



Cameron ISD

Back to School Plan

2023-2024

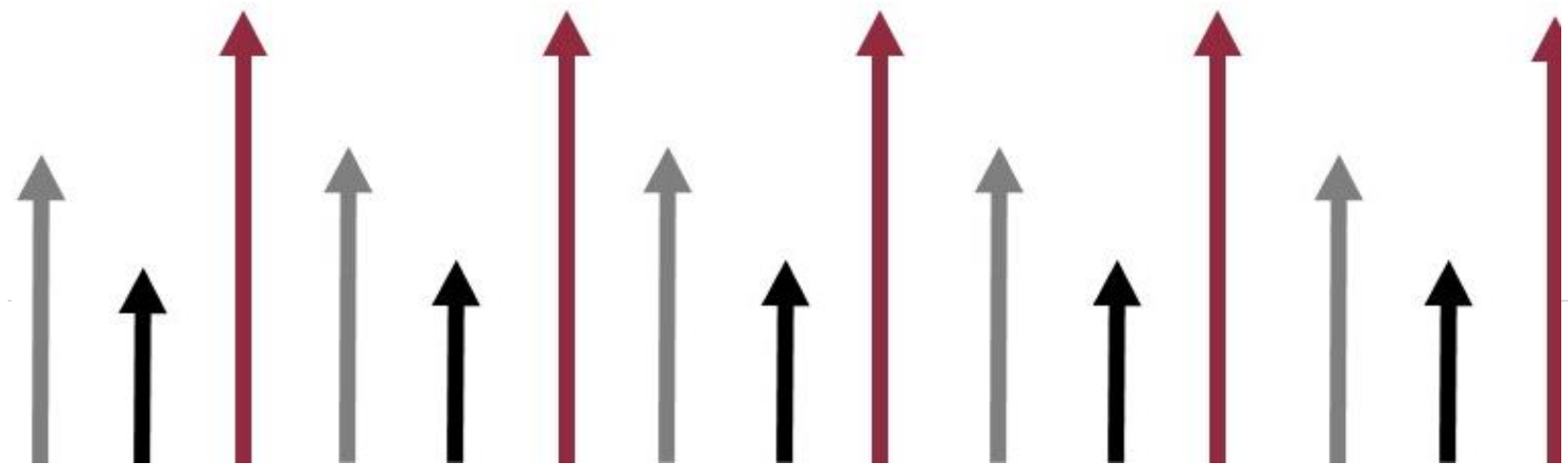


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Health and Safety Protocols

Ensuring all students, staff and community members remain healthy and safe by following best practices in the areas of:

- Guidance, directives and recommendations from local, State and federal health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Healthy Habits - frequent hand washing/sanitizing, personal spacing, enhanced disinfection protocols, face coverings
- Nurse Station Practices- personal protective equipment (PPE), management and isolation of students showing signs of illness
- Enhanced sanitation and disinfection protocols

School Health Operations Guidance

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-38, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-38 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance.

This guidance addresses:

- On-campus instruction
- Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- Any other activities that students must complete

Health Screenings

Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School:

- CISD teachers and staff are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed in the next section of this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff should report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

Additionally, they should report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to conduct daily health screenings before sending their child to school. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, as listed in this document, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Visitors are encouraged to self-screen to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. CISD students, teachers and staff will be required to follow all existing district infectious disease protocols. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- If a student becomes sick at school, the appropriate campus medical personnel will assess the student's health condition and will inform the parent or guardian of the student's condition, following all of the district's established infectious disease protocols.
- CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic it is essential that parents keep children home if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and get them tested.
- Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are compatible with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools, especially if key prevention strategies (masking and distancing) are not in use.

Students Who Have COVID-19

As provided by 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, CISD will exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and must

immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus. Exclusion from school shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

Readmission Criteria:

If symptomatic, exclude until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free (Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit- 37.8° Celsius), and other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, CISD may provide and/or conduct recurring COVID-19 testing using rapid tests provided by the state or other sources. Testing can be conducted with staff. With prior written permission of parents, testing can be conducted with students.

Students Who Are Close Contacts

Public health authorities will be notified of all positive cases in CISD schools. While CISD is not required to conduct COVID-19 case investigations, local public health entities have authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in cooperative efforts on that front. Participation by individuals in these investigations remains voluntary. If the district is made aware that a student is a close contact, CISD will notify the student's parents.

Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. Parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.

Recommended Stay-At-Home Period:

- * The stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 5 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.
- * Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

Note: Individuals who are fully vaccinated are not considered close contacts.

Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who Are Close Contacts

Similar to students, CISD will exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

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.

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual who are not in one of the above groups, it is recommended that the employee remain off campus during the stay-at-home period, however, the employee may remain at work.

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. CISD will work with the Milam County Health Department to facilitate, to the extent allowable by applicable laws, systemic case investigation and contact tracing of infected students, teachers and staff.

For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;

if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Note: Individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- • Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- • Sore throat;
- • New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- • Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- • New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local 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).

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

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.

CISD must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Therefore, the wearing of a mask or facial covering in response to COVID-19 is strictly optional for students and staff at Cameron ISD.

Learning Environment

CISD will employ the following to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment:

- Signage promoting Healthy Habits and disease mitigation strategies
- Daily disinfection protocols with increased cleaning and sanitation
- Deep cleaning and disinfection protocol localized treatment of an area(s) triggered when a staff member or student is identified as positive for COVID-19
- All campuses sanitized weekly
- Hand sanitizer in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces
-
- Arrangement of seating to maximize space between students
- Limit students sharing of personal items and supplies

Campus Arrival/Dismissal

Arrival Protocols:

- Campus-specific arrival procedures will be created to facilitate drop-off and social distancing.
- Students will arrive by walk-up, car drop-off, or school bus.
- Parents/guardians dropping off students will not be able to leave their cars.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and common areas throughout the campus.

Dismissal Protocols:

- Campus-specific dismissal procedures will be created to facilitate pick-up and social distancing.
- Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders, or grade levels will help manage student movement.

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main exit of the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and common areas throughout the campus.

Student Nutrition / Lunch

CISD will employ the following to ensure healthy and safe student nutrition services:

- Signage promoting Healthy Habits and disease mitigation strategies
- Daily disinfection protocols with increased cleaning and sanitation
- School Nutrition staff will wear appropriate required sanitary equipment
- Meals for remote learners will be offered.

Transportation

CISD will employ the following to ensure healthy and safe student transportation services:

- Ridership will follow typical district capacity standards
- Hand sanitizer available upon entering and exiting the bus
- All buses will be cleaned daily
- Drivers will open certain windows and adjust roof hatches to optimize the best air circulation possible throughout the bus, weather permitting

Contact Information

Families are asked to contact the *campus nurse* with all health questions, concerns and/or reports related to COVID-19. Parents can also contact the CISD Registered Nurse at 254-697-3641 Ext. 2890.

Instructional Delivery Model Protocols

CISD seeks to provide a high-quality education through two instructional delivery models:

- On-Campus Learning (Traditional Classroom Experience)
- Remote Learning (Virtual Learning Experience) If Necessary

Notice to Students and Parents:

All Cameron ISD instruction for 2023-2024 will be In-Person and On-Campus.

On-Campus Learning

CISD will employ the following on-campus learning protocols:

- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to-face learning on campus all day, every day.
- Elementary students will be assigned to grade level classes that will be taught by teachers at their home campus.
- Secondary students in grades 6-12 will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction.
- Classroom instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for On-Campus Learning and Remote Learning will be the same.
- CISD Grading Guidelines, Student Code of Conduct, and Acceptable Use of Technology Procedures will be applied.
- The 90% attendance requirement is still required for Cameron ISD students, and will be upheld for in-class and asynchronous.
- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12.
- Student participation required 5 full days per week.
- Instruction provided by Cameron ISD, Temple College and TXVSN instructors.
- Instruction in core content and elective areas.
- District curriculum, unit sequencing and pacing of instruction.
- Social-emotional support.
- Accommodations and support services provided.
- Implementation of preventive safety measures.

Remote Learning

Notice to parents:

CISD has developed a robust Remote Learning platform to be utilized in the event there is a campus or district closure for an extended period of time, or if a student must be absent from school for an extended period of time. Remote learning is available, however, participation in remote learning must be approved by the campus principal.

Asynchronous Instruction– (remote learning with digital components for direct instruction and daily communication with the district)

CISD will employ the following remote learning protocols:

- Students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities that are primarily delivered through an online learning management system.
- Daily student participation/engagement in the learning activities will be required.
- Student participation required 5 full days per week.
- Remote instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and Remote Learning will be the same.
- CISD Grading Guidelines, Student Code of Conduct, and Acceptable Use of Technology procedures will be applied.
- The 90% attendance requirement is still required for Cameron ISD students, and will be upheld for in-class and asynchronous.
- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12.
- Instruction facilitated by Cameron ISD, Temple College and TXVSN instructors.
- Instruction in core content and elective areas.
- District curriculum, unit sequencing and pacing of instruction.
- Social-emotional support.
- Accommodations and support services provided.
- Internet connection required.
- Valid phone number is required.

Online Learning Management System

- The district has identified Google Classroom and Seesaw as tools to support a consistent learning management system for students across the district. *Google Classroom* helps organize assignments, boosts collaboration, and fosters communication. *Seesaw* is a platform that gives students the ability to create and reflect on their learning.
- Grades Pre-k through 2 will use Seesaw.
- Grades 3-5 will use Seesaw and Google Classroom

- Grades 6-12 will use Google Classroom.
- Teachers will provide training to students on how to use these digital tools.
- Resources will also be available for parents to learn how to support students in using digital tools.

Technology

- 1:1 Technology Initiative- The district is committed to providing technological devices to all district students during the 2023-2024 school year to continue a 1:1 ratio at all grade levels.
- Expanded parking lot WiFi will continue.

UIL and Extracurricular Protocols

2023-2024 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in areas where UIL Activities are being conducted

1. If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities are being conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local 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).
2. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor in an area where UIL activities are being conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
3. If a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in a UIL competition against another school, the school must notify the opposing school and the officials/contest judges who also participated in the competition.

In addition to the criteria and processes described above, a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletic activities.

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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics

- Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from CISD, UIL and TEA.
- The most recent guidance from UIL is available at <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>
- Locker room use will be determined by TEA/UIL.
- Bus travel will follow transportation guidelines provided by CISD and TEA.
- Spectator attendance at games and contests will be limited to the actual capacity of the facility.
- Separate entrances and exits may be utilized at athletic facilities.

Fine Arts

- Large group practice sessions, sectionals and rehearsals will adhere to guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- Off-campus fine arts performances will be conducted according to guidance provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- Concerts/performances will adhere to guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- All fine arts performances will be streamed online when possible.

Others

- Large group practice sessions will adhere to guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)
- Off-campus performances and/or competitions will be conducted according to guidance provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.)

- Performances and/or competitions may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., CISD, TEA, UIL, etc.) including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.

Spectators, Audiences, Fans and Media

According to the UIL, CISD may allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events at maximum capacity, according to the following:

- CISD may employ remote ticketing options or other admission possibilities.
- Pathways for spectator ingress and egress will be clearly marked and unobstructed.

Parent Communication Protocols

CISD seeks to provide families with clear and concise communication through the following outbound channels:

- Email
- Website
- Social Media
- Text Messages/Call Outs
- Parent Communication Apps

Communication Tools and Channels

- Information about Back to School 2023-2024 will be posted on the Cameron ISD website. The website will include:
 - Health and Safety Protocols
 - Instructional Delivery Model Protocols

- Social Emotional and Mental Health Protocols
 - Parent Communication Protocols
 - UIL and Extracurricular Protocols
- Campuses will share campus-specific information with parents via email, call outs, social media, communication apps and other campus communication tools.
 - Regular updates will be posted on Cameron ISD's social media channels.
 - Remote Learning support will be offered to parents through direct communication with district instructional staff.

Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Support Protocols

CISD seeks to address the mental health and social-emotional development of all students, staff and community by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports
- Other key systems and supports

Social Emotional Learning

- District/campus counselors will have resources for parents and teachers to access as needed
- Counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs

Family Support

- CISD will provide families with information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness

Resources

Texas Education Agency COVID-19 Support and Guidance

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>

Texas Department of State Health Services

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Cameron ISD collaborated with a number of people and organizations in developing our 2023-2024 Back to School Plan. We appreciate the guidance, support, input, and resources from the following people and organizations:

- Texas public school officials,
- Milam County officials,
- Texas Department of State Health Services,
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Region 6 Educational Service Center,
- Texas Rural Educators Association,
- Texas Association of School Administrators,
- Texas Education Agency,
- University Interscholastic League,
- Parents

- **Students**
- **Community Members**
- **Staff members**

Below is a link to the School Health Operations Guidance from the Texas Education Agency