



# School Opening and Instructional Continuity Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Academic Options

#### What instructional settings can families choose from for the 2020-2021 school year?

Families have two Academic Options for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Option 1 is to have students participate in in-person instruction on campus 100% of the time.
- Option 2 is to have students participate in remote learning from home 100% of the time.

Families are encouraged to declare their instructional preference for each child by August 17.

#### When is the first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year?

The first day of school is Monday, August 17.

#### Should students report to school in-person the first day of school?

No. The District will begin classes on August 17, with 100% of students fully online until September 4. On September 8, Academic Option Declarations will be implemented and students will begin attending school in-person, as requested by parents.

#### If I choose one instructional option for my child, then change my mind later, what options do I have?

Selections will remain in effect for the first nine weeks of school. At the end of the nine weeks, parents may request a change to their child's Academic Option. A change in the Academic Option may result in a change of your child's teacher.

### Health and Safety

#### If my child is ill, will he/she have access to remote learning during sick days?

Students who have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms will be provided remote learning until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation and are released by a physician for in-person instruction.

#### How long will my child have to remain at home, e.g., if they have a fever, cough, and other COVID-19 symptoms?

Students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation and are released by a physician for in-person instruction. Parents of children diagnosed with COVID-19 should notify the school.

## **What is the process if a teacher tests positive for or is showing COVID-19 symptoms?**

Staff should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation and are released by a physician to return to work. Staff who have tested positive must notify Employee Benefits.

## **Will students be assigned to another teacher if theirs tests positive or is showing COVID-19 symptoms?**

In this type of situation, students would be assigned to another teacher until their current teacher has met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation and are released by a physician to return to work.

## **What is an isolation or quarantine room?**

Space on each campus will be designated for quarantine, or as an isolation room, to ensure the staff or students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are appropriately separated from other individuals. Students will remain adequately supervised.

Design criteria for area designated for quarantine include:

- Quarantine area will include a dedicated restroom for exclusive use of those in quarantine
- Quarantine area will be located directly adjacent to an exterior exit not being used as the main entrance
- Quarantine area will be selected so it can be expanded, if necessary, without taking away from instructional space

## **What is the notification process the District will follow if someone in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19?**

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify SAISD Student Health Services (if it is a student) or SAISD Employee Benefits, Risk Management & Safety (if it is an employee). The District will then notify the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- SAISD Student Health Services and SAISD Human Resources will quickly work to identify anyone at the school who may have been exposed to that individual – and will notify those individuals and parents of those students – following all confidentiality laws and without identifying the name of the person testing positive. Individuals determined to have been potentially exposed will be asked to stay home for the number of days deemed necessary, and to watch for symptoms.
- The school will 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.
- These same protocols apply to SAISD administrative buildings and will be used to inform staff.
- The school/building will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case 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.

## **What kind of products will be used for cleaning?**

The Custodial Service Department will use a combination of Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) approved cleaning and disinfecting solution, followed by surface treatment using an electrostatic applicator. High-touch surfaces in common areas such as hallways and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected several times daily using the EPA-approved solution.

## **How often will schools be cleaned and disinfected?**

Both horizontal and vertical high-touch surfaces in learning areas will be cleaned daily using an Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) approved cleaning and disinfecting solution, followed by surface treatment using an electrostatic applicator.

### Electrostatic Treatment Schedule:

- ❑ For reports where a student or staff member has tested positive with COVID-19, we will treat all areas in which the individual had the possibility of entering.
- ❑ For reports of a student or staff member coming in contact with a COVID-19 positive person, and had not been adhering to social distancing and protective equipment rules, we will conduct everyday disinfecting procedures; no electrostatic treatment.
- ❑ If three or more people report positive for COVID-19, then the entire campus will be electrostatically disinfected, making it safe for students and staff to return the following day.
- ❑ Each campus will be electrostatically disinfected a minimum of once per week.

### Manual Application of Disinfectant:

- ❑ Teachers in classrooms that have rotating cohorts will be provided with a ready to use peroxide-based cleaning solution with a 5 minute effective time.
- ❑ The peroxide solution is sprayed on surfaces and wiped with a microfiber cloth or paper towels.
- ❑ Classrooms with cohorts that remain in the same space will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

### Custodial Staff:

- ❑ Custodial staff will always carry a bottle of disinfectant and microfiber cloth and disinfect all high-touch areas as they travel from point to point throughout their shift.
- ❑ Openers will begin the day opening and disinfecting doors throughout campus and propping open the entry exterior doors before disinfecting.
- ❑ A second custodian will then report to work after breakfast has ended. Once class instruction has begun, both custodians will begin disinfecting high-touch surfaces in common areas. They will repeat this process after each class period.
- ❑ After school, custodial staff will clean and disinfect all high-touch areas, excluding classrooms, but to include restrooms, lounge, library, main offices, clinic, athletic areas, and hallways.
- ❑ If necessary, a custodian will assist transportation staff in rapid disinfection of a bus if a student becomes ill en route to a campus.

### Faculty and Instructional Support Staff:

- ❑ Perform manual disinfection of all student desks and high-touch surfaces following each class period. Staff will be:

- Provided a spray bottle containing disinfectant provided by the Custodial Services Department, as well as paper or microfiber towels.

### **Will visitors and volunteers be allowed in the buildings?**

To reduce risk to students, parents, guardians, nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will not be allowed in the building except for emergencies.

While our volunteer program may look a bit different, our commitment to supporting your students will not change. If you, or someone you know, are interested in investing your time as a mentor or tutor, let us know! This volunteer opportunity will be completely online and not in-person. Please email us at [volunteer@saisd.net](mailto:volunteer@saisd.net).

### **Will field trips be allowed?**

No in-person field trips will be allowed and virtual field trips will be encouraged.

## **Communications**

How will all this information be shared with parents to make sure the majority of parents receive and understand the important points?

We will be communicating with families in a variety of ways.

- ❑ School staff, including the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist assigned to support each campus, will be engaging families so they understand the plan. They will also be available to answer questions.
- ❑ We realize that not everyone is comfortable with technology. That said, parents can call our Customer Experience Center at (210) 554-2210 or email us at [familyengagement@saisd.net](mailto:familyengagement@saisd.net) with questions and to request a hardcopy of the plan.
- ❑ A Safe School Start web page will be launched to establish a one-stop source to house communication updates so stakeholders can easily locate important information.
- ❑ An FAQ repository will be maintained on the Safe School Start page for parents and community stakeholders.
- ❑ Parent communications from the District may be issued through the District SchoolMessenger system via email, or by text or automated telephone calls, depending on the urgency or nature of the notification. All parent notifications and updates will be provided in English and Spanish.
- ❑ Other existing platforms may be used as needed, including social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and SAISD publications.

## **Social and Emotional Support**

### **Will students participating in remote learning be able to schedule one on ones with counselors or will there be group counseling sessions?**

Yes, the emotional and mental well-being of our students is a priority. As such, District counselors and social workers will be available to provide support to students receiving instruction in-person and remotely.

## Technology

### **Who do I contact if I need a device for my student for remote learning?**

Please contact your child's assigned campus if your child is in need of a district-issued device for remote learning.

### **Who do I contact if I am having problems with a district-issued device?**

Please contact our Technology Help Desk if you are experiencing issues with your district-issued device. Call (210) 244-2929 or email [helpdesk@saisd.net](mailto:helpdesk@saisd.net) for support.

## Operations

### **Can parents be shown a model classroom so we can see the different classroom layouts?**

Yes. Parents will have an opportunity to tour model classrooms before the start of the school year.

## Transportation

### **How will social distancing be maintained on the bus?**

One student may be seated in every other school bus seat, nearest the window. If safety permits, students who live in the same home may be allowed to sit in the same school bus seat. School bus seats reserved for social distancing will be wrapped in red with safety signage stating that the seat is closed.

## School Uniforms and Dress Code

### **Will students be required to wear uniforms?**

School uniform requirements will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. That said, families choosing in-person instruction for their children must follow the uniform specifications outlined in FNCA (Local).

Families choosing remote instruction for their children do not have to follow school uniform requirements. However, dress code requirements will be in effect for all students.

### **Will the District offer any assistance with the purchase of uniforms?**

Yes. The District has several programs available to assist families with the purchase of uniforms.

Currently, SAISD Uniform Services has a uniform closet with the inventory to support approximately 5,000 students in need of a basic school uniform.

Additional funding is available to help families purchase uniforms. Parents can submit an application to SAISD Uniform Services to receive uniform vouchers for use with any of the District's four approved vendors.

The District also has support services, including uniform assistance, available to families experiencing homelessness.

For more information about any of these services, please email [saisdschoolsocialworkers@saisd.net](mailto:saisdschoolsocialworkers@saisd.net) or call (210) 554-2635.

### **Will students have to follow the District dress code?**

Yes. All students, whether receiving instruction in-person or remotely, must adhere to the District's dress code as outlined in FNCA (Local).