

Huntsville Independent School District

Hornet Return to School Plan

2024-2025 School Year



August 19, 2024



Table of Contents

Daily Self Screening:	2
Health Screening Self Check:	2
Student Health Protocols:	3
Previous Positive COVID-19 test:	3
Hygiene for Staff and Students:	3
Employee General Guidelines:	4





Introduction:

The Huntsville Independent School District plan for the 2024-25 school year takes into careful consideration the safety and well-being of students and staff. As a school district, Huntsville ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 19th.

The Federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 has ended on May 11, 2023. COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) declaration ended. The district will continue to provide a safe and excellent educational experience for our students. This will continue to be a team effort between the schools and parents.

Also, know that campus options may change depending on health conditions, needed school closure and ongoing guidance received from the State of Texas and the Texas Education Agency. District administrators will continue monitoring the situation along with any updates in requirements for exclusion from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

To keep all students and staff healthy and prevent the spreading of a communicable disease the district encourages everyone to do a health screening prior to visiting an HISD facility.

Daily Self Screening:

Health Screening Self Check:

Prior to arriving to school, boarding school transportation, or entering a HISD facility, all students and staff should self-screen and be able to answer “no” to each question below. 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°F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea



Student Health Protocols:

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- If a child tests positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the child must be excluded from school until the child is fever free. The child must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school for a 24-hour period. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a student has been determined to be exposed* to an individual with a positive COVID-19 PCR test or an FDA approved home test the student may attend school and the Texas Department of State Health Services recommends that the student test after five days. The student should administer each day the Health Screening Self Check and be symptom free during the five-day period.
- Parents are asked to report to the school nurse if their child has tested positive for COVID-19. Huntsville ISD is required to report positive cases to Texas Department of State Health Services.
- If your child has been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to keep your child at home until you have received the results. The child must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school for a 24-hour period.
- Due to the Health Information Privacy Act (HIPA), we are unable to give any information about a positive COVID-19 student or employee.
- All students should practice appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

****Exposure Defined: To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus, and being within 3 to 6 feet with the virus for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period without the use of face covering or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.***

Previous Positive COVID-19 test:

If a person who has recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has new symptoms of COVID-19, the person may need an evaluation for reinfection, especially if the person has had close contact with someone infected with COVID-19.

Hygiene for Staff and Students:

All students and staff should follow normal preventative actions while at work which includes cleaning hands and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with 60 % alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Key time to clean hands are:

- After using the bathroom
- Prior to eating
- After blowing nose, coughing, sneezing
- After eating
- Before and after providing care for another person.



Employee General Guidelines:

- Employees should conduct a medical self-screening before reporting to work. Medical self-screening includes questions such as new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° Fahrenheit or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed or FDA approved home test to have COVID-19 are encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the employee must be excluded from work until the employee is fever free. The employee must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school for a 24-hour period. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or display COVID-19 symptoms.
- If an employee has been determined to be exposed* to an individual with a positive COVID-19 PCR test or an FDA approved home test, the employee may work. The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends that the employee test after five days from the exposure and wear a high-quality mask for ten days. The test should not be taken until the 5th day. The employee should administer each day the Health Screening Self Check and be symptom free during the 5-day period.
- HISD employees must report if they have received a lab confirmed COVID-19 positive to their direct supervisor.
- If you have been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to stay at home until you have received your results.
- All employees shall know, understand, and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.
- Individuals must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school/work.
- Employees should adhere to CDC guidance regarding frequent hand washing.
- Show respect, care, and compassion for others in following the guidelines.

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