

NEW HOME I.S.D

SCHOOL PROCEDURES and HEALTH PLANNING GUIDELINES 2020 - 2021



Adopted July 13th, 2020

2020-2021 New Home

Guidance and Procedures

Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
- Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction. If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but school systems are permitted to limit these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period, if it will be beneficial to the student's instructional quality. If a parent requests virtual instruction and the school does not offer it, the parent may enroll in another school that does offer it for transfer students.
- School systems must provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus each day, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA. PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School Screening Questions for COVID-19

Virtual Learning Outline

- Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction. If a parent chooses virtual instruction, and then wants to switch to an on-campus setting, a school district may limit these changes in placement to only occur at the end of a grading period.
- If a parent requests virtual instruction, and the school does not offer it, the parent may enroll in another school that does offer virtual instruction.
- New Home ISD will offer virtual instruction for parents that request it. Virtual instruction will take place in accordance with TEA guidelines. For more information, please contact your building administrator. The NHISD Virtual Learning Plan may be accessed at www.newhomeisd.org.

- Attendance will be recorded. All students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to gain credit whether in an in-school or virtual classroom setting.
- The grading guidelines for a virtual setting will be the same as students in an on-campus setting.

Elective Courses and Extracurricular Activities

- Students that do not choose to attend on-campus courses may not be allowed to select certain courses that cannot be successfully completed in an off-campus setting. Examples include, but are not limited to, Athletics, certain Agricultural Education courses, and Theater.
- If a class is offered for an Extracurricular Activity and a student is not enrolled in that class, they may not participate in that Extracurricular Activity.

Campus Closures or Change to 2020-2021 Calendar

New Home ISD will utilize the campus call out system and the following media resources to communicate any changes.

- New Home School App
- New Home ISD twitter @NewHomeISD
- New Home facebook @NewHomePride
- New Home ISD webpage <https://www.newhomeisd.org/>

Arrival,Dismissal,and Visitors

- Early bird arrival is strongly discouraged. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Staff will be at drop off location and entry ways to screen students' wellness.
- Bus riders will be screened by bus personnel and will communicate any concerns to administration.
- All parents will be asked to remain outside of the school building, unless attending a scheduled appointment with a faculty member or alerted to an emergency situation.
- Parents will not be allowed to eat with students in the cafeteria.
- All lunches should be sent with the student prior to the start of school. Parents will not be allowed to bring lunches for students during school hours.
- Until further notice, in-class birthday parties, school holiday parties, homecoming festivities, etc. will be suspended. We will assess each function on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Protocols

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, parents must consider the following questions prior to sending their student to school each day:

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

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

If a student is experiencing one or more of the aforementioned symptoms they should not be sent to school until all symptoms have subsided for a period of 72 hours.

Students & Staff Safety

- Parents/Guardians of students must be knowledgeable of the afore-mentioned symptoms and ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19. Each day parents are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 prior to entering the school by conducting an at-home temperature check and having a discussion regarding student wellness. Report any concerns to a campus administrator or nurse prior to entering the building.
- Teachers and Staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present during the academic day. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Staff must ensure they do not come to school if exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.. Each day staff are expected to screen themselves for COVID-19 prior to entering the school by conducting an at-home temperature check and assessing their current health status. All staff will report any concerns to a campus administrator or nurse prior to entering the building.

- Any staff, students, and/or parents that suspect they may have been exposed to an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, may be asked to remain off-campus until a 14-day incubation period has passed. Please contact your building administrator and health provider to provide more information regarding the possible exposure.

As Referenced by TEA document [Public Health Guidance for School Year 2020 -2021](#)

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- School will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

- School systems must require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves 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 as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- 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, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their child from inside the school. Regularly performing a 4 forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended, but the practice is also not prohibited by this guidance.

- Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up as discussed above, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, school systems must screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, school systems must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when three of the following criteria are met:
 - A. at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - B. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - C. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- 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 two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

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

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-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).

- Lynn County - Public Health Region 01
 - DSHS Regional Medical Director
 - 806-783-6448
 - dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus
- Schools must 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.
 - Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must 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.

Health and Hygiene Practices:

- NHISD will attempt to have hand sanitizers available in all classrooms, buses, and high traffic areas.
- All students will be instructed on proper handwashing procedures.
- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows.
- Campus janitorial staff will work to increase the cleaning of high traffic areas and utilize equipment and materials aimed at mitigating the spreading of disease.
- Best practices informational resources will be posted in high traffic areas.
- Attempts will be made to improve air quality and flow by opening windows and by taking students outside when possible.
- In order to reduce the amount of students in the cafeteria during lunch, access will be made available for students to eat outside in designated areas. Tables and chairs will be available and students will also be allowed blankets, etc. to place on the ground.
- Students will be spaced (social distanced) to the best of campus ability.

Mask and Face Covering

- Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. New Home ISD will comply with State and County requirements.
- New Home ISD will indicate if masks must be worn when entering the building by using a color system on the doors of all entrances.
 - Green circle will indicate that masks are not required when entering.
 - Red square will indicate that masks are required when entering.

- When working with individual students or in small groups settings, faculty will wear masks. Faculty will have the right to ask a student in a small group or individual setting to wear a mask as well.
- Students will need to bring a mask to school each day. Masks are not to be shared or worn by any other students except themselves.
- If a student fails to bring a mask, one will be provided by New Home ISD. Faculty may request students to wear their mask when working in close proximity with each other.

Stakeholder Assurances

These procedures have been established in accordance with State and County guidelines and with the approval of the New Home ISD Board of Trustees. Please be aware that State and County guidelines will supersede in any moments of conflict with this document. Government and School responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic is a fluid and evolving situation; New Home ISD reserves the right to make changes to these policies and procedures in response to new developments or regulations regarding the COVID-19 virus.