



Bay City Independent School District

520 7th Street · Bay City, Texas 77414 · (979) 401-1005 · FAX (979) 245-3175

Blackcat Blueprint 4.0

Revised May 18, 2021

The health and safety of our students, staff, families and community is our top priority, and we will work tirelessly to ensure that we follow safety protocols. Every decision made will be based on the latest guidance and direction from local, state, and federal authorities on operational considerations.

Student Health Protocols

- ★ Daily COVID-19 Screening Checklist - Parents will be responsible for ensuring their students are screened at home daily. Staff will be responsible for screening themselves daily for symptoms.
- ★ Daily monitoring of temperatures. Student temperatures will be monitored upon arrival at campus and/or prior to boarding a BCISD bus.
- ★ Parents must ensure that they do not send a child to school on campus or board school transportation if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- ★ All students should do a daily self-evaluation (above) prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- ★ All students will be instructed on methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at school.
- ★ All students should practice appropriate social distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- ★ Students and staff will be trained in proper health hygiene and disease transmission prevention measures.
- ★ All students should maintain 6 feet of distancing from others whenever possible.
- ★ When permitted, student gatherings will be held outdoors.
- ★ Students will be seated with as much separation as feasible without disrupting the educational experience.

Health, Hygiene & Mitigation Practices

- ★ Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility.
- ★ Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be provided in every classroom and library.
- ★ Hand sanitizer will be placed in entrances to large gathering areas (e.g. cafeterias, gyms, libraries, etc.).

- ★ Signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings, in the restrooms, and at the entrances.
- ★ Minimum door touching procedures will be implemented where possible.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. ★ Any individuals (students or staff) who **themselves** either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (See checklist) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - 1) at least one day (24 hours) has 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 that is asymptomatic but has received a COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.
 - 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is; or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other sites) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
 - If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is; or (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.

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 should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID -19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as it is feasible.

- ● Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they may be symptomatic for COVID- 19.

Response to a Lab-Confirmed COVID Case in the School

- ★ Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School:
 1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify state health officials, 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. 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 three days have already passed since that person was on campus.
 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 school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Campus Cleaning / Sanitizing Plan

- ★ Campuses will be cleaned/sanitized throughout the instructional day.

- ★ Custodial staffing will be realigned to allow for ongoing cleaning of touch surfaces during the instructional day. The district custodial staff will also utilize disinfection foggers on a regular basis for classrooms and common areas.
- ★ Additional disinfection will be provided on all campuses by a contracted company on a regular basis.
- ★ Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between changing classes of student groups.
- ★ Cleaning products will be properly stored when not in use.

Social/Emotional Needs

Along with the implementation of several health and safety protocols to address student and employee needs, Bay City ISD will also address the social and emotional needs of students and staff. The Texas Department of Health has provided a toll-free COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line at (833) 986-1919.

Plans include:

- ★ Providing professional learning for staff on social/emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed classrooms.
- ★ Developing/implementing mental health supports for students and employees.
 - ★ Case-managing individual student/family needs with BCISD district counselors, school social worker, Communities in Schools support and local mental health providers.
- ★ If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, help is available. Speak with a mental health professional for help dealing with anxiety, depression, stress, grief or worry 24/7.

Transportation

As a response to COVID-19, Bay City ISD encourages all families, if they have the ability to do so, to transport children to and from school themselves. Bus transportation will be offered; however, the standard number of transported students compromises the ability to socially distance.

- ★ Students were required to pre-register for bus transportation before the beginning of the school year.
- ★ Bus seating will be assigned and will operate at the lowest capacity possible according to pre-registration numbers.
- ★ Temperatures will be taken by a bus aide prior to boarding the bus. Parents need to be available if a student cannot board the bus due to fever.
- ★ All students will use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.

- ★ Bus windows will be lowered when weather permits to increase air flow.
- ● ★ Each bus will be sanitized between routes.
- ★ Transportation staff will be trained in proper sanitation procedures.

- ● ★ All Bay City ISD vehicles will be equipped with sanitation and cleaning supplies.

Arrival/Dismissal/Transitioning

Arrival to Campus

- ★ Multiple entry points will be established.
- ★ Entrance doors will be open and monitored to reduce repeated touching where possible.
- ★ Student temperatures will be monitored as they enter the campus via a pass through monitor.
- ★ Students will report straight to classrooms whenever possible.
- ★ All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) will be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.

Dismissal from Campus

- ★ Multiple exit points and pick up areas will be established.
- ★ Exit doors will be open and monitored to reduce repeated touching where possible.
- ★ Students will be released straight from their classroom whenever possible. QR code readers will be used whenever possible to facilitate small group dismissal and prevent large groups from gathering.

Transitioning

- ★ The transitioning of students will be limited during the school day.
- ★ Whenever possible, elementary teachers will rotate into the classrooms to limit student transitioning.
- ★ Students will have a campus schedule designed to limit student transitioning during the school day when possible.
- ★ Considerations will be made at all levels based on student needs and students' developmental levels.
- ★ Hallway travel patterns will be adjusted to control the direction of student traffic flow and decrease crowding where possible.

Meal Service

All child nutrition staff will use personal protective equipment (PPE) while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations.

- ★ When possible, students will have breakfast and lunch in the classrooms.
- ★ If needed, students may eat in various designated locations throughout the building to maintain social distancing.
- ★ When possible, additional time will be added to lunch shifts and/or additional lunch shifts will be added to allow for social distancing in lunch lines and in seating areas.
- ★ Students will be seated with as much spacing as possible.
- ★ Cafeteria serving areas will be cleaned between lunch groups. Eating areas will be cleaned as students transition between lunch shifts.

Campus Visitors

- ★ To limit exposure, informal campus visits will be restricted, including during meal times.
- ★ Campus visitors will be limited to those essential for school operations.
- ★ Before a visitor is allowed on campus, he/she will be screened to determine if he/she has been in close contact with an individual who has COVID-19 symptoms, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, he/she must remain off campus until he/she meets the criteria for reentry. Screening of visitor temperatures will also be conducted and recorded.
- ★ Essential meetings will be done by appointment or through a virtual format.
- ★ Until further notice, the use of field trips to enhance the educational experience will be postponed.
- ★ Until further notice, there will be no large student assemblies.

Any student social activities (i.e. dances, celebrations) must be conducted in open air venues, or limited to fewer than 50 participants. All such activities, regardless of location, will be in compliance with social distancing guidelines and current orders. There will be an exception for graduation ceremonies, which will have no attendance limit.

Employee Health Protocols

- ★ All BCISD employees will be required to complete a self-screening daily.
- ● ★ All employees shall know, understand and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.

- ★ All employees must practice appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- ★ All employees shall regularly wash their hands when reporting to work and after using the restroom.
- ★ All employees shall maintain six feet distancing from others.
- ★ All employees will be required to report health/exposure concerns to Human Resources for review and leave determination.

Extra-Curricular/Non-Academic Activities

- ★ Athletics and Extracurricular Activities will be conducted in alignment with the Texas Education Agency and University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines.
- ★ Virtual learners will be allowed to participate in after-school extracurricular activities.
- ★ CTE courses that require hands-on learning may require lab and/or in-person instruction and may require some in-person attendance to complete course requirements. However, CTE courses that are 100% lab-based will not be available for virtual learning and course schedules will need to be changed. Counselors will meet with virtual students who may need to change their schedule selections.
- ★ Non-UIL activities will follow the same COVID-19 related guidelines as UIL activities.
- ★ Hand washing or hand sanitation stations must be available for any activity.

BCISD will provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure that every student will be Future-Ready.

In-Person at School Instruction

Students in BCISD will have the opportunity to attend schools and receive instruction via an In-Person format for the 2020-2021 school year. This scenario will include a blended instructional platform that involves in-person instruction as well as the use of Google Classroom (district-wide). This model will provide students access to all TEKS while also building their technology skills, digital citizenship, and supports District Strategic Goal #4: “We will integrate the most up-to-date technology district-wide to enhance student development, growth, and learning.”

This model will also ensure that all students are familiar with the virtual platform in the event quickly has to switch all students to an all-virtual setting.

Several operational considerations (detailed above) have been identified to prevent and mitigate the viral spread inside the school setting during in-person instruction. These considerations are outlined in previous sections of this document. Additionally:

- ● Students in grades 6-8 (middle/intermediate) and 9-12 (high school) will have a campus schedule developed based on their course requests and by the availability of an in-person teacher.
- ● Continuity in personalized support for students with specialized needs/services (i.e., special education, 504, English Learners, etc.) will be provided appropriately within the in-person environment as determined by each individual student's documented plan.

Credit Recovery/Dual Credit Courses:

Additionally at the secondary level, students who are scheduled for credit recovery classes and/or dual credit classes will find these courses available in a more independent and self-paced format. For these courses, teachers will be available to provide support and help students set goals to complete their online coursework. These courses do not have a real-time/live instructional component. The credit recovery teacher will monitor student progress, provide feedback, and hold scheduled virtual office hours for students in the credit recovery program. Dual credit students will follow the scope and sequence for their Wharton County Junior College classes and will contact WCJC professors and/or BCISD adjunct professors during virtual office hours. Successful students will be highly independent learners and able to advocate for additional support when needed. Students will be required to log in daily and make daily progress on such courses to be counted as present each day. Students are required to be counted present for at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. CTE courses: Please note that CTE courses that require hands-on learning may require lab and/or in- person instruction and may require some in-person attendance to complete course requirements.

TEA Health Guidance Information

[Texas Education Agency Health Guidance Information](#)

For More Information:

- [In-person Learning FAQs](#)
- [At Home Learning Resources](#)