



**DICKINSON**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



# **SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN**

Dickinson Independent School District  
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*August 2022*

Dear Parents and Employees,

The safety and well-being of our students, employees, and visitors are a top priority. This document was developed using the latest guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Galveston County Health District (GCHD).

The health procedures outlined in this document will be used for daily instruction and learning at our campuses. Also included, is information for how we will provide continuity of services, use ESSER III funding, and address the social and emotional needs of students and employees.

Dickinson ISD solicited stakeholder feedback from all parents through a district-wide survey at the end of the 2022 spring semester. Additionally, the plan was shared with required stakeholders and their feedback was requested and considered in this updated plan.

At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised at six-month intervals. When updates are necessary, we will promptly inform you, and we will provide the most current information on our district website.

If you have questions about our procedures, please use the [Just Ask](#) feature on our district website or email a district contact.

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We look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year, and we appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

*Carla Voelkel*

Carla Voelkel  
Dickinson ISD Superintendent

**Version 3 – Posted to the DISD website – August 11, 2022**

*The contents of this document are subject to change based on updated information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Galveston County Health District (GCHD).*

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

Public school systems are to operate in compliance with existing state laws and regulations, including all executive orders by the governor of Texas. Using recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Galveston County Health District (GCHD), the following procedures for healthcare and virus mitigation will be in place. As the need arises, adjustments may be made to our health and safety procedures.

### ***Personal Preventative Steps***

#### **Daily Self-Screening**

Each day, all students and employees are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and fever before leaving home for school or boarding school transportation.

#### **Stay Home When Sick**

- Do not attend if you have a temperature of 100° degrees or greater.
- Stay home if you test positive for COVID-19.

#### **If Students/Employees Become Ill at School**

- Notify the nurse immediately.
- Students who are ill will be isolated and should be picked up within one hour from the time the campus contacts the parent/guardian.
- Employees who are ill must depart the campus as quickly as possible.

#### **Facial Coverings**

- Students and employees who choose to wear facial coverings are welcome to do so.

#### **Practice Proper Hygiene**

- Students and employees are encouraged to wash their hands as often as possible or after handling items that others may have recently touched.
  - Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water frequently.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Coughs and sneezes should be covered with a tissue or sneeze or cough into your shoulder/elbow, wash hands immediately afterwards. Avoid touching face, eyes, and nose area.

### ***Providing Healthy Environments***

#### **Campus Procedures**

- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, at all entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home; all water bottles must be clear. Water fountains and bottle-fillers will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times per day and may only be used to refill bottles.
- Students, employees, and campus visitors are expected to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cover in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- Visitors on campus will be limited. Volunteers and guest speakers will be scheduled with campus principal approval.
- Parents may not drop off students at campuses before the doors open to receive students (7:15 a.m. – junior high and middle school campuses; 8:00 a.m. – elementary campuses).
- Outside deliveries of food by delivery services will not be permitted for students.
- When necessary, campuses will practice appropriate physical distancing.

### **Classroom Procedures**

- Employees will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize high-touch surfaces, working surfaces, and shared objects regularly.
- Students will be taught effective hand washing techniques and hygiene (coughing/sneeze) awareness and etiquette. They will also be expected to wash/sanitize their hands before eating, after recess, and after bathroom breaks.

### **Nurses / Clinics**

- Campuses will implement protocols for students who require additional support from clinic staff (diabetes, asthma, medications, and regular care due to illness or injury, etc.).
- Visits to the school clinic will be for essential services only.
- School nurses will provide information for students and employees regarding best practices for health and hygiene.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Maintenance and Operations custodial teams will maintain a regular cleaning schedule to disinfect high traffic and commonly used spaces throughout the instructional day, restrooms, large group transition areas, and cafeterias between meals.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be in multiple areas throughout the campus.
- Air scrubbers and purifiers are in high traffic areas such as campus clinics, field house, and locker rooms.

### **Food & Nutrition Services**

The DISD Food & Nutrition Services Department will provide all students breakfast and lunch in accordance with 2022-2023 Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines. The following precautionary measures will remain in place for food and nutrition services:

- Students may bring a lunch from home or they may access food available in the cafeteria.
- Students will eat at assigned tables and/or with assigned groups each day. Other areas may be used during lunches for lunchroom visitors at elementary and middle school campuses.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to students at the start of serving lines.
- Visitors will be permitted in the cafeteria during lunch following procedures provided by the campus.
- Tables will be cleaned and sanitized after each group eats lunch.

### **Transportation**

The DISD Transportation Department uses regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Bus transportation is provided for all students, and buses will be cleaned daily, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats and door handles. Additional information related to student transportation:

- Students and employees who choose to wear facial coverings are welcome to do so.
- Whenever possible, bus seating is assigned, with no more than two students per seat.
- Students and employees are encouraged to use provided hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.

### **Extracurricular / UIL Activities**

- Participation in extracurricular activities on campus will align with guidance in this document for non-UIL extracurricular activities and for all UIL activities.
- Hand washing and/or hand sanitizer will be available for all extracurricular/UIL activities.
- Students involved in UIL activities who test COVID positive must have a release from their physician to return to practice and event participation.

## **COVID-19 Protocol**

As provided in the [Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\) Rule](#), school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who have or are suspected of having COVID-19 and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus.

### **Notification**

Contact tracing is not required at this time. Dickinson ISD will provide the required notification to the Galveston County Health District.

### **Diagnostic Testing**

Diagnostic COVID-19 testing will be available for employees and students at the Gator Hope Clinic located at Dickinson High School. Testing is a rapid, shallow nasal swab, and it will be administered by our Physician's Assistant. Diagnostic testing is available in the nurses' office at each campus for employees only.

### **Vaccinations**

For information about COVID-19 vaccines available in our community, visit the Galveston County COVID-19 website, <https://www.gchd.org/public-health-services/covid-19-vaccines>

### **COVID Positive Students and Employees**

- Students and employees with a confirmed positive case will complete the [COVID-19 Self Reporting Form](#).
- The District Lead Nurse will coordinate with the Galveston County Health Department as required.

### **Guidelines for Students/Employees Returning to School/Work:**

Students and employees who test positive for COVID will be excluded from school/work, and the exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:

- Students and employees with symptoms, must stay home until at least **FIVE (5)** days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- Students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least **FIVE (5)** days after the day they were tested.
- Students and employees may return earlier with either a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a physician.
- Students will be excused from school with a parent note just as they would for any other virus or illness.
- Employees will use their sick or personal leave just as they would for any other virus or illness.

### **COVID Dashboard**

DISD will continue to regularly update the COVID Dashboard located on the DISD website.

## INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

### Instruction and Learning

In-person instruction is the form of instruction available to DISD students.

Parents may complete the Special Programs Parent Inquiry Form for students who have a fragile medical condition which prevents them from attending school and who may qualify for homebound instruction. Parents will be contacted after the form is submitted, and additional information will be required.

### Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

As a part of the American Rescue Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided additional funding to school districts across the country to address the impact of the pandemic on students. In May 2022, DISD provided an update and solicited feedback from stakeholders to discuss how the funds were used for the 2021-2022 school year and to discuss a plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Spending priorities for the 2022-2023 school year include the following:

- Supported Classrooms and Teachers
  - Additional instructional support employees
  - Targeted intervention tutors (whole group, small group, individual)
  - Accelerated learning cycle
  - Professional Development and Instructional Coaching (Accelerated Learning, Collaborative Culture, Improvement to our Response to Intervention (Rtl) processes)
- High Quality Instructional Materials
  - Learning Management System
  - Blended learning software
  - Instructional resources based on identified campus needs
- Additional Time
  - Retention of additional 10 minutes in the school day
  - Instructional support during the day and tutoring after school
  - Funds for additional support outside the school day or during the summer based on campus needs
- Mental and Emotional Health Support
  - Additional mental health counseling support from Family Service Center of Galveston County
  - Additional family support from Communities in Schools
  - Implementation of campus SEL Squads
- Facility Support
  - Technology devices
  - Infrastructure upgrades (bandwidth, electrical)

### Accelerated Instruction

Teachers are expected to teach, and students are expected to learn the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for their current grade level and subject. The Dickinson ISD Accelerated Learning Plan includes support for teachers and students in all core content areas, particularly in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics. The key learning acceleration strategies include:

- prioritizing essential grade-level knowledge and skills,
- using evidence-based instruction in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics, and
- crafting just-in-time prevention, intervention, and extension.

### Attendance Guidelines

Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. For more information, please review the Absences/Attendance section of the DISD Student Handbook located on the district website.

## **GATOR WELLNESS CENTER**

### **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING / MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

Dickinson ISD is dedicated to social emotional learning, mental health support and awareness, resiliency, trauma informed practices, transition services, and overall wellness. For social emotional learning, the focus will be on the core competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. Employees are trained in Character Strong and will be expected to support and teach using this character development and social emotional learning program along with Restorative Practices. The Dickinson Gator Wellness Center is our central location for all Mental Health Related Supports, and it is located at McAdams Junior High. A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for mental and behavioral health is in place and assists our team in supporting our students. Through a collaborative approach, we strive to meet the needs of our students and families. Our support team includes:

- Social Emotional Learning Specialist (1),
- School Counselors (24),
- Licensed Professional Counselors (2),
- Mental Health Counselors (5),
- Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (9),
- Social Workers (2),
- Community in Schools Student Support Specialists (15), and
- Community Mental Health Partners.
  - Family Service Center of Galveston County
  - UTMB Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine
  - Gulf Coast Center
  - DePelchin
  - Innovative Alternatives
  - Community Health Network
  - Bay Area Council on Drug Awareness

For more information, visit the DISD Gator Wellness webpage

<https://www.dickinsonisd.org/page/gc.gatorwellness>