

# Superintendent's COVID-19 Advisory Task Force

Questions from August 17, 2020

## BUSES

### How will bus screening be addressed?

Students will be screened by parents at home before school and monitored during the school day for symptoms of illness and will be referred to the clinic if symptoms are suspected or present.

### How many students will be allowed on each bus?

When feasible, each bus/route will be limited to one student per seat or two students from the same household in order to encourage social distancing.

Families are encouraged to drop off, carpool or walk with their student to school to reduce possible exposure on buses. Students will be spaced for social distancing as feasible.

## OPENING PROTOCOL

### Who is the "authority" who determines levels 1-4 on the opening protocol sheet? What are they basing their decisions on?

Superintendent Dr. Cantu and the Cabinet will closely monitor and examine the percentages of active COVID-19 cases on campus.

## ATTENDANCE/RETURN TO SCHOOL

### Will a student/staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 need a negative test before returning?

In general, students and staff will not be required to have a negative test in order to return to school.

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 following 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 all three of the following criteria are met:

1. at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. 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 for a diagnosed COVID-19 patient.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the re-entry steps have been met, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

### **When and how will students get IDs?**

This decision will be determined by campuses.

### **May parking passes be purchased now?**

Not at this time. Please monitor your email for updates. If you have further questions, contact the MISD Police Department, which is open 24/7, at 817-299-6000 for more information.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Why did MISD move up their start date to Sept. 8 when other districts around us are still doing virtual?**

The board, district leadership, and many parents and community members feel that district staff are ready to successfully begin in-person learning and keep students and staff safe beginning Sept. 8.

### **Is the district considering pushing in person start to 9/28 due to Labor Day spikes?**

No, the district is planning to begin in-person learning on the scheduled start date of Sept. 8.

## **SCREENING**

### **How will the schools screen students at entrances in a timely manner daily?**

Students will be screened by parents at home before school and monitored during the school day for symptoms of illness and will be referred to the clinic if symptoms are suspected or present. Once at school, teachers and staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

## **CLASS SIZE**

### **How will class sizes be addressed?**

The elementary class size maximum is 22:1. Should any classes exceed the ratio of 22 students per class, appropriate waivers will be filed with the state. As much as instructionally possible, MISD will continue to follow TEA guidelines on class size limitations. As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of 6 feet apart. In classrooms where students are regularly within 6 feet of one another, MISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and will consider increased airflow from the outdoors as possible.

### **How many elementary students will be allowed in a classroom?**

The elementary class size limit is 22 students. As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks 6 feet apart. In classrooms where students are regularly within 6 feet of one another, MISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and will consider increased airflow from the outdoors as possible.

Each campus will also determine the use of other non-classroom or common spaces to accommodate larger groups. The utilization of outdoor spaces is also encouraged.

### **How will class sizes be balanced with two methods of instruction (Virtual Learning Academy vs. remote)?**

Students and families registered for either in-person instruction (remote until Sept. 8) or the Virtual Learning Academy before the start of the school year. The deadline of two weeks prior to the start of

school allowed the district time to balance class sizes to follow TEA guidelines for both modes of instruction. Class sizes may be larger in the Virtual Learning Academy.

**Will there be room number limits based on square footage of classroom?**

As much as instructionally possible, student desks will be placed 6 feet apart. If 6 feet is not achievable, the desks/tables must be spread out as far as possible within the classroom.

**CLASSROOM**

**Can we keep our classroom doors open to improve air circulation?**

At teacher discretion, with doors remaining locked, the classroom door may remain open to improve air flow unless the classroom door opens to the exterior (outside) of the building.

**CLEANING**

**What are the daily cleaning procedures?**

- MISD will use medical-grade, EPA-approved disinfectants for deep cleaning campuses on a regular and ongoing basis.
- Sanitizing will occur nightly in every classroom, restroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces. Restrooms, cafeterias and playgrounds (when allowed for use) will undergo extensive cleaning each day.
- MISD will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common areas throughout the day, including objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets in classrooms between different class periods.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant in a spray bottle with appropriate cleaning cloths/paper provided for employees and students to use on high-touch areas throughout the school day. The state recommends each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- MISD will provide hand sanitizer in every classroom, common areas in the schools, on every bus and at district facilities.
- Students, teachers and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently following proper practices.
- MISD will require students to use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom after a restroom break.
- Tissues will be provided in classrooms and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their inner arms.

### **What guidelines do teachers have to arrange room and clean regularly?**

- As much as instructionally possible, student desks will be placed a minimum of six feet apart. If 6 feet is not achievable, the desks/tables must be spread out as far as possible within the classroom.
- Teachers will consider assigning cohorts of students' specific instructional materials in order to reduce the possibility of exposure or consider creating individual bags of supplementary aids and/or manipulatives for student use that could also be sent home in the event of school closure.
- Music and P.E. equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant in a spray bottle with appropriate cleaning cloths/paper provided for employees and students to use on high-touch areas throughout the school day.
- Students, teachers and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently following proper practices.

### **Will the district buy air purifiers, plexi-glass and signs for schools?**

- Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided for elementary classrooms (pre-kindergarten through fourth grade).
- Markers outlining social distancing of 6 feet and other safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- When feasible, MISD will open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow when possible.

### **What is being done to ensure that *all* areas are cleaned properly?**

- Mansfield ISD custodial employees have been trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- MISD will use medical-grade, EPA-approved disinfectants for deep cleaning campuses on a regular and ongoing basis.
- Student Nutrition Services uses EcoLab Peroxide Disinfectant and food-safe Ecolab sanitizer for contact surfaces in the kitchen and café serving line area.
- Sanitizing will occur nightly in every classroom, restroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces. Restrooms, cafeterias and playgrounds (when allowed for use) will undergo extensive cleaning each day.

- MISD will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common areas throughout the day, including objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets in classrooms between different class periods.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant in a spray bottle with appropriate cleaning cloths/paper provided for employees and students to use on high-touch areas throughout the school day. The state recommends each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- MISD will provide hand sanitizer in every classroom, common areas in the schools, on every bus and at district facilities.
- Students, teachers and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently following proper practices.
- MISD will require students to use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom after a restroom break.
- Tissues will be provided in classrooms and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their inner arms.

## **CLOSING**

### **Based on the current know active cases in the district, is it safe to reopen for in-person?**

The board and district leadership feel that district staff are ready to successfully begin in-person learning and keep students and staff safe beginning Sept. 8.

### **Will the district consider county positivity rate as a threshold for reopening?**

The district is using percentages of active COVID-19 cases as a threshold for closure.

### **What data are we using to gauge safety of all stakeholders?**

The district has developed measures in each department for safety procedures. MISD will be monitoring COVID-19 case numbers as well as doing contact tracing.

### **What is the plan for managing outbreaks of positive-tested students/faculty at individual schools?**

- When a student or staff member has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student or staff member needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes (no later than one hour) from the time the campus contacts the student's parent/guardian. A room on each campus, outside of the school clinic, will be dedicated for ill students or staff members who need to be isolated while waiting to be picked up.

- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- The district will notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Notification must follow confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Consistent with other communicable diseases and legal requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students and/or staff in a district facility of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Students and staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members. Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days and may not return to campus during that time.
- With the guidance provided by [Tarrant County Public Health](#), the district has created guidelines for procedures when a campus or facility has multiple active cases or increased impact of COVID-19 on their campus.

## **CONFIRM/SUSPECT/CLOSE CONTACT**

### **What is the definition of close contact if someone tests positive for COVID?**

MISD follows the CDC definition of close contact, “any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.” MISD Health Services evaluation of close contacts to students/staff with laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 may vary depending on the exposure setting. Contacts in special populations and/or congregate settings require additional considerations. MISD Health Services is working with Tarrant County Public Health to evaluate close contacts during outbreak investigations. Close contact evaluation may also be guided by local characteristics of disease transmission and public health/healthcare system capacity.

### **What happens when a student is ill?**

- MISD will immediately separate any student or staff who shows COVID-19 symptoms and remove him/her from the classroom.
- Remaining students will be relocated until the room is disinfected.
- 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 obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or obtain an acute infection test that comes back negative for COVID-19.

- When a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if the individual needs to be sent home.
- If the staff member does not work on a campus, contact the COVID building coordinator.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.
- A room on each campus, outside of the clinic, will be dedicated for any ill student or staff member would need to be isolated while waiting to be picked up by a family member.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus until the classroom can be disinfected 24 hours later.
- Consistent with other communicable diseases, schools will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students and/or staff in a district facility for a lab-confirmed positive case.
- District communication will be provided to all parents and staff of a campus who came in contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff at a campus.
- District communication will be provided to all staff members who came in contact with a COVID-19 positive staff member at a non-campus building.
- Notification must follow confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The district must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

**If one of the teachers is around another person before they show symptoms, that person tests positive, what is the protocol?**

- Each MISD facility has a designated COVID building coordinator, all employees are expected to report COVID illness/exposure (symptoms, known-exposure, and/or positive case) to their Supervisor and Building Coordinator.
- When a known exposure or confirmed case occurs, the employee or building coordinator completes a COVID reporting form, which includes identifying all individuals who may have been in close contact with the confirmed case for two days prior to symptoms.
- When a positive case has been confirmed, close contacts are notified of possible exposure by MISD Health Services and further isolation/quarantine instructions are provided.
- All students/staff on the facility/campus will be notified of a positive case on a campus or facility; however, only those who are considered to have been in close contact will be required to isolate or quarantine.

### **What is the definition of a “true” exposure? Parents need to know this definition.**

True exposure is when a staff member or student has been in close contact (closer than 6 feet for more than 15 cumulative minutes) with an individual with a confirmed positive covid case.

### **LIBRARY**

#### **What will the library time look like?**

The library may need to be used as a classroom. Librarians will be coming into classes, and secondary students will use online research.

### **LUNCH**

#### **How will lunches be distributed? / Will students be eating lunch in the cafeteria? / How will lunch period work?**

- Mansfield ISD plans to utilize the school cafeteria for student meals at lunch time. Hot breakfast meals will also be available daily in all cafeterias. “Grab and go” packaging is available at campuses that implement meals in the classroom. It is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather is custom planned for each campus depending on all the factors.
- No parents or visitors will be allowed during lunch. Teachers will monitor in the cafeteria and hallways to ensure social distancing.
- Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule as much as possible to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria each period. The campus may increase the number of lunch periods to reduce the student volume in each lunch period as well.
- Students will walk down the serving line in a spaced-out fashion. There will be indicators on the floor for where each child should stand while waiting to order. Hand sanitizer will be offered as the student exits the lunch line.
- Servers will be placing everything on the plate, and students may decline up to two out of five components or take all five. Snacks and beverages will still be available for a la carte sales, but salad bars, self-serve stations and bulk condiment bottles will not be available this year. Students will select their own carton of milk and carton juice out of the milk box.
- Meals will be served on a traditional compartment tray or be packaged in a box to be brought back to the classroom to consume if campuses choose to eat in the classroom.
- MISD Student Nutrition Services highly encourages prepayments this year instead of bringing cash/check to school. A new prepayment system is being introduced this year called SchoolCafe (formerly MySchoolBucks.com). For more information, **[visit the Meal Payment System page.](#)**

#### **How will lunch be handled at the high school level? Pre-packaged in class? At large?**

- We will offer high school students lunch service through the traditional lines and students will stand on decals as they wait in line. Cafeteria servers will place all food items, including fruit and sides, on traditional disposable compartment trays for the students and all utensils will be

wrapped in cellophane packets.

- Students are encouraged to bring a barcode to the lunch period. Barcodes can be presented on a mobile device (phone, tablet, etc) or on a printed paper. Barcodes can be found after setting up and account on [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com).
- Students will have assigned seats in the cafeteria and remain as physically distanced as possible through the lunch period.

### **What are lunch protocols for teachers? If kids have to eat lunch separately, does the school staff have to do the same?**

Employees must practice social distancing of at least 6 feet from other to the maximum extent practicable while on campus—including in break rooms. Employees who may leave campus for lunch are encouraged to travel individually and not ride in cars together.

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND MASKS**

#### **Will students have to wear masks all day – recess, when able to maintain distance, etc.?**

Districts and schools are required to comply with the Governor's Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks for students in grades 4-12. Younger grades are highly encouraged to wear one as well.

While under the current order of the Governor, when impractical to wear masks while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities, students, teachers, staff and visitors must be required to wear masks while entering, exiting, in common areas and in practice facilities/areas when not actively engaging in those activities.

Students who are actively exercising may remove masks, as long as they maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other students, teachers and staff. However, schools must require students, teachers and staff to wear masks as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

#### **MISD Students:**

- Fourth grade students and higher will be required to comply with the governor's executive order of wearing face coverings/masks while on campus or in MISD facilities.
- MISD highly recommends masks be worn by children ages 3 – 9 while on campus or in MISD facilities.
- All students will wear a face covering/mask while riding a school bus.
- Students should come to school wearing their own masks/face coverings daily. MISD will have some student masks available in the event the mask is lost, damaged, or forgotten.
- Due to scientific studies, bandanas will not be an approved form of face covering.
- Students will not be required to wear masks while eating or drinking.
- Student will not be required to wear masks if outside, as long as at least six feet of distance from others can be maintained. Masks must be worn as students are transitioning outside and before maintaining the required distance.
- Visitors will be required to comply with the Governor's Executive Order and MISD protocols.
- Any students with a medical condition or disability that prevents him/her from wearing a mask may be exempted with appropriate documentation from a physician.

- When not under a Governor’s Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks, the use of protective measures, including the use of face coverings, determined by the level of disease activity of COVID-19.

MISD Staff:

- Will wear masks unless the content of a lesson dictates the need for a face shield.
- Masks do not have to be worn when in the classroom or office alone, while eating or drinking as long as six feet of social distancing from others is maintained or when outside and at least six feet from others at all times.
- Additional PPE will be worn by staff who are in constant close proximity to other students and staff or are at increased risk of exposure. (nurses, clinic aides, some SPED staff, nutrition staff, custodians.)
- One face shield will be provided to each staff member of a campus.
- MISD will have some masks/face coverings available in the event a mask is lost, damaged, or forgotten. Staff will see campus nurse for any needed masks.
- Any staff member with a medical condition or disability that prevents him/her from wearing a mask may be exempted with appropriate documentation from a physician or HR.

The Texas Education Agency recently announced that some PPE would be purchased and provided to each district for use as needed. For the purposes of this document, “masks” include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Students will wear mask in halls, but can students wear face shield only during class?**

The Texas Education Agency recently announced that some PPE would be purchased and provided to each district for use as needed. For the purposes of this document, “masks” include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Will the district change the mask rule based on new recommendations from the American Pediatric Association? (now recommended for 2 years and up)**

The district will follow the Governor’s Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks for students in grades 4-12. Students in grades PK-3 will be highly encouraged to wear masks, but it will not be required.

**Will students get mask breaks during the day?**

While under the current order of the Governor, when impractical to wear masks while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities, students, teachers, staff and visitors must be required to wear masks while entering, exiting, in common areas and in practice facilities/areas when not actively engaging in those activities.

Students who are actively exercising may remove masks, as long as they maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other students, teachers and staff. However, schools must require students, teachers and staff to wear masks as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.

“Mask breaks” may be implemented as needed (outdoors), at the discretion of the campus/teacher.

**Will there be a procedure in place for masks? Types of masks? Mask wording and graphics?**

Masks will need to meet the current Student Dress Code and Student Code of Conduct.

**What are the consequences if a student doesn't wear a mask?**

Consequences will coincide with the Student Code of Conduct or what the campus administration has put in place.

**What PPE is being provided by MISD? When will teachers receive it?**

MISD received medical face masks, gloves, and face shields through the TEA. These materials have been distributed to campuses for teacher and staff use.

**Are staff required to wear masks when appropriate?**

Employees must wear a mask/face covering at all times in a campus/building when not alone in a classroom or office/desk workspace area.

**NETWORK**

**Will our network capacity work with so many students online?**

The network has successfully managed the existing increased demand with teachers and staff instructing from district campuses while students have been connected via remote and virtual learning since the start of school on Aug. 12.

**NURSE**

**How will our nurse successfully run/manage the clinic?**

Nurses have had extensive additional training in COVID-19 protocols, response and procedures. Each campus nurse is supported by the Health Services department with additional guidance from Tarrant County Public Health.

**PARENT**

**Will parents get feedback as the year progresses? (Will parents get to provide feedback? Will they get feedback on student progress?)**

As a continuous improvement district, parents are always welcome to submit feedback to their campus principal or to the district via [MISD\\_Fall2020@misdmail.org](mailto:MISD_Fall2020@misdmail.org). The district and campus will provide updates regularly throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

**DROP OFF/PICK UP**

**How will pick up and drop off look at each school?**

*School Arrival*

- Early arrivals are strongly discouraged. Any students dropped off before the building is open may not be allowed inside the building. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Separate entrances will be utilized for car riders, bus riders and walkers.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.
- Bus procedures will be based on specific campus needs.

- Additional details for each campus will be available before Sept. 8.

#### *School Departure*

- Sibling connections will be done outside the building.
- Campuses will designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders and daycare students will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.
- Separate entrances will be utilized for car riders, bus riders and walkers.
- Bus procedures will be based on specific campus needs.
- Additional details for each campus will be available before Sept. 8.

#### **Will we have staggered arrival and dismissal?**

Separate entrances will be utilized for car riders, bus riders and walkers. Campuses will designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders and daycare students will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.

#### **Will drop off in the morning be the same?**

- Early arrivals are strongly discouraged. Any students dropped off before the building is open may not be allowed inside the building. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Separate entrances will be utilized for car riders, bus riders and walkers.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.
- Bus procedures will be based on specific campus needs.
- Additional details for each campus will be available before Sept. 8.

### **QUEST AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

#### **What are QUEST after-school care procedures?**

- QUEST will follow district COVID-19 protocol and procedures. Students in the before-school program will be expected to be pre-screened at home before arrival.
- Parents will utilize a drive-thru check-in and check-out process. Parents or authorized pickup drivers will be provided a pin number to assist in a limited contact drop off and pick up.
- Students will use hand sanitizing station or hand wash upon arrival at the program before beginning program activities.
- Students will be placed in consistent groupings to minimize the spread of the virus.
- Students will hand wash before and after snack. Snacks will be individually packaged items and serving bowls or boats will be available.
- If students display symptoms during program, the same isolation and notification procedures will occur as if symptoms develop during the day. QUEST staff will communicate with custodial staff daily to insure additional cleaning will take place at the completion of the daily program. The pick-up process will be a drive-thru. Additional details will be sent to parents prior to start

of the program on Sept. 8.

- In the event that a student or staff member tests positive, the same COVID-19 reporting procedures and protocols will be followed. QUEST staff will notify the campus nurse of all positive cases.
- All QUEST staff have had increased training related to COVID-19 procedures and safety. Staff-to-student ratios have been adjusted from 1:20 to 1:12.

### **How will QUEST be able to social distance at the same time as an elementary campus dismisses?**

QUEST program staff are working with campus administrators to develop a safe dismissal plan for QUEST program participants. Additional details will be sent to parents prior to start of the program on Sept. 8.

### **How is QUEST going to function when we are separating kids all day (not even pulling kids out with reading specialists) and then they are all grouped together anyway?**

QUEST staff will be working with campus principals to try and maintain existing cohort groups to the greatest extent possible during the QUEST program.

## **SCREENING**

### **What is the student screening process? Anything documented? Frequency?**

Students will be screened by parents at home before school and monitored during the school day for symptoms of illness and will be referred to the clinic if symptoms are suspected or present. Nurses and school staff regularly monitor students for any signs of illness and will refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

### **Can all students be mandated to have a negative COVID-19 test before being allowed in school?**

We are not mandating a negative COVID-19 test to return to school or work. 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 following 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 all three of the following criteria are met:

1. at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. 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 for a diagnosed COVID-19 patient.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the re-entry steps have been met, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

### **Can teachers/staff be mandated to have a negative COVID-19 test before being allowed in school?**

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 following 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 all three of the following criteria are met:

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If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the re-entry steps have been met, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

### **How will the schools screen students at entrances in a timely manner daily?**

Students will be screened by parents at home before school and monitored during the school day for symptoms of illness and will be referred to the clinic if symptoms are suspected or present. Nurses and school staff regularly monitor students for any signs of illness and will refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

### **How can we ensure safety of students in classrooms that were not designed for social distancing?**

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

In situations where maintaining physical distance may be difficult or not feasible, it is especially important to have other mitigating strategies: face coverings (including mouth, nose and eyes), increased airflow, increased outside air, frequent hand washing or disinfecting, sneezing and coughing into your elbow or sleeve, disinfecting work space, etc.. In areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks), schools can consider additional strategies such as installing physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions. Schools can also consider using outdoor space, weather-permitting, to enable social distancing.

### Defining for Social Distancing:

- Classroom – All desks must be spread out as far as possible within the classroom.
- Cafeteria - All tables must be spread out as far as feasible within the cafeteria, taking into account space for lines and other places available such as stage, classrooms, etc. for table placement.
- Locker rooms – Staggered entry schedules based on locker location should be implemented. P.E. students are encouraged not to suit out if the activity can be performed in street clothes. A sign outside of each locker room should indicate the maximum occupancy for social distancing.
- Break rooms – Stay at least 6 feet (about two arms' length) from other people. A sign outside of each breakroom should indicate the maximum occupancy for social distancing.
- Restrooms – Every other toilet and sink will be marked as unavailable for use. A sign outside of each restroom should indicate the maximum occupancy for social distancing.
- As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart.
- Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided for elementary classrooms (pre-kindergarten through fourth grade).
- MISD will educate students about the importance of social distancing and provide visual and verbal reminders.
- Additional mitigating factors including face coverings required for students in grades 4 and higher, increased hand hygiene and washing, limiting group sizes, and limiting the use of shared supplies will also be practiced throughout MISD.

### **What will passing periods in secondary look like?**

Campus administration should implement one-way traffic, "stay to the right" or another means of proximity control in times of transitions. This includes the entrance and exit doors.

Where feasible, school administrations may facilitate student transition outside of the building with monitoring.

### **How will students socially distance when a building is at 80% capacity?**

As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart.

Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.

MISD will educate students about the important of social distancing and provide visual and verbal reminders.

Additional mitigating factors including face coverings required for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and higher, increased hand hygiene and washing, limiting group sizes, and limiting the use of shared supplies will also be practiced throughout MISD.

**Will there be a detailed protocol for classroom set of desks?**

As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart.

Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.

**Teachers have asked how they will comfort young students while social distancing? Hug/hold hand?**

Teachers can use language to convey facial expression and body language to convey comfort.

**Can teachers pass out papers?**

Yes, teachers will be able to pass out papers.

**How will bathrooms be monitored?**

Campuses will implement a system to identify the number of occupants utilizing each restroom to mitigate the chance of exceeding maximum occupants per social distancing.

**Process for transitioning between classes?**

When possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.

Walking pathways throughout the building as well as entrance and exit doors will be designated with clear signage (i.e. "stay to the right").

Where feasible, secondary school administrations may facilitate student transition outside of the building with monitoring.

**If a child needs to go to the reading interventionist, will the amount of students in that class be reduced?**

The principal will work with the reading specialist to create a schedule that reduces the size of groups as much as possible.

**How will recess work?**

Each campus will determine how to safely manage recess time. Strategies to minimize risk may include staggered times to limit group gathering, social distancing reminders on the playground and outdoors—including visual and verbal reminders, increased hand hygiene and washing before and after recess and limiting the number of students in a recess at the same time.

**Will kids be able to see their friends from other classes? Example: recess, lunch, PE.**

This may vary by campus and grade level. Where possible, MISD will be assigning student cohorts to reduce the possibility of exposure, this practice may limit student contact with other classes and students.

**How will we control social distancing for our younger learners K-2 in small group settings?**

- As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of 6 feet apart.
- Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided for elementary classrooms (pre-kindergarten through fourth grade).
- MISD will educate students about the important of social distancing and provide visual and verbal reminders.
- Additional mitigating factors including face coverings required for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and higher, increased hand hygiene and washing, limiting group sizes, and limiting the use of shared supplies will also be practiced throughout MISD.

**Will the classrooms look any different? (Example: desks spread out or Plexiglass?)**

- As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart.
- Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided for elementary classrooms (pre-kindergarten through fourth grade).

**Will there be staggered start times for the various grade levels?****How will district ensure safety of student health with face-to-face instruction?**

All of the district's safety protocols and procedures are in place to protect the health and safety of all students and staff. The district cannot completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19; however, our current protocols are designed to minimize risk to the greatest extent possible.

**Will students be able to work in groups in classrooms?**

Group or pair work may be implemented while maintaining as much physical distancing as possible.

**How will we truly support social distancing in classrooms for students and staff safety?**

As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart. In classrooms where students are regularly within 6 feet of one another, MISD will plan more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and will consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible.

### **Is it OK for our kids to change classes?**

Schedule changes or requests need to be made through campus counselors. In elementary and intermediate schools, teachers will change classes, not students.

### **How many students in a class?**

MISD will try to minimize class size as much as possible and will follow TEA guidelines on class size limitations.

### **Class sizes at high schools are going to be huge (25 – 35 kids per section). What is being done to address social distancing?**

- As much as instructionally possible, MISD will place student desks a minimum of six feet apart.
- Plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) will be added at reception areas, attendance desks, counseling and library counters. In situations where students will regularly be within 6 feet of one another, plexiglass may also be installed.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided for elementary classrooms (pre-kindergarten through fourth grade).
- MISD will educate students about the importance of social distancing and provide visual and verbal reminders.
- Additional mitigating factors including face coverings required for students in fourth grade and higher, increased hand hygiene and washing, limiting group sizes, and limiting the use of shared supplies will also be practiced throughout MISD.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **How will my kid do speech with a mask?**

Face shields can be utilized in this instance.

## **STAFF**

### **How will our employees with underlying health conditions be protected?**

Employees who have a concern regarding returning to work due to a personal medical condition should contact the Benefits department at [benefits@misdmail.org](mailto:benefits@misdmail.org). Employees are also being provided PPE, hand sanitizer and cleaning materials for work spaces.

## **TEACHER**

### **How do we handle teachers being out for long periods of time without having enough subs to cover classes?**

In some cases, teachers will be able to telework and not require a substitute teacher. In other cases, we could utilize Sub Buddies, or the campus administrator will ensure the classes are covered in situations in which a sub does not work in a teacher's absence.

### **We suspect a shortage of subs. How can we provide coverage without doubling teachers' loads?**

In some cases, teachers will be able to telework and not require a substitute teacher. In other cases, we

could utilize Sub Buddies, or the campus administrator will ensure the classes are covered in situations in which a sub does not work in a teacher's absence.

**Will the teachers be safe?**

The district is following recommended safety protocols to keep students and staff safe.

**Did/Do teachers get the option to teach virtual at home? If not, why?**

Teachers were given the option to apply to be a Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) teacher. VLA teachers are teaching from an empty classroom space or other designated area in a district facility. All MISD employees are currently expected to work from an MISD campus or facility.

**Did we lose a lot of seasoned teachers because of fear of their health?**

The district has not seen an increase of teacher resignations for the reason of health/family circumstances.

**Has any consideration been given to HR to add any staff to campuses to decrease class sizes?**

The district will continue to monitor class sizes and staffing to determine if adjustments need to occur.

**After 10 days, how will the other days the teachers are out be covered?**

In a 14-day quarantine situation, four of the days will fall on weekends.

**Why do teachers have to buy their items to place a barrier between students and themselves?**

The district is providing masks and face shields to each campus employee, and common areas such as the reception desk will have Plexi-glass shields. If a teacher desires something other than what is provided, he/she should visit with the campus administrator.

**TECHNOLOGY**

**How to exchange a faulty device?**

Please contact your campus principal regarding any device exchange needs.

**UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE (UIL)**

**Are we really going to play MS and HS football in the middle of a pandemic?**

The district will continue to University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines on safety and operations for extra-curricular academic, athletic, and music activities.

**VIRTUAL/FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION**

**What will happen with classes when virtual students return at 6 weeks? How will it affect IP classes?**

Students and families were asked to commit to in-person learning or virtual learning for the first semester. Students who are registered for in-person learning will return to campuses on Sept. 8 and students who are enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) will remain in the VLA through the end of the first semester.

Students may have the option to request to transfer modes after the first 6 week grading period; however, the requests for transfer will be considered on an individual basis and will be contingent upon staffing availability.

**How are we (staff) adjusting each 6 weeks when parents switch from remote to virtual learning?**

Students and families were asked to commit to in-person learning or virtual learning for the first semester. Students who are registered for in-person learning will return to campuses on Sept. 8 and students who are enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) will remain in the VLA through the end of the first semester.

Students may have the option to request to transfer modes after the first 6 week grading period; however, the requests for transfer will be considered on an individual basis and will be contingent upon staffing availability. Campuses will have to change scheduling to accommodate.

**WATER**

**With water fountains turned off, how will our kids stay hydrated?**

Water fountains will be turned off; students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle from home.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Are all central office administration conducting business from their district offices?**

Yes, all central office administrators are conducting business from district offices. All staff returned daily beginning July 13, transitioning from the previous A/B staffing rotation.

**What is the number used when school closes for the flu?**

The percentage of absences is the data used for school closures related to the flu.