



Columbia-Brazoria
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Return to School Protocol 2022-23

Updated January 17, 2023

** we will continually update this document as conditions warrant*

Columbia-Brazoria ISD plans to return to 100% in-person learning for the 2022-23 school year. We are excited to welcome everyone back into our buildings. At this time, no remote learning options will be offered and face coverings will be optional, regardless of vaccination status. Currently, per [Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order](#), Columbia-Brazoria ISD cannot legally require masks and the State will not fund a remote learning option. Other districts receiving federal funds may offer a form of remote learning; however, we are unable to provide remote learning other than limited homebound instruction offered for significant medical conditions.

We will continue to monitor and reassess as conditions dictate. The District may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community. The following guidelines are in accordance with direction from the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#) and the State of Texas.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will not be required for staff, students or visitors. **An individual may choose to wear a mask if desired and additional masks will be available.** Campuses will work to ensure no student/staff member is treated differently as a result of the choice to wear a mask or not wear a mask. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to recommend that individuals two and older who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear masks indoors. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. To be clear, while CDC and APA recommend wearing masks, the Governor's order cited above, requires mask wearing as voluntary.

Vaccinations

Per [Gov. Abbott's order](#), Columbia-Brazoria ISD cannot require students or staff to get vaccinated. At this time, the State of Texas has not added the COVID-19 vaccination to the required immunization list for students. Columbia-Brazoria ISD cannot require students or staff to report vaccination status.

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COVID-19 Reporting/Tracking

As partners working together to maintain a healthy school environment, we ask parents and employees to report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to the school district. Parents should report positive cases to the school administrator; employees should report to their supervisor. Staff will not conduct close contact reviews. The District is still required, however, to report positive cases to Brazoria County Health Department.

Self-Prescreening:

To ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, all individuals should conduct a [self-screen](#) for COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals waiting for COVID-19 test results due to symptoms or individuals currently experiencing any of the symptoms listed that are new and/or not normal for them, should stay home and consider seeking medical care and/or COVID-19 testing. Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 include:

1. Fatigue, significant muscle pain or body aches, chills
2. Cough or shortness of breath
3. Sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose
4. Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
5. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0F
6. Loss of taste or smell in the last 10 days

Symptomatic Students/Staff

As provided in the [Texas Department of State Health Service rule](#), students/staff suspected of having COVID-19 shall be excluded from attendance. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria are met. Readmission criteria include the following:

- If symptomatic, exclude until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- Negative COVID-19 Test
- Doctors note stating alternate diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is.

Please refer to the [Covid resources page](#).

See "Absences" below.

COVID-19 Positive Cases If a student has a confirmed case of COVID, please contact the school administrator. Please refrain from sending symptomatic or sick students to school. If staff have a confirmed case of COVID, please contact campus administration. Staff should not report to work if they are sick or symptomatic.

If a student has a confirmed case and is involved with University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities, the relevant campus personnel must work with the appropriate central department (e.g., athletics, fine arts, etc.) to notify the opposing school and sports/contest officials for any game or contest the student participated in during the infectious period.

If an individual has tested positive for COVID 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.

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When do students who test positive return to school?

- A student may return to school from a laboratory confirmed Covid case when:
- Individual has been fever free for 24 hours **and**,
- Individual displays improved symptoms for 24 hours **and**,
- Five days have passed since symptoms onset or five days from positive test for asymptomatic positives.
- All students/staff required to isolate must check in with the nurse before returning to the classroom.

When do staff who test positive return to school?

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in-person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Individuals who have had close contact with a positive COVID case:

- Consider quarantining for 14 days after the date of last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for 14 days after the date of last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Consider wearing a mask/face covering if choosing to return to work/school prior to the end of the 14-day quarantine period.
- Consider testing between day 3 and day 7 after exposure and if symptoms develop.
- Individuals who have had a known close contact with a positive individual AND develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should follow the guidance for “Individuals who have symptoms...” listed above.

Employees must use personal leave time if they choose to quarantine for close-contact.

Absences

If a student must isolate after testing positive for COVID, the school/teacher will implement the following:

- The teacher will work with the student and parent to provide make-up work to the student, understanding there is not a remote instruction option available.
- Teachers will utilize the appropriate LMS (Google Classroom) to provide students with work to be completed.
- The student will submit make-up work as noted in the student handbook (one school day per day of absence) after returning to school.
- Absences for isolation will be “excused” absences.
- Parents who choose to quarantine their students for close contact will receive “excused” absences.

Employees must use personal leave time while they are isolating.

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COVID-19 Testing

At this time, CBISD is not offering COVID-19 testing.

Visitors & Meetings

Visitors will be allowed on campus according to standard visiting rules with campus administration approval. Visitors will be required to [self-screen](#) before being allowed on campus.

Cleaning/Sanitation Protocols Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. Columbia-Brazoria ISD will continue with cleaning and sanitization protocols in its buildings and campuses. Sanitization stations (Including disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer) will remain throughout all buildings. The District has Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for students or staff upon request.

Extra- and Co-Curricular Activities All extra- and co-curricular activities will resume with no capacity or participation restrictions. Students and spectators will not be required to wear face coverings per [Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order](#).

Resources & Support

As we transition to a less restrictive learning environment with 100% capacities in our schools, Columbia-Brazoria ISD is committed to supporting our students and staff in their learning and working environments.

For social-emotional support, please contact your school counselor.

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