

FORT BEND ISD

SUMMER 2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The safety of students, teachers and staff is the District's foremost priority. Fort Bend ISD is committed to working with local health departments and physicians to receive information and implement safety protocols to slow the spread of diseases and support and protect students and staff. The Summer 2021 Health & Safety Protocols include daily self-health screening, hygiene, optional face coverings, social distancing measures, reducing surface contact, and responsive communication.

The health and safety protocols defined within this document are put into place to support students and staff as they report to work and/or engage in a face-to-face learning and working environment. These protocols were developed in partnership with input from the District's medical advisor and based on internal and external data related to COVID-19 and vaccination rates of District staff.

HEALTH SCREENING

Health screening is important to support safe access to facilities through early detection and minimize the spread of COVID-19. In support of this effort, FBISD has provided staff and families information on how to screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day before reporting to work or face to face instruction. Staff and students will not be required to submit their self-health screening results daily, unless they test positive for COVID-19, believe they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, or have traveled internationally in the last ten days.

Staff

Each day, every FBISD staff member is required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to any district facility. The self-screening includes staff members taking their own temperature and checking for symptoms that could be COVID-19 related. If a staff member has [COVID-19 symptoms](#) they must follow established procedures for reporting their absence and not report to work.

If an unvaccinated staff member is symptomatic, to return to work one of the following criteria must be met and submitted to the individual's supervisor before returning:

1. Obtain a negative PCR Test, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
2. Obtain a note from a physician indicating an alternative diagnosis, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
3. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; Symptoms have improved; and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Staff members must self-report via the FBISD Wellness Survey if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or they believe they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. In this case, the staff member must follow established procedures for reporting their absence and not report to work. The FBISD Contact Tracing Team will provide isolation/quarantine guidance along with the final clearance to return to work.

For a vaccinated staff member is symptomatic, to return to work one of the following criteria must be met and submitted to the individual's supervisor before returning:

1. Obtain a negative PCR Test, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
2. Obtain a note from a physician indicating an alternative diagnosis, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
3. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; Symptoms have improved; and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Students

Parents shall screen their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before allowing them to report to campus each day. The self-screening includes taking their child's temperature and checking for symptoms that could be COVID-19. Parents shall keep their child(ren) home if symptomatic.

For an unvaccinated student who is symptomatic, to return to school one of the following must be met and submitted to the individual's campus nurse:

1. Obtain a negative PCR Test, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
2. Obtain a note from a physician indicating an alternative diagnosis, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
3. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; Symptoms have improved; and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Families will only self-report via the Skyward Family Access wellness screener if their child(ren) has tested positive for COVID-19 or believe the child(ren) has been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. The FBISD Contact Tracing Team and School Nurse will provide isolation/quarantine guidance along with the final clearance to return to school based on the unique situation of each student.

If vaccinated students are symptomatic, to return to school the following criteria must be met and submitted to the campus nurse:

1. Obtain a negative PCR Test, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
2. Obtain a note from a physician indicating an alternative diagnosis, and 24 hours have passed since start of symptoms;
OR,
3. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; Symptoms have improved; and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Visitors

By entering a District facility, all visitors will confirm they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last ten days.

Unvaccinated individuals will also confirm they do not believe they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive with COVID-19 or traveled internationally.

If a visitor does not meet these criteria, they must not enter a District facility until they can confirm that they meet the criteria for entry.

HYGIENE

Regular hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs to others. The District will expect staff, students, and visitors to frequently and consistently practice safety protocols by washing their hands as often as possible using the following handwashing protocol:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and rinse with clean water.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Dry hands with a clean paper towel or use an air dryer.
- Hand washing and/or sanitizing is required before, during, and after group activities, before and after eating, nose blowing, coughing, or touching any common items.



Campuses will allow breaks for students to wash hands or hand sanitize before and after eating, mid-morning, before and after recess, and mid-afternoon (when possible). Students will also be required to hand sanitize after all common contacts (eat, touch points) and will receive continuous reinforcement on hygiene ownership as part of the safe practices educational campaign.

If you are wearing a mask:

- You can cough or sneeze into your mask. Put on a new, clean mask as soon as possible and wash your hands.

If you are not wearing a mask:

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

FACE COVERING

In accordance with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order, effective June 5, 2021, students, staff, parents, and visitors will no longer be required to wear masks in schools or in District buildings. However, any individual may wear a mask if they choose to do so. Personal choice about mask wearing

is always to be respected by all staff, students, parents, and visitors. Face coverings protect not only the wearer, but also significantly reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Guidance from the CDC, as well as local and state health agencies, recommends that people who are unvaccinated wear facial coverings.

If you choose to wear a mask, the CDC advises the following:

- Wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Masks can be safely worn by people two years and older.
- Evaluation of mask and gaiter materials for effectiveness, based on the structure of materials face coverings are made of, is ongoing.



SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

The District will implement and enforce social distancing protocols in all buildings and facilities. Every effort will be made to ensure that a minimum of three (3) feet of distance is kept between individuals who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Face-to-face interactions must adhere to social distancing guidelines and other infection-spreading mitigating measures where applicable including avoiding any physical contact.

At least three (3) feet of distance will be kept between students and/or adults:

- Between adults in the school building and between adults and students.
- Between all students in the school building.
- In common areas, such as hallways, school lobbies and auditoriums.
- During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated spaces whenever possible.
- In community settings outside of the classroom.

Fort Bend ISD will continuously review safety needs due to COVID as well as recommendations from the CDC and will continue to make needed changes to keep our students and staff safe. Additionally, designated entrances will be used to control the traffic flow, limiting the number of persons in one space at one time, and provide for the appropriate social distancing. It is important to note, in certain situations, staff members will need to interact at a closer distance to support individual student needs.

Cleaning Protocols

Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools. Following CDC, TEA, OSHA, and other public health guidelines, Fort Bend ISD has established protocols to keep buildings safe and clean. When a situation warrants, the district will close all or part of a building for disinfection, notifying the occupants of that building in advance, as appropriate. Fort Bend ISD will align cleaning protocols with guidance from national, state, and local authorities to help ensure students and staff are provided safe and healthy learning and working environments. Fort Bend ISD's approach to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff involves frequent and ongoing cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of campuses and District buildings. Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a

broad approach to preventing the exposure and spread of infectious diseases in schools. The process of cleaning combined with disinfecting effectively work to minimize the spread of infection.

FBISD will adjust cleaning protocols as needed. Disinfectants used by the custodial staff are on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of Disinfectants for Use against SARSCoV-2 (COVID) and the standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting will be followed. This will include the frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects that are touched often throughout the school day. Our students are always working towards attaining Profile of a Graduate attributes and one of the attributes refers to being a compassionate citizen. Students will be able to demonstrate their respect for others by taking ownership of their environment and its safety for themselves and others by cleaning items, they touch after use. Students will be able to access alcohol-based wipes in their classroom that will be safe for the student to clean electronic devices, any shared supplies, as well as their own desks and chairs.

Common Areas

By implementing proactive measures to minimize the contact with surfaces in high traffic areas and frequently visited common areas, we can further reduce the spread of germs and other pathogens. High traffic common areas including restrooms, gyms, locker rooms, cafeterias, and teacher workrooms, will also be cleaned and disinfected daily. FBISD recommends and encourages students to bring their own school supplies when possible if they do not feel comfortable sharing materials. Students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school, if possible. In accordance with the CDC's Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities, playground structures and other outdoor areas do not require disinfection. Spraying disinfectant on sidewalks and in parks is not an efficient use of disinfectant supplies and has not been proven to reduce the risk of COVID to the public.

FBISD's Playgrounds

Playground structures are open for student use during the school day. Students are expected to wash or sanitize their hands before and after playing on playgrounds structures. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer can be used.

High Touch Surfaces

Custodial teams will continue ongoing cleaning of high touch surfaces during the instructional day. Classrooms will be equipped with supplies such as cleaning sprays and wipes for cleaning between scheduled transitions and changing of student groups. Appropriate safety products will be provided near high touch surfaces in offices and throughout building to ensure health and safety protocols are met. Special education classrooms (SAILS, FLASH, etc.) will follow additional sanitization protocols based on the specific needs of the program and/or students in the room. Additional, cleaning measures may occur weekly, monthly, and during scheduled school closures on holidays, and extended breaks.

In the event of an identified COVID case or outbreak, contractor support may be utilized if cleaning is necessary beyond the capability of the custodial staff. The FBISD Facilities Department will continue to monitor all guidelines and recommendations to ensure the safest and most current practices for the cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing campuses and district buildings are implemented. The district is utilizing the best practice sanitization methods when and where possible, like those used by hospital systems to further provide for the safety of our staff and students. These measures will include

improving central air and other HVAC filtration methods. In terms of HVAC management, FBISD follows CDC and ASHRAE guidelines, striving to maintain proper air temperature and humidity while maintaining occupant comfort. The end goal is to reduce the potential for spread of airborne pathogens, and limit possible mold growth in buildings and on finishes. The District upgraded air filters from MERV 8 to MERV 13, and building systems are being started earlier, and running longer at the end of the day to bring in additional exchanges of fresh outside air into the buildings. There are expected increased usages for consumables (soap, paper products), increased use of cleaning supplies, increased maintenance costs to support custodial cleaning equipment, increased utility bills (longer instructional day), increased dumpster collection fees (paper products being used for meal service).

Water Fountains

Water fountains will be open for drinking and filling of water bottles or jugs. Students and staff are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to fill at fountains. As well, we want to ensure students and staff remain hydrated and have access to water throughout the day.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Health service staff are onsite for many FBISD summer programs to assist with student medication, contact tracing and other health related services.

Medications

Medications are not stored in the school clinic over the summer. Parent/Guardian (or designated responsible adult) must arrange end of year medication pick up at the student's home campus, to sign in medication to the clinic at the campus where the student will be attending summer school program. Medication orders will remain valid through the summer.

Students may not carry any medication with them. Those who may require self-administration of emergency medications, for life threatening conditions, must complete [the Parent-Physician Permit to Carry Asthma and Anaphylaxis Emergency Medication](#) form and follow [appropriate procedures](#). The campus clinic should be provided by the parent a second supply of this emergency medication.

RESPONSIVE COMMUNICATION

Effective and responsive communication with parents and the communities served by Fort Bend ISD is essential to provide critical information and guidance when summer programs begin in June. Responsive communication includes contact tracing, communication methods, and resources.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the process of interviewing those who have tested positive for the virus, determining individuals who have been in close contact with the positive person, communicating with those close contacts to gather further information, and providing guidance to help individuals stay well while limiting spread of the disease. This extensive contact tracing process will help to prevent further transmission of the disease within our school community. The District has established both a District COVID Team and Campus COVID Teams that will support contact tracing efforts. The purpose of each team is detailed below:

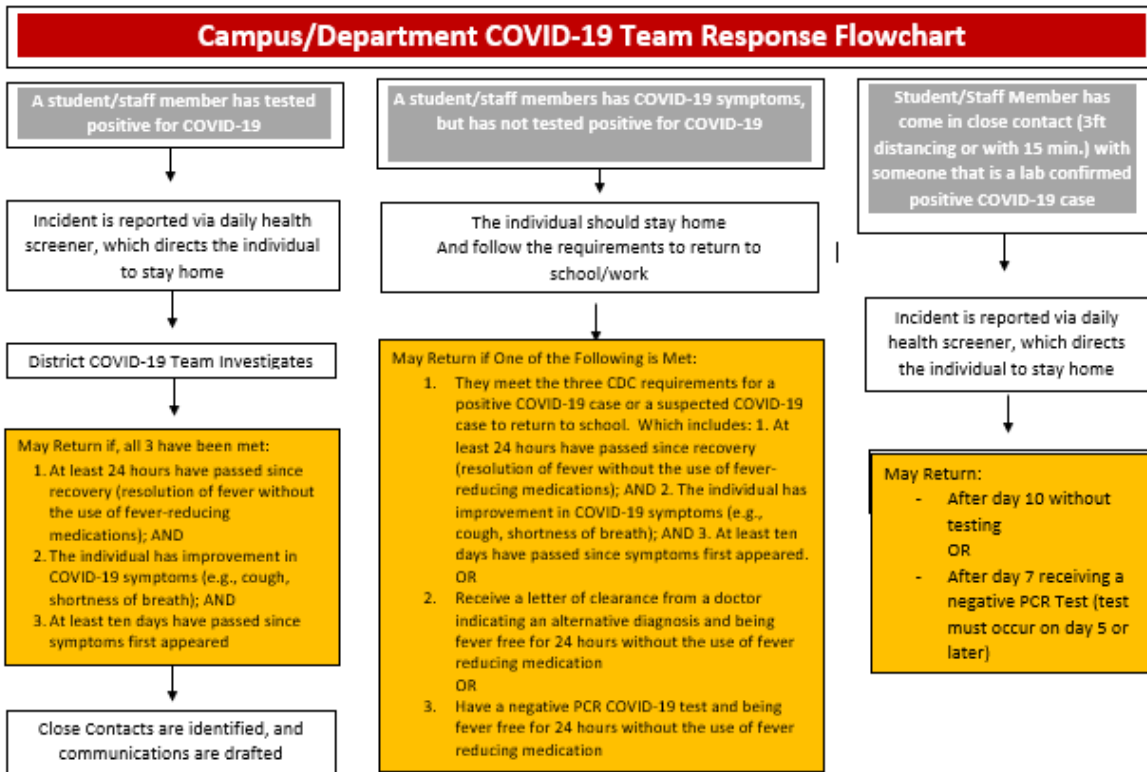
- **District COVID Team** – The District team performs training and supports the contact tracing process. All members of the District COVID Team have completed the COVID Contact Tracing training offered by Johns Hopkins University and will be prepared to perform contact tracing investigations for each campus and district facility. The District COVID Team will provide campus COVID teams training over a district specific protocol derived from the Johns Hopkins and Bloomberg training.
- **Campus COVID Teams** – The Campus team trains their staff on safety efforts and provides direction, care, and support if/when cases occur on campuses. The Campus COVID team acts consistent with a crisis team and embodies a supportive model with the team of people working together to ensure ongoing conversations around how mitigation efforts on campuses are handled. As in crisis situations this group uses a reflective debrief on a regular basis to ensure all areas are supported.

The Fort Bend County Health Department works with FBISD Health Specialist throughout the contact tracing process. These Health Specialists are Registered Nurses (RNs) who are knowledgeable of the community as well as the specific needs of our stakeholders. They will bridge communication for campus administration, the nurses on campus sites, and further support the parents and students in the community. Additionally, they will provide contact tracing support, communication, and care during these situations related to health and safety that might arise for students, staff, and families. When a staff member or family self-reports that they tested positive for the virus or have been exposed to the virus they are to report this information immediately in the District’s wellness screener. Families can self-report through the wellness screener located in Skyward family access for students and the FBISD staff can self-report through the FBISD health survey.

The District COVID Team along with the Health Specialists work with the Campus COVID Team, which will minimally include the nurse, campus administrator, counseling staff, and attendance related staff, to identify when students and staff are cleared to return to campus. This partnership supports communication and accurate data sharing of confirmed positive COVID cases. As well, these efforts will ensure broader contact tracing efforts by the County for the broader community for cases initiating inside the District to reduce duplication of efforts. In close collaboration with the County, all positive COVID cases receive final clearance by the FBISD contact tracing team to return to a campus or District facility.

Campus Response Protocols

Another key is having clearly defined response protocols for when a campus receives a report of a positive COVID case, when an ill student is on campus or when a student reports, they have come in close contact with a lab confirmed positive COVID case. Below is the Campus COVID Team Response Flowchart, which outlines steps to be taken by the campus for each scenario.



Through the contact tracing process, it will be determined whether it is necessary for specific team members and students to be quarantined. If a specific impacted area of the campus can be clearly identified, this area could be closed and sanitized, while face-to-face instruction may continue in other areas. The decision to close entire areas will be handled on a case-by-case basis after contact tracing is complete.

Persons will follow CDC guidelines regarding when a person that tests positive for COVID, has symptoms that could be COVID-19, or believes they have come in close contact with a lab confirmed positive COVID-19 case can return to school/work.

Persons that have tested positive for COVID, must meet the following criteria to return to campus:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared; AND,
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; AND,
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. **Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation

Persons who have symptoms that could be COVID-19 and were directed to care for themselves at home, and choose not to get tested for COVID-19, or have not been evaluated by a medical professional may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared; and,
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
- Other symptoms that could be COVID-19 are improving.

If an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

1. Obtain a medical professional's documentation clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis and at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without fever-reducing medication; OR,
2. Obtain a Negative PCR test for COVID at an approved COVID testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>, and at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication.

An individual that has come in "close contact" with a lab confirmed positive case, can return to work or school:

1. After day 10 without testing - Quarantine for 10 days from their last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 case. The person must be symptom free for the entire 10 days to return to campus and/or work. If the person starts to have COVID symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, then they must meet the three criteria for a positive COVID case to return to campus listed above.
2. After day 7 with a negative PCR COVID-19 test result done on day 5 or after being last exposed to the positive COVID-19 case.

"Close contact" is defined as being within three (3) feet of someone who has COVID, for a cumulative total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period or more, with or without a mask.

Individuals who are "fully vaccinated" or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine if exposed to a positive COVID-19 case. Proof of vaccination or testing positive in the last 90 days must be provided to the District Contact Tracing Team.

People are considered "fully vaccinated":

- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines

The District COVID-19 Team, which includes the contact tracing team and the health specialists, will notify campus leadership regarding when a student or staff member is cleared to return to school or work.

Identifying Possible COVID Cases on Campus

- Schools must immediately separate anyone who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian or get home safely. The person who is suspected of having symptoms should wear a mask.
- Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who showed COVID symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Persons who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID. The following link provides source information for

the latest updates on this topic. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Vaccinations

Any individual who is “fully vaccinated” does not need to quarantine due to international travel. If a staff member travels internationally, they can submit a copy of their vaccination card to the FBISD COVID-19 Contact Tracing Team, who will ensure the staff member meets the definition of “fully vaccinated” and will then clear them to return to work. If a student travels internationally, they can submit a copy of their vaccination card to the campus nurse or the FBISD Contact Tracing Team, who will ensure the student meets the definition of “fully vaccinated” and will then clear them to return to campus.

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines

Communication Methods

Efficient, ongoing communication and consultation with parents and the school community is critical to maintaining the trusting relationships that are vital to a healthy, productive learning environment. As a District, it is our duty to reassure parents and staff of the safety in our schools and to coordinate safety efforts among various stakeholders. The system and process for alerting parents or employees of new COVID cases will follow standard District notification processes, including:

- Email regarding situations related to safety on campuses or sites.
- Phone calls to students, families, and staff to share possible exposure information and complete contact tracing protocols. As well as to support pivots to learning modalities.

TRANSPORTATION

FBISD will continue to adhere to the CDC’s guidelines for social distancing on buses to the greatest extent possible, without violating the governor’s order of not requiring masks to be worn. The Transportation Department will monitor and adjust bus seating protocols as COVID cases fluctuate in the community as needed. Students receiving special education services whose ARD indicates special education transportation eligibility and students eligible for the McKinney-Vento program will be transported. The following safety protocols will be in place to prevent any outbreak while in the bus:

- All students will be required to follow the campus requirements and expectations while aboard buses.
- Bus drivers and monitors may sanitize buses between every group of passengers to prevent cross-contamination.
- All transportation vehicles will be routinely fogged to improve sanitation and germ removal.

All bus drivers and monitors will be issued a personal hand sanitizing agent for personal use only. All bus drivers will be required to use District sanctioned CDC approved cleaning agents when cleaning buses. Transportation will ensure all staff are trained on the appropriate use of cleaning agents prior to the start of the summer of 2021.

Child Nutrition Staff

All Child Nutrition Staff (CND) will wear protective equipment for food handling while working in the kitchen area and when serving meals. All CND staff will wear gloves while handling food ready for consumption. Cashiers serving students will adhere to all health department regulations pertaining to their job function. Due to the established safety protocols and measures in place, there is no need to install additional protective equipment in the serving line area such as partitions. Sneeze guards will be utilized to protect all food items, and all staff will wear the required protective equipment for food handling established by local and state health departments. In the instance that Child Nutrition receives a COVID-related illness concern, it will be reported via the FBISD Wellness Survey immediately initiating the contact tracing process. The FBISD Contact Tracing Team will work to investigate the case and identify any close contact that will need to quarantine. If an employee is asked to quarantine, once they are designated as “safe” by the FBISD Contact Tracing Team, Child Nutrition will receive an email stating the employee’s return to work date.

Safety Protocols

The following safety protocols have been established for breakfast and lunch service.

- A combination of pre-packaged and cooked food options will be provided.
- A la carte options will be available for face-to-face students.
- All food items will be served on school lunch trays, if there is a need for some customers to return to their classrooms those meals will be served in to-go boxes if the students are returning to their classrooms with accompanying disposable plasticware.
- All food items will be served by the CND staff members.
- Cafeterias will be cleaned and disinfected daily in accordance with safety protocols outlined in this plan.

These protocols align with the service protocols for districts in Region 4.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The safety, security and well-being of all students, staff and visitors are the top priority for FBISD. In alignment with local, state, and federal agencies, the District has implemented new protocols and expectations to ensure all employees and visitors are safe and secure.

Personal Protective Equipment and Reducing the Spread of COVID

To assist with decreasing the spread of COVID, FBISD will require all employees and visitors follow proper social distancing guidelines and follow hygiene protocols per CDC guidance while in District buildings, campuses, and other facilities. Upon request disposable facial coverings for visitors will be provided.

Contingency Plan

To ensure the safety and security of employees working in District facilities, the following contingency measures will be implemented:

- An employee who has tested positive for COVID or has been exposed to a confirmed COVID case may only return to work at a District facility once cleared by the FBISD Contact Tracing Team. When an employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 is cleared to return to work, the FBISD

Contact Tracing Team will notify the staff member via an email and will copy to the employee's supervisor on the communication.

Staff Return to Work Guidelines

Fort Bend ISD will follow CDC guidelines regarding when a staff member tests positive for COVID, has come in close contact with a lab confirmed COVID case, or has symptoms that could be COVID-19 can return to work ([see guideline above](#)).

Staff members must complete and submit all required return to work documents required by the return-to-work requirements required by the contact tracing process in collaboration with the contact tracing process. The District COVID Team will notify department leadership regarding when staff members are cleared to return to campus.

Addressing Employee Concerns and Back to Work Conversations

If an employee has concerns regarding returning to their physical work location, he or she should inform their supervisor and work with Human Resources Talent Experience to determine next steps.

Talent Experience will provide resources to assist leaders in conducting back to work conversations.

Employee Leaves

Leave options are available to support all eligible employees. Use the Human Resources (HR) Leave information website to find detailed information. Here is a [link](#) to the HR leave website.