

## **2021-2022 MISD Back to School COVID-19 Plan**



Midland Independent School District is encouraged by the improved conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, including the relatively low transmission rate within our community and information provided by the CDC. We look forward to seeing all students attending classes in our campuses for the upcoming school year. We are focusing our efforts on providing an excellent educational experience for students that supports their social, emotional, and academic growth.

We understand parents and staff may have COVID-19 related questions regarding back-to-school plans. MISD has compiled this FAQ to provide answers to various topics and issues. As we continue to work through plans for the upcoming year, rest assured that we continue to follow guidance provided by the local health authority, the Centers for Disease Control, state and federal government, and the Texas Education Agency.

***Safety and health measures may be adjusted due to CDC and local health authority updates.***

### **Will students be returning to face-to-face learning for the 2021-22 school year?**

Yes, students will attend school in person, five days a week.

### **Will there be a hybrid or virtual remote learning option for students for the 2021-22 school year?**

MISD students in grades PK-8 will return to in-person, face-to-face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Students in grades 9-12 may apply for [Coleman Online Academy](#) until July 28th. There is no hybrid option.

### **Will face masks be mandatory for the 2021-22 school year?**

No. In accordance with [Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA 36](#) and TEA, face masks will be optional for students, faculty, and staff in Midland Independent School District. MISD will continue to monitor District and local conditions, and follow the guidance of health and government officials. We will adjust accordingly, should the need arise, to best serve our staff, students, and community. We encourage each individual to follow the [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) regarding mask use.

### **Will daily temperature checks be required?**

No, temperature checks will be required only if students or employees are feeling ill. Daily temperature checks will not be required. Touchless thermometers will continue to be available.

## **Will teachers and students be required to be vaccinated the same way students are required to show proof of vaccination before registering for school?**

No, MISD cannot mandate vaccinations for COVID-19 for adults or students. MISD will make efforts to inform families of vaccination opportunities when available. ***We encourage eligible individuals age 12 and older to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when possible and to follow the directions of their personal health care providers.*** [Click here to find a vaccine near you.](#)

## **How will breakfast and lunch work?**

Breakfast and lunch will include physical distancing as much as possible and sanitizing protocols. Mealtime best practices include:

- Physical distancing, when possible
- Ensure students are not sharing food or utensils
- Use disposable food service paper goods
- Wash hands with soap and water or utilize hand sanitizer before and after eating
- Administration and adult supervision/presence to reinforce mealtime safety measures
- Teams will continue to clean and sanitize dining areas to include tables, seats, and floors as time allows in between meal services

***Breakfast and lunch for all MISD students will be provided free of charge for the 2021-22 school year.***

## **Will students be able to use water fountains?**

Yes, students will be able to use water fountains and bottle fillers (where available). Water fountains and bottle fillers will be disinfected regularly. We highly encourage the use of personal water bottles.

## **Will students be able to go outside for recess?**

Yes, students will be able to go outside for recess. Frequently touched areas or items will be disinfected regularly (i.e. sporting equipment, jungle gyms, gaming items). Hand washing and/or hand sanitizing routines will remain in place. Staff will continue to encourage students to wash their hands prior to returning to the classroom and especially before eating.

## **How will hallway transitions work?**

Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all schools for students to use regularly. Campus principals have the option to continue hallway transition changes and other mitigation measures to best suit their campuses. As much as possible, [CDC guidance about physical distancing](#) should be followed to limit the risk of COVID-19.

### **How will transportation work for the 2021-22 school year?**

- Buses will be disinfected daily and as needed.
- To improve air circulation, windows will be opened when possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students to use before boarding and exiting the bus.
- Students will be physically distanced as space permits. If space is limited, two students will be assigned per seat.
- Students should not eat or drink on the bus or share any items.
- Face masks are optional while traveling in a district vehicle. Bus drivers will have extra disposable masks to provide students that request one.

### **Will my child be able to participate in extracurricular activities?**

We anticipate extracurricular activities to resume for students, including athletics, fine arts, UIL, clubs, etc.

### **Will volunteers be allowed on campus?**

Yes, volunteers will be permitted on campus, as needed, at the principal's discretion. Volunteers will stay in designated areas and will follow all campus protocols to include the [MISD Volunteer COVID-19 screening form](#) upon arrival. Volunteers must also complete a district online background check for the 2021-22 school year through the [MISD Education Foundation](#).

### **What if staff or students test positive for COVID-19?**

Any staff or student who tests positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from school [until it is safe for them to return](#). Please keep your student home and contact your campus nurse as soon as possible if your student tests positive for COVID-19. Staff members who test positive must follow MISD protocol.

### **Will staff and students still need to isolate and quarantine?**

MISD will continue to follow CDC and local health authority recommendations for all individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Please see [CDC: Who Needs to Quarantine](#) and [CDC: If You are Sick or Caring for Someone](#).

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