

NEW HOME I.S.D

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity
of Services Plan



Adopted July 13th, 2020

Update 1 December 14, 2020

Update 2 March 22, 2021

****Update 3 July 12, 2021****

2022-2023 New Home Guidance and Procedures

Current Status

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, New Home ISD successfully welcomed back 96% of the student body to in-person instruction on day one and this number grew to 98% in attendance when classes were released for the summer. These numbers were the highest by percentage in the state and a testament to the tremendous efforts of our faculty and community.

New Home ISD will continue to review state and national policies regarding the on-going status of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide a safe and engaging environment for our students.

We will continue to seek the input of stakeholders and strive to create a partnership with our community. Ultimately, policies will reflect what is best for the students and faculty at New Home ISD in accordance with local, state, and national recommendations.

The following document represents policy as it relates to the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and built upon the successful implementation of the 2020-21 return to campus.

Given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 virus and its treatment, New Home ISD will adjust current policies according to TEA and CDC recommendations.

Vaccines

New Home ISD will not mandate that any student or employee be administered the COVID-19 vaccine to return to campus. This decision will be left to the discretion of each individual and/or family. During the 2020-21 school year, New Home ISD partnered with the Lynn County Hospital District, the Lubbock Health Department, and other area pharmacies to provide school and community members access to the available vaccines. Clinics were held in the school community center and available to any individual that chose to participate. New Home ISD will again look to partner with these and other organizations to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to our community.

If parents are considering vaccinating their child(ren), New Home ISD will provide the most current information available and locations for the vaccination, but we will not require any child in our school to be administered the vaccine in order to return to campus.

Testing

New Home ISD will continue to provide the Binax now, or similar, rapid COVID-19 test for all employees and students. Please contact the nurses office to schedule a test or for more information please contact Jen Rigdon at 806-924-7543 ext. 205

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 2021-22 school year.
- Due to the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and the decrease in the number of people affected by the disease, all students and staff will return to campus for instruction beginning in the 2021-22 school year.
- 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

- New Home ISD will not offer Virtual Instruction for the 2022-23 school year. However, the district will continuously monitor the health of its student body and respond appropriately.

Continuity of Services/Students with Disabilities

- The primary goal of New Home ISD is the safe, appropriate, and successful return to campus for all students.
- Should a parent of a student with disabilities or underlying health issues like to discuss in detail the plan for their child's return to campus or discuss an alternative plan for instruction, please contact the campus principal for more information.
- If a student is experiencing academic difficulties, mental health problems and/or social or emotional needs, please contact the counselor's office to ensure that New Home ISD

may provide information to assist the student in their transition back to school. You may reach the counselor, Sha Moore, at 806-924-7543 ext. 211.

Elective Courses and Extracurricular Activities

- Students must attend on-campus instruction to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- New Home ISD will continue to monitor and adhere to UIL guidelines. Access to these guidelines may be found at the following link: <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>

Campus Closures or Change to 2022-2023 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

- Doors will open beginning at 7:30 AM. Early bird arrival is strongly discouraged. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Staff will be at drop off locations 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 unless prior authorization has been obtained by campus administration.
- 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 without prior approval by the campus principal.
- In-class birthday parties, school holiday parties, homecoming festivities, must receive prior authorization by the campus administrator. 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 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 the 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.
- Schools 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 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 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 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, New Home ISD will screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have any 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 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.
- Ventilation systems will be monitored monthly for proper function and the use of high quality filters will be utilized throughout the school.
- Students will be spaced (socially distanced) to the best of the campus' ability when appropriate.

Mask and Face Covering

- Students and New Home ISD employees may continue to wear face coverings.
- The use of face coverings continues to be strongly encouraged, but is not required.
- To be effective, a mask must cover both the nose and mouth.

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 at any time.