

PAINT CREEK ISD



Return to School Plan

2020-2021

The purpose of this plan is to create an outline to provide guidance for Paint Creek ISD compliance with COVID-19 pandemic guidelines.

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Action

The effectiveness of this plan relies strongly on each individual's personal responsibility to monitor his or her health. Coming back onto a school campus will mean students and staff may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Paint Creek ISD will strongly encourage routine daily self-assessment for individuals coming onto the campus to include temperature and symptom checks. This plan will be flexible and reassessed continually as conditions change.

Everyone should prepare for disruption. The 2020-2021 school year will be like no other. We are doing the best we can to establish protocols and stability for students, staff, and families. However, this public health crisis is unprecedented and advice from health professions continues to develop. Because keeping our staff and students healthy depends on self-assessment, we are asking that individuals stay home when experiencing symptoms.

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible: Focus on prevention, mitigation and modified operations
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, Paint Creek School is ready to deliver instruction to students face to face or through the asynchronous method (outlined later in the plan). We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face to face method or through asynchronous learning at home. Google classroom will be the main learning management system Pre-K through grade 12. Regardless of the method of instruction, grades and attendance will be monitored and reported during the 2020-2021 school year.

This plan is organized utilizing guidance from the Texas Education Agency.

The guidelines are categorized into four areas:

1. Protect the health of students and staff
2. Communication with parents

3. Identify student needs and provide high quality curriculum and instruction
4. Prepare for long-term, sustainable change and continuous improvement

Within each area, procedures are discussed with the understanding that conditions for each area are subject to revision depending on the changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Students, faculty and staff will be highly encouraged to stay home if they are sick. If an individual exhibits “Sick Day Guidelines” symptoms (listed below), he/she will be sent home until clearance criteria for school return is met.

Symptoms include:

1. Temperature of 100.4 degrees fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
2. Sore throat
3. New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
4. New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
5. Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
6. Close contact with someone that is COVID positive

Close contact (with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19) is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset, or in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Temperature checks will **not** occur upon boarding buses or entering buildings unless staff members believe it is necessary. We will rely on each family to conduct a self-assessment each morning before sending children to school.

Parents will find the self-assessment checklist on the district website and Facebook page. A copy is also available in the school office.

Self-Assessment Checklist

Parents will be required to acknowledge the responsibilities and risks of sending your child back to school by agreeing to conduct home self-assessments on a daily basis. The daily self-assessment checklist includes answering questions about

- Temperature and other symptoms
- Exposure to others diagnosed with COVID-19

The self-assessment checklist may be found on our district website. Parents are not required to turn in checklists; however, parents will be reminded regularly about completing the checklist at home before sending children to school.

Students who remain home due to symptoms will be provided class assignments through Google Classroom or packets. Teachers will assist students with questions while students are away from campus.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to a designated “isolation” room. School staff will follow an established protocol for assessing symptoms and notifying parents.

Masks

As long as the Governor’s Executive Order is in effect, masks are required for staff and students. We will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19 and make adjustments, as necessary.

The CDC guidelines provide scientific reasons why wearing masks can help limit the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths).

Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.

- *Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.*
- *Cloth face coverings can be made from household items. (CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>).*

Cleaning Schedules and Protocols

Paint Creek ISD uses recommended cleaning products and recommended disinfecting procedures. Increased cleaning and disinfecting measures will be implemented in the following areas:

◆ Bathrooms

- Additional sanitization each day
- Monitoring of restrooms to ensure students practice social distancing

◆ Classrooms

- Sanitized daily

- Each classroom will have disinfectant spray for teachers to disinfect as needed
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer for students and staff to sanitize hands in classrooms where soap and water are not available
- Where available, students will wash their hands with soap and water when entering the classroom
- Students and staff will limit the sharing of supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books and learning aids
- Desks will be placed six feet apart, when possible

◆ Transportation/Buses

Due to the lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we will not decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses, when possible; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses.

To protect drivers and students while riding the bus, we will:

- Increase ventilation on buses by lowering windows when weather allows
- Require students to wear masks while on the bus
- Require bus drivers wear masks
- Require students to use hand sanitizer when entering the bus
- Clean and disinfect buses daily

◆ Cafeteria

- Students will use wall mounted hand sanitizers located at the beginning of the serving line
- Students will practice social distancing as much as space allows
- Serving lines will be modified to minimize contamination of food being served
- An acrylic shield will be used as an additional barrier at the serving line
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized between lunches, as time allows

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are limited to students that are enrolled for and engage in campus-based education. Paint Creek ISD does not permit students who enroll only for virtual or asynchronous learning to participate in extracurricular activities. Students who are enrolled for campus-based education but are temporarily quarantined and engage in alternative learning other than

campus-based education are still eligible to participate in extracurricular activities following their release from quarantine.

Visitors

Visitors on campus are restricted to only those essential to business operations. Visitors who have essential business on campus will be screened (temperature check and screening questions). Parents will not be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch with their children.

What happens if someone tests positive?

It is likely we will experience disruption in the school year due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive, we will follow CDC guidelines for school site or district closure.

- Any individual who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 1. At least one day (24 hours) have 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.
- If the individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 wants to return to campus before completing the above stay at home period, he or she may either:
 - Obtain a medical professional's note clearing them for return based on an alternate diagnosis; or
 - Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- An individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19 is assumed to have COVID-19 and will not be allowed back on campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

The district is required to notify the local health department if an individual who has been on campus is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19.

A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district.

Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents, and staff should be prepared for transition to virtual learning at any time.

COMMUNICATION

All communication with parents and the community will be delivered through SchoolMessenger, the district's webpage and the district's Facebook page. Direct communication with the principal and teachers through email will also be used. Paint Creek ISD is committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your child's teacher, you may reach out to Dr. Cheryl Floyd, Superintendent at cfloyd@paintcreek.esc14.net or Mr. Ken Wallace, principal at kwallace@paintcreek.esc14.net

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION

Achieving our core mission to educate children is a tremendous challenge during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Paint Creek ISD is committed to keeping learning constant throughout the school year although we know we are likely to experience disruption due to possible positive diagnoses.

Teachers and administrators have planned to assist students and families by:

- Communicating clearly the learning goals for each lesson
- Providing resources for parent support when learning from home
- Communicating student progress
- Identifying learning loss and closing gaps in learning due to school closures

The Paint Creek "Return to School" plan identifies two learning pathways available to students:

On Campus Face to Face Instruction: Students report to campus and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily.

Remote Asynchronous Instruction: Students engage in learning materials on their own time at home, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic device. Daily attendance is taken through daily engagement measures. Daily progress will be measured through student-teacher interaction and/or completion/turn in of assignments from student to teacher (potentially via email, on-line, or drop off of assignments at the school). Students not meeting the attendance requirement as outlined by Texas Education Code may not receive credit for the semester or the year. Students will be required to meet all the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), and they will also be required to complete the same assignments presented to students who are on campus. The grading policy and number of assignments will not be modified for students learning at home. School grading policies for remote student work will be consistent with those used before COVID-19 for on campus assignments.

Each student must be available for a phone call between 8:00-9:00 each day for attendance purposes. Staff members will also be making daily calls for progress monitoring purposes, and the student must be available to speak with the staff member.

Certain elective courses (e.g., welding, floral design) will require students to come to campus to complete required assignments. Failure to complete the required on-campus assignments could result in the student to not be awarded credit.

Students will not be allowed to continuously switch from on-campus learning to asynchronous learning. Transitioning from one learning pathway to another must be discussed with the campus principal.

Student with Special Needs

Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 Plans will be followed with the assistance of the principal. District related services providers such as speech and OT/PT will be in contact with students and parents to arrange for continued services within the constraints of this public health crisis. IEP and 504 meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone or video conference. All IEP/504 team members are required to participate.

Access to Technology

Devices will be provided for students who need them. Teachers and the principal will help identify students who need technology assistance and a checkout system will be utilized.

LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

School Calendar

The revised school calendar, approved by the school board, is designed for disruptions throughout the year due to COVID-19. Because we may experience disruptions during the school year, we have included extra minutes in our calendar to allow for days missed. We will, however, transition from on-campus learning to at-home learning should we miss several days of school. At-home instruction will help to limit exposure to the virus and provide time for additional cleaning.

The revised calendar is on our district's webpage @paintcreek.esc14.net

Conclusion

We encourage parents to stay engaged and responsive as we honor our commitment to educate all students in spite of these challenges. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

HEALTH TIP

It is important to teach children proper hygiene all the time, but especially to remind them about good habits during a public health crisis like COVID-19. One habit is proper hand washing.

According to CDC guidelines, follow these five steps every time you wash your hands.

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.

Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

HEALTH TIP

Create a routine each morning to check your child’s temperature and assess other symptoms before sending your child to school. Paint Creek ISD will not conduct routine temperature checks as students board school buses or when students enter buildings.

COMMUNICATION TIP

Stay connected to Paint Creek ISD information through Schoolmessenger, the Paint Creek ISD website, and Facebook page. Be sure your contact information, including email and phone number, is up to date in the parent portal. If you need assistance with your parent portal account, contact the school office.

RESOURCE TIP

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has excellent resources posted on their website at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>