



Como-Pickton CISD

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

2023-2024

Introduction

The safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors are a priority for Como-Pickton CISD as the district welcomes all students and personnel back for the 2023-2024 school year. Como-Pickton CISD **will not** offer remote instruction for the 2023-2024 school year, so all students will be required to attend school on campus. Como-Pickton CISD will continue practices, protocols, and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC and the Texas Education Agency. The goal is to collaboratively ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible. As always, Como-Pickton CISD staff will continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19 with creativity and perseverance.

Many of the safety measures that Como-Pickton CISD implemented during the 2020-2021 school year will continue with guidance from the CDC. The measures we will continue to practice include having access to hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities and social distancing, when appropriate. The wearing of masks will be optional for both students and staff members.

This Plan is the Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District's guidance on the safe return to in-person instruction. Guidance concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) will be updated every six months as mandated by the Texas Education Agency. The information in these guidelines outlines the current best practices provided by federal, state, and local health officials for mitigating COVID-19 infections in the learning/work environment.

This Plan addresses both staff and student roles as it relates to COVID-19 precautions and responsibilities. The information may be repetitive as some of the same procedures will apply.

General Guidelines for Students

Health and Student Safety

The Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District will continue to monitor the COVID-19 landscape. Your health and safety remain our top priority. As a result, the District will maintain safety measures that have proved successful in protecting our students and staff. Because COVID-19 has not been totally eradicated, it is important to remember how the virus is transmitted.

Transmission of COVID-19

COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth. In some circumstances, they may contaminate surfaces they touch. People who are closer than 6 feet from the infected person are most likely to get infected.

COVID-19 is spread in three main ways:

- Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus.
- Having these small droplets and particles that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze.
- Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website provides the latest information about COVID-19 transmission:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Symptoms of COVID-19

COVID-19 is not the same as the coronaviruses that can cause mild illnesses like the common cold. Infection with COVID-19 can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be fatal. Based on what is currently known, symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms of COVID-19 typically include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills or repeated shaking with chills, fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), muscle pain, sore throat, and, in some cases, a loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. In some cases, infected persons have no signs or symptoms and are referred to as asymptomatic.

While most cases have been among adults, symptoms of COVID-19 in children are like symptoms in adults. Symptoms of COVID-19 in children typically include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. The CDC recently issued a Health Advisory regarding cases of an inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children. Signs and symptoms of MIS-C include fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), stomach pain along with diarrhea or vomiting, and, in some cases, a rash, bloodshot eyes, neck pain, and swollen hands, and feet. There is more to learn about how this syndrome affects children.

If someone in quarantine in a household does not have symptoms, other household members do not have to quarantine or isolate.

If someone in isolation has symptoms that could be from COVID or had a positive test result, the family should quarantine for 5 days after their last close contact with that person.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

Como-Pickton CISD does not conduct laboratory testing or provide vaccinations for COVID-19. On occasion, the district may allow its facilities to be used as a testing or vaccination site by state or local officials for the benefit of our community. If you are interested in testing or vaccination resources within our community, visit the following websites for more information:

- Texas Department of Health Services - COVID-19 Testing - <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/testing.aspx>
- Texas Department of Health Services - COVID-19 Vaccination Providers - <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx>

The Governor of Texas has declared that public school districts may not require students, school staff, or visitors to the school to wear a mask. Therefore, the wearing of masks will be optional for everyone unless a new Public Health Order changes the current order. If wearing a face mask, face masks must be appropriate for school and must be non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful to team members or visitors. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate as outlined in the District's dress code policy. (This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar slogans/designs/graphics, profanity, etc.).

Before Arriving at School

Parents are asked to perform a preliminary COVID-19 and general health screenings of their child(ren) before they depart for school. Students' temperatures will be screened upon arrival at school each day.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any students who have disabilities will receive the needed accommodations to ensure their safety while they are on campus or attending any campus-related events. ARD, 504, and LPAC Committees will determine the unique needs of the student and make support and service recommendations.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The Como-Pickton CISD custodial staff will routinely clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched by multiple people, such as light switches, countertops, walls, handles, etc. Staff members will also disinfect surfaces throughout the day as appropriate.

Isolation Facility/Health Considerations

Como-Pickton CISD will implement isolation strategies to separate students that have non COVID-19 illnesses from potential COVID-19 symptoms or illness.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals 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 system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least five days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Como-Pickton CISD will separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Como-Pickton CISD custodial staff will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as

soon as is feasible.

- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they meet the clinical definition of a fever..

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Performance Areas, Band Halls, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings

1. Como-Pickton CISD will make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.
2. It will be optional for students/staff to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls, and other areas where students may congregate.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Como-Pickton CISD will remain in communication with local health and state officials concerning changes or safety updates pertaining to COVID-19. These changes will be updated (when appropriate) and included in the six-month update to Como-Pickton

CISD stakeholders. If questions or concerns arise, please contact a campus principal at (903)488-3671 or email:

Lisa Pritchard, Elementary Principal
Buck Haynes, Junior High Principal
Kelly Baird, High School Principal

pritchardl@cpcisd.net
haynesb@cpcisd.net
bairdk@cpcisd.net

General Guidelines for Staff

Start of School

Como-Pickton CISD will begin school on Wednesday, August 15 , 2023. All registered students must attend in person.

Communication Plan

Campus principals will communicate to their respective staff regarding high-risk areas, increases in PPE requirements, closures of certain buildings or other areas, and other updated federal, state and local guidelines as deemed necessary.

The Texas Education Agency COVID-19 webpage shall be monitored closely by all campus principals to keep abreast of up-to-date information as it relates to health, safety, instruction, finances, etc.

Absences

COVID-19 related absences should be reported to your supervisor as soon as symptoms or exposure occurs. Your supervisor will provide guidance for reporting symptoms/exposure. An employee's accrued state and local leave may be used during the absence. The District will follow board policy DEC for COVID-19 related absences. If an employee tests positive or has symptoms that require the employee to be out longer than the allotted hours, the employee will need to apply for Family Medical Leave and use accrued state and local leave.

Health and Employee Safety

The Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District continues to monitor the progression of the coronavirus. Your health and safety remain our top priority. As a result, the district continues to implement a variety of safety measures and to scale safety efforts as quickly as possible to keep employees safe.

Health and Safety Protocols include the following:

1. All employees shall self-report a diagnosis or exposure to COVID-19 prior to reporting to work.
2. Employees and students may choose to wear a mask. Masks will be available upon request.
3. All employees will be required to follow CDC recommendations for proper hygiene.
4. All employees will have their temperature screened upon arrival each day.
5. The district may provide other appropriate protective gear such as gloves should the need be determined by an employee's job responsibilities. The higher an employee's risk, the greater amount of protection that may be required.
6. The district will provide disinfectant supplies for employee use in their work area.
7. At Nurses's discretion, on a case by case basis, the district will not allow any employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to enter a building until the end of the 5-day self quarantine period from the last date of exposure.
8. If you are unable to return to work for any reason as directed, you should contact the HR/Benefit Coordinator to discuss potential leave that may be available to you. You should notify your immediate supervisor at your earliest convenience.
9. For your safety at work, all visitors will be subject to the same self-reporting and health screening process before entry into a district facility.

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Persons at Higher Risk

Based on what we know, persons at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people 65 years and older, people with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, people on dialysis, people with liver disease, and people with compromised immune systems.

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COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

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- Texas Department of Health Services - COVID-19 Testing
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- Texas Department of Health Services - COVID-19 Vaccination Providers
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Enhanced Cleaning

The CPCISD custodial team has a high standard for cleanliness and safety and are committed to upholding those standards with our intensive cleaning process. Enhanced cleaning protocols have been put in place as a result of COVID-19 and are based on current local health and government guidelines.

We will focus on the following high touch services to ensure that the proper disinfection takes place:

- Door knobs/Handles
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Restroom fixtures
- Desks
- Keyboards and mouse
- Phones

Areas of enhanced focus:

- Restrooms
- Offices
- Kitchen/break areas
- Vending machines
- Copiers/printers
- Front desk and lobby areas
- Equipment

Personal area cleaning:

- Desks
- Computer keyboards/mouse
- Phone
- Remote control
- Chair arms
- File cabinet drawer handles
- Personal microwaves, refrigerators, and appliances including coffee machines

We will provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all district employees, such as:

- Masks
- Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer

- EPA Registered disinfectants

Shared Areas

All staff, students, and visitors will be required to follow established safety protocols:

- Social distancing is recommended when appropriate.
- Optional use of face masks where other social distancing measures are not possible
- Face masks will be available upon entering the building if the employee, student, or visitor does not have one. Hand sanitizer, portable hand sanitizer dispensers, spray cleaners, and disinfectant wipes will be available in shared areas.

Face Masks

CDC guidance provides that people should wear face masks in public settings if they have not been fully vaccinated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Both student and employee face masks must be appropriate for school and must be non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful to team members or visitors. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate as outlined in the district's dress code policy. (This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar slogans/designs/graphics, profanity, etc.).

Restrooms

Restrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels. Hand soap will be available in all restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and at night.

Safety is our Priority

Como-Pickton CISD is following federal, state, county public health guidelines to ensure the safety of our employees, students, and members of the public.

Employee-Self-Screening

All employees will be **required** to self-screen before going to work by checking their temperature and determining if they have any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore throat

- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feverish feeling or a measure temperature equal to or greater than 100.4°F
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19.

If running a fever of 100.0° or higher, or feeling ill, please stay at home. Notify your supervisor if you exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or are diagnosed with COVID-19. Make sure you contact your health provider, if needed.

Staff Who Become Ill During the Workday

Due to the contagious nature of the virus, all staff should stay informed, practice healthy habits, and avoid sharing equipment when possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If staff develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the workday or are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the following steps will be taken to reduce transmission:

- Separate symptomatic staff from others and send them home.
- The campus principal will contact the custodial supervisor for cleaning/disinfection of the exposed classroom, office, and/or building(s). An evaluation will be conducted to determine if a campus or portion of a building must be shut down. Superintendent will make the final determination.

Confidentiality of Health-Related Information

Contact tracing is a private process. As part of local, state and federal laws, an employee's personal information may not be released to the public or shared with individuals who may have come in contact with the infected employee. Employees are prohibited from disclosing confidential information about other employees and students.

An outbreak in the workplace often generates employee and public interest. Notification will be provided when the purpose of the notice is to control spread of the infection and protect those who have been potentially exposed.

Lab-Confirmed Case-19 Case Process

Step 1

Employee Reports Diagnosis to the District

An employee who has received a lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis must notify their immediate supervisor and the school nurse within 12 hours so they can respond quickly.

Step 2

School Nurse Communicates with the Reporting Employee

The school nurse will communicate with the employee to review the following:

- Direct the employee to not return to work
- Confirm demographic information
- Provide information on isolation requirements and return to work protocols

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School or in an Area Where UIL Activities Are being Conducted

1. If an individual who has been in areas on campus is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department and TEA.
2. If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, our nurse and campus principal will conduct contact tracing. Only those students and staff who have had “close contact” with the student or staff will be required to quarantine. Parents of all students who attend the campus will be notified that a staff member or student has had a positive result. For confidentiality reasons, no other information will be provided.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any UIL activities. If the person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 participated in a contest against another school(s), the school must notify other school(s) and sports/contest officials involved in the contest.

Return to Work Requirements

Staff with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis may not return to work until:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as:
 - No longer having a fever (<100.4° or higher) without the use of fever reducing medicine like Advil, Tylenol, or Aspirin), and
 - Significant improvement of your other symptoms (cough, sore throat, headache, etc.), and
- At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, or
- Staff member has a statement from a medical professional that clears them to return to work based on an alternative diagnosis.

Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 who have not been tested or evaluated by a medical professional should consult the school nurse.

Como-Pickton CISD will remain in communication with local health and state officials concerning changes or safety updates pertaining to COVID-19. These changes will be updated (when appropriate) and included in the six-month update to Como-Pickton CISD stakeholders. If questions or concerns arise, please contact a campus principal at (903)488-3671 or email:

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