

# Judson ISD Health Safety Plan

## *The Greatest District. Producing Excellence.*

Judson ISD is excited to start the new school year! We are committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for our students to learn and thrive. We will continue to consult with and review the guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as well as local, state, and national public health officials to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community. The following School Health and Safety Plan is a guideline that all schools and departments will follow. Each campus will develop their specific procedures using this guidance. Our protocols should help prevent the spread of contagious illnesses and keep our Judson community **healthy**. Changes and revisions to the protocols in this document could occur throughout the year due to the changing health status within our communities or directives from governmental entities. We appreciate your support and welcome you back to **the greatest district!**

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## Health & Safety Guidelines

### **Social and Emotional Well-Being**

Students' social and emotional well-being are a top priority as we return for the 2022-23 school year. Together, schools and families can support your child during this challenging time. With the endless COVID-19 coverage and school safety at the forefront of the headlines, it is natural for your child to experience some changes in behavior and mood. Counselors and staff will continue to work closely with families and students to help ease stress. Keeping routines predictable, sharing facts that are age-appropriate, making time to listen and share feelings, and reaching out to us for support are all important. We are in this together.

### **Student & Staff Self-Screening**

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, initial monitoring of symptoms begins at home. Parents/guardians and staff are expected to screen their children each day for symptoms of contagious illness, including COVID-19, as well as any known close contact with a person who has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days prior to sending their child to school. Students are recommended to stay home or seek medical care if he/she is experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose

As with any illness, students may not return to school if they have a fever of 100.0 degrees or above. Students may return after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. If the student is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, see the ***Isolation & Quarantine Protocols*** section.

## **Masks**

No employee, student, or visitor is required to wear a mask or face covering but are allowed if they choose to do so. During periods when there are high levels of [community spread](#), the CDC recommends all individuals wear a mask or face covering in public, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people. Judson ISD expects all students, employees, and visitors to respect the choice of others regarding the wearing of masks or face coverings

## **Social Distancing**

Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to engage in social distancing whenever possible.

## **Handwashing/Sanitizing**

Frequent handwashing will be encouraged throughout the school day and hand sanitizer will be readily available in all district buildings.

## **Routine Cleaning**

High-touch surfaces in learning areas will be cleaned daily and routinely as needed. Buses, classrooms, and other common areas within the school will be disinfected daily. Additional thorough cleaning and disinfection will occur in response to any identified active COVID cases on campus.

## **Restrooms and Water Fountains**

Hand washing will be a priority during restroom breaks. Students may bring water bottles (reusable or disposable) and may use water fountains to fill their water bottles at school.

## **Visitors**

Visitors will be allowed on campuses and buildings in accordance with the district visitation procedures. This is subject to change during the year in response to safety concerns.

## Transportation

Parents/guardians should screen children daily before allowing them to board the bus. Hand sanitizer will be available to students as they enter the bus. Windows may be opened to increase air circulation and buses will be disinfected daily.

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## Isolation and Quarantine Protocols

### Displaying Symptoms- Isolation Protocols

Judson ISD will continue to follow procedures for any contagious illness if symptoms are shown. Any student who shows possible contagious symptoms which require them to leave school will be monitored in the nurse's office until the student can be picked up by a parent/guardian.

### Isolation Protocols for Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Case

Staff must report if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19 to their immediate supervisor and to Employee Services via email or phone.

Parents/guardians of students who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must keep their child at home and notify the school nurse.

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. COVID-19 confirmed individuals must isolate for at least 5 days. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public through day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.

All lab-confirmed individuals are required to stay at home and may not return to a campus or building until all the following conditions have been met:

- 24 hours fever free, without fever reducing medication, AND
- Symptoms have improved, AND
- 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or from the date of positive test. (Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or a positive viral test if asymptomatic. Day 1 is the day after symptom onset or asymptomatic positive test.)

### Quarantine

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. Parents may opt to keep their student(s) at home during the recommended stay-at-home period if they are determined to have been in [close contact or exposed](#). Vaccinated individuals are not considered close

contacts and are not recommended to quarantine however, if they are experiencing symptoms health authorities encourage families to contact their health care provider.

### **Notification**

While school districts are not required by state authorities to conduct contact tracing for a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, Judson ISD will communicate positive student and campus staff cases as required by TEA and local health authorities. Additionally, the District will report positive cases to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and the Texas Department of State Health Services, as required by the state.

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## **Campus Considerations**

### **Continuity of Instruction**

As with any illness, students who are isolated or quarantined due to a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 or a close contact/exposure will be given work to reinforce skills that have already been taught. Parents and teachers should remain in close communication with each other.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The District will implement accommodations as determined by the student's 504 plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP), including those necessary for health safety. District protocols will be followed to evaluate students who have been referred for special programs. Social distancing and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used, as appropriate.

### **Classroom/Building Configuration**

Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer them to the nurse if they exhibit symptoms. Classrooms will be equipped with disinfectants to sanitize workstations.

### **Extra-Curricular and Athletic Activities**

All extra-curricular and athletic events will follow **COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines** developed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) once it is published for the 2022-23 school year.

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## **Health Resources**

### **COVID-19 Testing**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it is extending the CDC Reopening Schools Grant for the 2022-2023 school year. Information from the Texas Education Agency for the 2022-23 COVID-19 Testing Project should be forthcoming and will guide testing plans on campuses. Judson ISD will monitor local COVID-19 case numbers and will continue to collaborate with local health authorities regarding the need for testing on campuses.

### **Vaccinations**

Judson ISD is working with various health care providers to schedule voluntary vaccination clinics to provide the COVID-19 and other vaccines to students. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for school attendance. Many campuses will be hosting vaccine clinics at their beginning of year events. Please watch the Judson ISD website for vaccine event information.