

SPRING BRANCH  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

# **STRONG START**

**Health and Safety Plan**

**2021-2022**



**Strong Start Health and Safety Plan  
for the  
Mitigation of Viruses and Other Infectious Diseases**

Spring Branch ISD will continue to implement a multi-pronged, layered approach following health and safety guidance from federal, state, and local governmental agencies to ensure a safe and healthy start to in-person learning. The district will continue to monitor the spread of viruses and other infectious diseases and adjust mitigation procedures as needed. The district will continue to consult with healthcare professionals to make needed updates to the SBISD health and safety plan.

**MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS**

The governor of Texas issued Executive Order No. GA-38 prohibiting school districts from requiring masks. At this time, individuals may choose to wear a mask or face covering at any SBISD campus, facility, and on buses. SBISD strongly recommends universal masking based on the most current CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics guidance. Staff, students, parents, and visitors will respect each individual's personal choice in mask wearing.

All masks/face coverings shall be free of any images, words, political slogans, with the exception of a SBISD school logo, district logo or college logo.

Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are currently recommending universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. This recommendation is due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant.

Updated 08/15/2021

**SELF-SCREENING**

Each day staff, students and visitors are expected to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and other viruses and infectious disease. Symptoms of COVID-19 are: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Individuals experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease are expected to stay home and should contact their health care provider for testing and care.

Staff members and students are expected to monitor their health throughout the school day. Students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease will be sent to the clinic. If a staff member begins experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other viruses or infectious disease they are expected to contact their supervisor, report the absence in AESOP, go home and contact their health care provider.

Updated 08/15/2021

## **MONITORING STUDENTS**

Teachers should monitor their students for signs and symptoms of illness. Any students who do not appear to feel well or report feeling ill will be referred to the school nurse for a clinical assessment. The nurse will contact the parent/guardian of a child needing to go home and/or to a physician (or healthcare provider) for further evaluation. Parents/guardians will need to pick students up within 30 minutes of notification. Starting on September 1, 2021, SBISD nurses, at participating campuses, will be able to administer a rapid test for COVID-19 on site (see section 'COVID-19 Testing'). Students may opt into this program with parental consent. When available and clinically indicated, students participating in the program may be tested if symptomatic.

Updated 08/29/2021

## **COVID-19 TESTING**

The Texas Education Agency announced on August 12, 2021 school districts will be provided free BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card rapid-result tests. Spring Branch ISD has elected to participate in this COVID-19 testing program for the 2021-2022 school year. The district is currently in the process of distributing COVID-19 tests to participating campuses and will begin the testing program on September 1. The SBISD nurses, at participating campuses, are trained to administer the BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card rapid-result test. Student participation in the COVID-19 testing program is optional, and students must have parent permission. Parental consent forms will be available at campuses participating and returned to the campus nurse.

Updated 08/29/2021

## **COVID-19 Case Report**

TEA requires public schools to report test-confirmed COVID-19 cases each week. Case information is supplied for any students, staff members, or visitors who participates in any on campus activity and is test-confirmed with COVID-19. Students and staff who receive a positive COVID-19 test result, are required to provide a copy of the test results to the campus nurse or supervisor. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for 10 days. SBISD will report results from molecular or antigen test that are confirmed by the individuals health care provider, lab confirmed, and/or conducted by the campus nurse for students participating in the COVID-19 testing program.

Staff, students, and parents can monitor active confirmed COVID-19 cases at their campus on the Spring Branch ISD active case dashboard. The campus nurse and Safety Officer will conduct a case review with individuals having a test confirmed positive COVID-19 test and notify the local health department as required. Individuals identified as having close contact with an individual who has a test-confirmed positive case will be notified by the nurse and/or campus safety officer. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, SBISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or

extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

UIL reporting guidelines posted in the isolation and quarantine section will be followed for individuals participating in UIL events. The district will disinfect and clean the affected classroom, workplace, vehicle, equipment, etc., as necessary.

Updated 08/29/2021

### **VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATIONS**

The district will continue to partner with local health entities to offer vaccines and immunizations for students and staff. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance, it is vital all children receive recommended vaccinations on time and get caught up if they are behind as a result of the pandemic. The most recent guidance from the CDC states, vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.

Updated 08/15/2021

### **INCREASED HAND HYGIENE**

Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations will be readily available in the classroom, common areas, and wherever food is served. Staff and students will continue to be expected to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day; especially before and after eating, and after activities such as PE or recess.

Updated 08/15/2021

### **RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE**

Teach and encourage students to practice respiratory etiquette such as sneezing into their elbow, covering their coughs, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer after blowing their nose.

### **VENTILATION**

The District facilities are equipped with automatically controlled heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, (HVAC) which meet the highest standards for outdoor air volumes and air supply flow rates and also include premium grade filters, replaced on a set schedule, to reduce airborne particulates into spaces.

Updated 08/29/2021

## **CAFETERIA**

Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits to and from the cafeteria. Lunch schedules will be staggered to facilitate social distancing as feasible. Plexiglas is available upon request. Each campus will make use of outdoor eating areas and other available common areas. Hospital grade disinfectants are used between classes to clean tables. Staff and students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after meals.

## **ENHANCED CLEANING PROCEDURES**

Continue the use of hospital grade disinfectant to clean all flat surfaces and high touch areas such as doorknobs and light switches on a daily basis. Provide teachers and classrooms with disinfectant wipes or a suitable disinfectant spray (such as Sanicare TBX) and paper towels.

## **SEATING CHARTS**

Seating charts will be maintained by the teacher to help identify exposure to communicable diseases when conducting case reviews.

## **SIGNAGE ENCOURAGING HEALTHY PRACTICES**

Health and safety signs will be posted in district facilities to encourage healthy practices such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, etc.

Updated 08/15/2021

## **USE OF PLEXIGLASS DIVIDERS (OPTIONAL)**

Plexiglass (or similar material) may be used during small group instruction such as at a reading table between the teacher and students or between students during group activities. Individual students may request to use plexiglass dividers in the classroom. These, like any other high touch surfaces, will require daily cleaning (see section 'Enhanced Cleaning Procedures').

Updated 08/29/2021

## **ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL DISTANCING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE**

All individuals are encouraged to practice physical distancing, of at least three feet, whenever possible and to the extent possible. When unable to maintain physical distancing, the CDC recommends individuals wear a face covering or mask.

Updated 08/15/2021

## **STAFF AND STUDENT WELLNESS**

To the extent, possible SBISD will continue to offer opportunities for staff and students to receive immunizations and vaccinations for respiratory infections such as influenza and COVID-19.

## **ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE**

Per Texas Education Agency (TEA) public health guidance and as provided in the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, a school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19 or other communicable illness (i.e. influenza, measles, chickenpox or other identified illnesses). Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The decision to exclude students from school based on symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be determined after a case review is conducted with the Campus Safety Officer and nurse.

The school district and parents are in partnership to keep our community healthy, and together they can prevent outbreaks of contagious diseases. TEA public health guidelines refers to CDC guidance, which recommends vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports. In addition, due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

As per, TEA public health guidance and the DSHS rule, parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. Parents/guardians are expected to keep their student at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or any communicable illness. Any students running a fever must remain home and may return once fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.

Individuals exhibiting symptoms of viruses and/or infectious diseases will be referred to the nurse for a clinical assessment and for isolation. The nurse will contact the parent/guardian of a child needing to go home and/or to a physician (or healthcare provider) for further evaluation. Parents/guardians are expected to pick their student up within 30 minutes of notification.

During the exclusion or isolation period, the school system may deliver remote conferencing instruction as outlined by the state. Individuals with a confirmed positive COVID-19 test must meet the following guidelines before returning to school or work:

- Isolate at home for 10 calendar days from either the date of the positive test or the onset of symptoms; **AND**,
- Be fever free for at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; **AND**,
- Have a reduction in symptoms before returning to school or work.

Note: Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals being on campuses, SBISD is offering COVID-19 testing using rapid tests provided by the state. Testing can be conducted on students with prior written permission of parents. More information is provided in the testing section of this document.

### FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

#### Defined as:

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

Individuals not meeting these requirements, regardless of your age, are NOT fully vaccinated.

#### QUARANTINE

Fully vaccinated individuals determined to have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and show no symptoms of COVID-19:

- May continue to come to school or work as normal.
- Should continue to self-monitor daily for any symptoms of illness
- Should be tested 3-5 calendar days after the date of exposure.
- The negative and positive test must be provided to the campus nurse or supervisor.
- Should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 7 days after exposure OR until the individual receives a negative test result.

#### ISOLATION

Fully vaccinated individuals testing positive for COVID-19, will isolate at home for:

- 10 calendar days from either the date of the positive test or the onset of symptoms, and
- must also be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, and
- have a reduction in symptoms before returning to school or work.

Updated 08/29/2021

Updated 08/29/2021

### UIL REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH TEST-CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19

1. As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems **must exclude** students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Parents **must ensure** they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the following conditions for re-entry are met.

2. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset or the date of the positive test result, **and** fever free\*, **and** other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

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

3. A student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletic activities.
4. If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities are being conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
5. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor in an area where UIL activities are being conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
6. If a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in a UIL competition against another school, the school must notify the opposing school and the officials/contest judges who also participated in the competition.

Updated 08/29/2021

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

### **International Travel for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**

Students and staff members, who are vaccinated, and return from international travel are required to:

- Get tested with a **viral test 3-5 days** after travel.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for 10 days.
- Parents/guardians report absences to the campus following district/campus guidelines;
- Staff members report absences to their supervisor and enter their absence accrual in AESOP.

### International travel for unvaccinated individuals:

Students and staff members, who are unvaccinated, and return from international travel are required to:

- Get tested with a **viral test 3-5 days** after travel **AND** staff and students are required to stay home and self-quarantine for a **full 7 days** after travel.
  - **Even if you test negative**, stay home and self-quarantine for the **full 7 days**.
  - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
  - Parents/guardians report absences to the campus following district/campus guidelines;
  - Staff members report absences to their supervisor and enter their absence accrual in AESOP.
- **If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.**
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

### International Travel Quick Reference Guide from CDC



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)		
International Travel RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓	
Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓	✓
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓	✓
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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Individuals traveling internationally may not be allowed to return home due to a countries quarantine policy.

- Students who are required to quarantine in another country are expected to follow absence reporting guidelines in the student handbook.
- Staff members who are required to quarantine in another country will use their accruals, report their absence in Aesop and notify their supervisor.

Updated 08/29/2029

*Spring Branch ISD will continue to monitor cases and the spread of infectious diseases and viruses in our schools, community, and across the state. If the situation requires, the District will consult with local public health authorities and our health care partners to see if additional mitigation procedures are required.*

## Spring Branch ISD COVID-19 Scenarios (Updated 8/29/2021)

These recommendations reflect the latest guidance and policies from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA). We will continue to update these recommendations as new evidence and information develops.

Scenario	Fully Vaccinated Staff/Students	Unvaccinated Staff	Unvaccinated Students
<b>I might have been exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and I do not have symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Attend school/work as usual &amp; observe protocols for masking, hand hygiene, and distancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Attend school/work as usual &amp; observe protocols for masking, hand hygiene, and distancing</li> <li>-Consider weekly screening test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Attend school as usual &amp; observe protocols for masking, hand hygiene, and distancing</li> </ul>
<b>I know I was exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and I do not have symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Test on day 3-5 after the exposure</li> <li>-Wear a mask in school and all indoor public settings for 7 days or until you receive negative test results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Get tested immediately if symptomatic</li> <li>--Quarantine at home for 10 days after last known exposure or 7 days with a negative test (test on day 5-7 post exposure)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>-Get tested immediately if symptomatic</li> <li>-Quarantine at home for 10 days after last known contact, or 7 days with a negative test (test on day 5-7 post exposure)</li> </ul>
<b>I have symptoms of COVID-19: fever, chills, cough, short-ness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell, runny nose or congestion, or diarrhea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stay home, follow up with your health-care provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stay home, follow up with your healthcare provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stay home, follow up with your healthcare provider, and/or get tested for COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>I tested positive for COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Isolate at home for at least 10 days</li> <li>-Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Isolate at home for at least 10 days</li> <li>-Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Isolate at home for at least 10 days</li> <li>-Follow CDC guidance for return to work/school (see F.A.Q section)</li> </ul>

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I know if I am fully vaccinated?**

According to the CDC, individuals are considered fully vaccinated if it has been 2 weeks after their second dose for a 2-dose series (such as Pfizer or Moderna), or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson). All others are considered unvaccinated.

### **What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?**

Quarantine refers to the measure taken to prevent the spread of disease if you have been exposed to COVID-19 (but not necessarily tested positive). Isolation refers to the measure taken to prevent the spread of disease when you have a known infection (tested positive for COVID-19), regardless of whether you have symptoms.

### **If I had to undergo isolation, when can I return to work or school?**

Individuals with confirmed positive COVID-19 test must meet the following guidelines to return to school or work: isolate at home for 10 calendar days since the start of symptoms, **AND** be fever-free for at least 24 hours (not taking fever-reducing medicine), **AND** experience improvement in symptoms

### **I have symptoms and/or I tested positive for COVID-19. How do I properly isolate myself?**

- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale/gray/or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people if able.

**Do not hesitate to reach out to your personal healthcare provider if you have additional COVID-19 or other health-related concerns.**