

Farmersville ISD

2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service (RIPICS) PLAN

*Updated September 21, 2021**

Farmersville ISD will follow the guidance and direction of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and local health officials for our COVID-19 response. The following plan outlines FISD's prevention, mitigation, and response procedures as required by the U.S. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for receiving and utilizing ESSER III funding. These guidelines are designed to help ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

The District has garnered feedback on the use of ESSER III funds and/or returning to in-person instruction via a survey provided to all stakeholders, public forums at every school board meeting, and as a posted board agenda item. Additionally, the plan has been posted on the District's website since August 2021 and updated periodically.

General Safety Protocols

- Mask wearing is optional, and students and/or staff are free to wear masks as they so choose.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been placed throughout common areas (i.e. hallways, cafeteria, gyms, libraries, entrances).
- Social distancing is encouraged as feasible.

Sanitization & Cleaning Procedures

- All classrooms, common areas, and buses will be sanitized routinely.
- Classroom staff and bus drivers will have access to disinfectant to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects frequently.
- Students and staff will be expected to utilize proper hand washing procedures.
- When practical and if equipment allows, the District will improve ventilation in all buildings.

Vaccinations

- The District encourages all eligible students and staff to be vaccinated.
- The District does not offer on-site vaccinations for students, staff, or community members.

General Information & Remote Learning

- The District will continue to provide instructional support and other accommodations for students, including students with disabilities.
- The District will provide continuity of services that meet the academic, social, emotional, mental health, health, food services, and other needs.
- At this time, FISD will not provide remote learning for students confirmed with COVID-19. The District's standard make-up work policy will apply for students who are absent with any illness.

**The above guidance is subject to change based on information and/or guidance provided by Governor Abbott or the Texas Education Agency. If you have any questions or comments, please email mtaylor@farmersvilleisd.org.*

Self-Screening

Per TEA Guidance:

- “Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19 until the conditions for re-entry are met.”
- Re-entry criteria:
 - In the case of an individual who is actively sick with COVID-19, is diagnosed with COVID-19, or is suspected of being sick with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - At least 24 hours fever free;
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and,
 - At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - Individuals can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test.
 - “For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, if these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 10 days post-exposure.”

Close Contacts

Per TEA Guidance:

- Students and staff will not be required to quarantine for exposure; however, the District strongly encourages household-based close contacts to stay at home until the return-to-school criteria outlined above are met.
- Parents and staff will be notified when there is a confirmed COVID-19 case on campus.

Attendance Policy

For the purposes related to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or close contact with COVID-19, the District will accept a doctor’s note excusing a student absence from school. Additionally, below are the current district policies related to absences and make-up work.

According to the District Student Handbook:

- “All absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student’s attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:
 - If makeup work is completed, absences listed under **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered extenuating circumstances.”

According to District Policy FEA (LEGAL) on Make-up Work:

- “The student shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on the days described above. If the student satisfactorily completes the work, the days of absence shall be counted as days of compulsory attendance.”

Public Input

- The District welcomes input on the above outlined plan. Any questions, concerns, comments, or specific information, please contact Micah Taylor at mtaylor@farmersvilleisd.org.

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