COVID-19 SPREAD INSIDE THE SCHOOL

1. BISD will have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water in classrooms and at the main school entrance.
2. Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
3. School district will provide an adequate supply of soap, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues.
4. PPE items will be available on all campuses.
5. Touchless thermometers will be available at each campus.
6. BISD encourages supervision of younger students as students engage in handwashing for at least 20 seconds two times a day, in addition to washing hands after using the restroom and before eating.



(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, iii.)

VACCINATIONS

BISD staff have been offered opportunities to receive vaccinations. BISD students and families have the opportunity to seek available vaccinations in the community or through private care if they choose to do so.

Staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual and are in one of the following groups, do not need to stay at home.

- Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Was confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and has fully recovered.

(Part B Safe Return to School Plan 4, a, vii.)