



# **Strong Start 2.0**

## Safe Return to School

2021-2022

# Table of Contents

Introduction and District Priorities .....	3
Health and Safety Standards.....	5

# Introduction and District Priorities

As the Henrietta ISD heads into the 2021-2022 school year, being united with all students, families, teachers, and staff creates an aura of being one day closer to normalcy. HISD continues to lead the way in being “All In For Excellence.”

HISD’s *Strong Start 2.0: Safe Return to School* provides procedures and safety requirements that have been created for the well-being of students, families, staff, and visitors.

Henrietta ISD will continually monitor recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), state and local health officials to establish protocols that promote the guidance of these entities. HISD will continue to monitor the number of COVID-19 cases and adjust district procedures, if necessary. Rest assured, HISD’s top priority will be the safety and security of all students, families, teachers, and staff.

Together, let the “All In For Excellence” journey begin.






All In For Excellence

Scot Clayton  
Superintendent of Schools

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

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

## Key Priorities and Focus Areas

-  Educational Excellence
-  Emotional Wellness
-  Public Health and Safety
-  Instructional Continuity
-  Communication

# Guidance

Throughout the ongoing efforts of opening our district for the 2021-2022 school year, Henrietta ISD will continue to respond to guidance from:

## Federal

 [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

## State

 [The Office of the Texas Governor](#)

 [Texas Department of Health and Human Services](#)

 [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#)

 [University Interscholastic League \(UIL\)](#)

## Local

 Clay County Health Advisor




 Henrietta ISD Board of Trustees

 Henrietta ISD District Advisory Team

# Health and Safety Standards

Henrietta ISD will follow the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) public health guidance](#) and applicable executive orders. This guidance takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance.

This guidance addresses:

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

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

Updated 8-20-21

1. 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).
2. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school 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. 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 classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

Interested parties may review the [current number of positive cases of staff and students in Henrietta ISD](#) on the Strong Start section of the web page. These numbers will be based on our knowledge of positive cases and updated weekly.

## Students Who Have COVID-19 or Symptoms of COVID-19

Updated 9-16-21

As provided in this [Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\) Rule](#), school systems must 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.

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. See the [DSHS rule](#) for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, school systems 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

Updated 8-20-21

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on [guidance outlined by the CDC](#), which notes that individuals who are fully vaccinated may not need to follow the stay-at-home period.

As noted above, public health authorities will be notified of all positive cases in schools. While school systems are 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 school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system must 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.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 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 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

## **Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who Are Close Contacts**

Updated 1-9-22

Similar to students, school systems must 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, and choose to continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed periodically for 5 days post-exposure, with testing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day recommended.

## **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

Updated 1-9-22

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.

## **Facilities—Physical Distancing**

Campuses will maximize physical distancing as space allows.

## **Water Fountains**

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use the refilling stations.

## **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands as necessary. Hand sanitizing stations will remain in classrooms and in common areas at all campuses. Students will be taught and encouraged to routinely use proper respiratory etiquette to prevent the spread of viruses.

## **Handwashing/Sanitizing and Disinfecting Expectations**

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove any potential virus that may be on surfaces. When feasible, windows and doors may be left open for ventilation.

## **Screening Protocols**

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and refer to their healthcare provider for care.

## **Health and Safety Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

All necessary medical and safety precautions will be followed for all children. Henrietta ISD will follow ARD Committee and 504 Plan recommendations for children with disabilities.