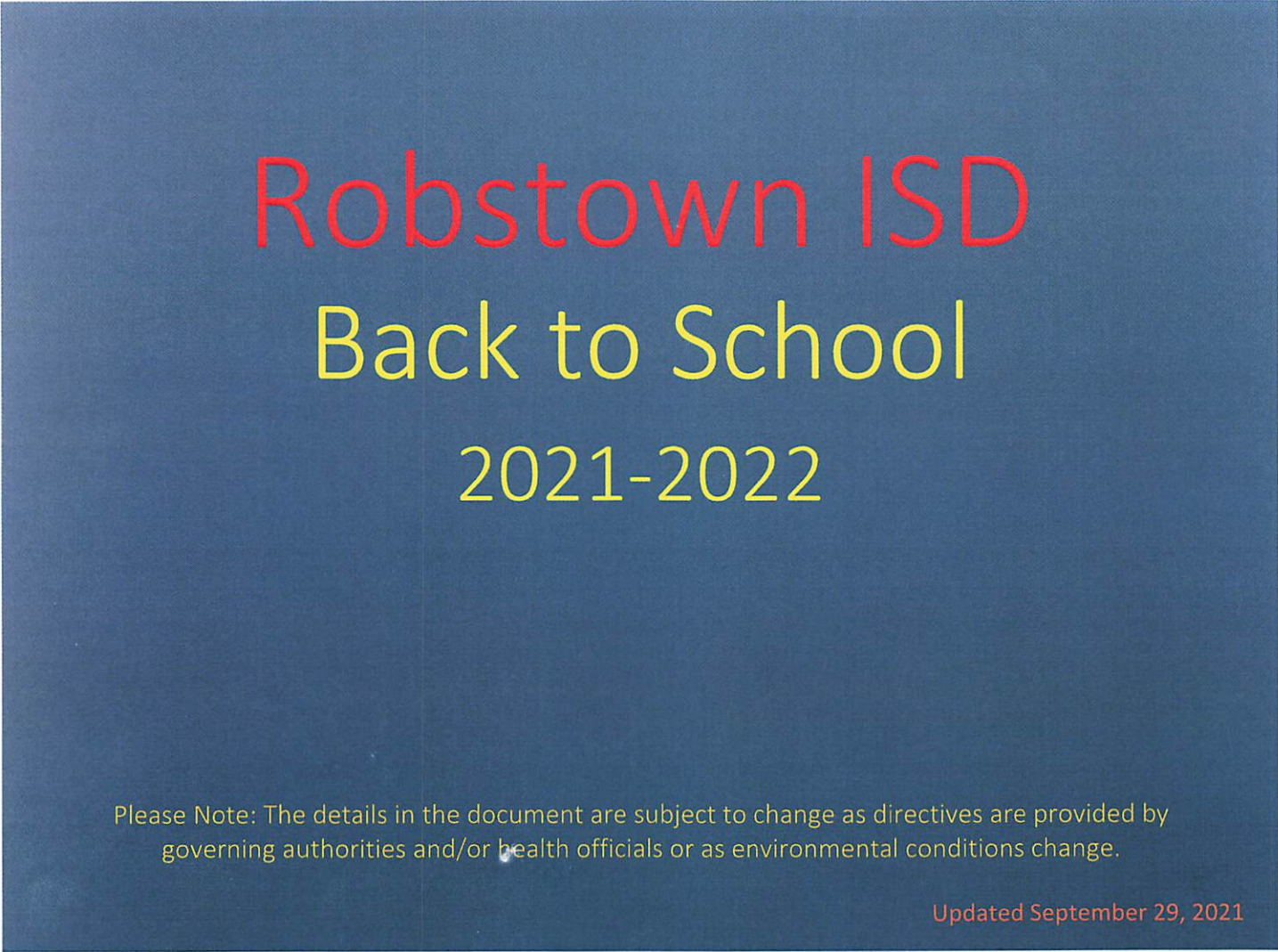




Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



Robstown ISD Back to School 2021-2022

Please Note: The details in the document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

Updated September 29, 2021

At this time, the District will only be providing in-person instruction in our schools. No remote instruction will be provided, although remote conferencing will be provided for students that are COVID positive and/or are asked to quarantine.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, teachers, and staff are of utmost importance to us. We are working diligently to update COVID safety protocols to provide the safest learning and working environment at all Robstown ISD facilities.

Considerations for Health Protocols

- Nueces county raised their COVID alert level due to a heightened transmission and infection rate of the disease, caused primarily by the more transmissible “Delta” variant.
- We believe in-person learning is critical for most students and their families
- Public health experts advise that masks will help keep schools open and students, staff, and their families safe.
- The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) recommends everyone older than the age of 2 years wear a mask in schools regardless of vaccination status.

Effective immediately, Robstown ISD strongly recommends our students, staff, and families wear masks to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Here are other ways we are working to start the school year as safely as possible:

- Vaccine Clinics: We are working with our local health authorities to provide vaccination clinics and testing sites on several campuses throughout the district.
- Safety Protocols: We are continuing to review new guidance from our local health departments and the CDC and we are working with district and campus leaders to install the most reliable and practical COVID-mitigating factors in our schools, including the recommendation of masks, social distancing as possible, cleaning procedures, and self-screening.

We will update our families with more safety information through our regular messaging channels as we navigate through the school year. Families are encouraged to visit the [CDC website for more information regarding the Coronavirus](#)

COVID-19 Communication Protocol

Anyone who comes in contact with a person with a positive case for COVID will either be contacted by the campus administration (for students) or the district's human resource team (for staff).

Robstown ISD will be keeping track of COVID positive cases in our school district. All COVID-related updates and tracking of cases will be placed under the Community Tab found on our robstownisd.org website. While we will be keeping track of cases five days per week, the current week's data will be finalized and posted on Fridays.

A **confirmed case** is a new, reported case either by the individual or the health department. **Exposure** is a person who came into prolonged contact (closer than 6 feet and longer than 15 minutes cumulatively within a 24-hour period) with an infected person. The local health departments are determining guidance regarding quarantine.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies by Transmission Level

- Masks
- Physical Distance
- Handwashing
- Visitors
- Restrooms
- Water Fountains
- Athletics, Fine Arts & Other Extracurricular Activities
- School Arrival
- Ventilation
- Food Service
- Large Group Gatherings (Faculty Meetings, Field Days, etc.)
- Field Trips/Out-of-District Travel
- Clinic Isolation Rooms

Masks

Masks are strongly recommended for ALL individuals while indoors.

Physical Distance

3-6 feet between students when possible.

Signs will be placed in hallways & common areas to identify where students will line up.

Students may move between classrooms and teachers.

Desks will be arranged as needed with 3-feet of distance when possible.

Up-to-date seating charts are required for each classroom.

Handwashing

Practice thorough hand washing and remind students to wash their hands as often as possible for at least 20-seconds.

Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not feasible (i.e., *Sanitize-In* and *Sanitize-Out*)

Visitors

All visitors will be asked to show their ID to be checked into the Raptor Visitor Management system if needing to enter the school.

All will be asked if they have completed a self-assessment prior to arriving at the school.

Only essential visitors are allowed at campus/district facilities.

Masks are strongly recommended when entering any school district facility.

Water Fountains

Cover and close water foundations.

The use of personal water bottles will be encouraged.

Use water bottle fillers.

Athletics, Fine Arts & Other Extracurricular Activities

Social distancing between students and audience/spectators is recommended.

Masks and social distancing are strongly recommended for both indoor and outdoor events.

The positivity rates in the community or county will determine if there will be a limit capacity for both indoor and outdoor activities.

Try to play/practice/rehearse outside.

School Arrival

Follow normal school protocols.

Parents are encouraged to pre-screen their children prior to sending them to school.

Bring child(ren) as close to the beginning of the school day as possible to reduce the number of people waiting for the school doors to open.

Ventilation

Improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. This can be achieved through several actions.

- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
- Filter and/or clean the air in the school by improving the level of filtration.
- Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.
- Open windows in buses and other transportation to increase air circulation.

Additional protocols may be used to clean air ducts, etc.

Food Service

Normal cafeteria service. Students go through the service line to pick up breakfast or lunch.

Students will be encouraged to space out as much as possible when going through the line and sitting at the cafeteria tables.

Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering the cafeteria.

Students and staff may choose to eat outside whenever possible.

Field Trips/ Out-of-District Travel

Masks recommended and social distancing when possible.

Possible with superintendent approval.

Clinic Isolation

An isolation room must be established in every school

Large Group Gatherings (Faculty Meetings, Field Days, etc.)

It is recommended that gatherings be hosted outdoors, when possible, with masks and social distancing.

When indoors, masks and social distancing are strongly recommended.

Requires superintendent approval.

Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes

Positive Case

1. Are required to be reported to the local health department
2. Positive individuals are required to isolate for 10 days starting on the day of symptom onset, or test date if asymptomatic, whichever occurred first, and at least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without medication, and other symptoms have improved.

Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19 Should:

1. Students: Notify the school nurse.

Campus	Name	Phone	Email
Robstown ECHS	Lauren Martinez	361-387-5999 ext 3415	Lauren.martinez@robstownisd.net
Seale JH	Marlyn Saucedo	361-767-6631 ext	Marlyn.saucedo@robstownisd.net
Driscoll Elementary	Taylor LaBarbera	361-767-6647 ext 6110	Taylor.labarbera@robstownisd.net
Lotspeich Elementary	Margie Villarreal	361-767-6655 ext 2415	Margie.villarreal@robstownisd.net
San Pedro Elementary	Cordelia Bosquez	361-767-6648 ext 3815	Cordelia.bosquez@robstownisd.net
District	Melissa Chavez	361-767-6647 ext 6013	Melissa.chavez@robstownisd.net

2. Employees: Notify their campus administrator and human resources.
3. Isolate for ten days after the date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic, whichever occurred first.
4. Individuals must be free of fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school/work.
5. Regardless of vaccination status individuals who test positive are required to isolate for 10 days.

Robstown ISD will notify the appropriate local health department of probable or lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81. Communicable Diseases.

Close Contact/Quarantine

Contact tracing will be conducted by the RISD Director of Health Services, campus nurses, and Human Resources.

Close Contact: If identified as close contact, self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms is required.

Quarantine: Quarantining is optional. If an individual chooses not to quarantine, mask use at all times (except eating or drinking) is strongly recommended.

Communication: All COVID-related updates and tracking of cases will be placed under the Community Tab found on our robstownisd.org website. While we will be keeping track of positive cases five days per week, the current week's data will be finalized and posted on Fridays.

Quick Reference Guide

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should:

1. Students: Notify the school nurse.

Campus	Name	Phone	Email
Robstown ECHS	Lauren Martinez	361-387-5999 ext 3415	Lauren.martinez@robstownisd.net
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2. Employees: Notify their campus administration and human resources.
3. Isolate for ten days after the date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic, whichever occurred first.
4. Individuals must be free of fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school/work.
5. Regardless of vaccination status, COVID positive are required to Isolate for 10 days.

Robstown ISD will notify the appropriate local health department of lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81. Communicable Diseases.

Individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should:

1. Consider isolating to prevent the unintended transmission of the virus to others as recommended by the CDC.
2. Consider seeking medical guidance from your health care provider.
3. Consider testing as recommended by the CDC. Rapid COVID-19 tests are offered by RISD at each campus for students and staff.
4. Consider wearing a mask/face covering if respiratory symptoms are present and you choose not to test for COVID-19 to prevent the unintended transmission of the virus to others.

Individuals who have been identified as a close contact or has had known close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should:

1. If unvaccinated, consider quarantining for 10 days after the date of the last contact as recommended by the CDC.
2. Monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for 14 days after the date of the last contact as recommended by the CDC.
3. Consider wearing a mask if choosing to return to work/school prior to the end of the 10-day quarantine period.
4. Consider testing between day 5 and day 7 after exposure and if symptoms develop.

COVID-19 Positive Case Notifications:

1. Robstown ISD will notify the appropriate local health department of any lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive case as required.
2. Robstown ISD will utilize the District's COVID-19 file found at robstownisd.org under the Community Tab on the main webpage as a way to provide transparency to our COVID-19 positive cases with the district facilities.

Masks/Face Coverings:

1. Given new evidence on the COVID Delta Variant, CDC has updated guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, and visitors to PK-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
2. Unlike in the 2020-2021 school year, per GA-36, public schools will not be able to require masks, although Robstown ISD will strongly recommend the use of a mask while in our schools and facilities.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

1. COVID-19 vaccines are not required for students or employees.
2. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Per the CDC, *promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.*

3. According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and recommended for all eligible individuals.

Continuity of Services: Teaching and Learning

The Robstown Independent School District will only offer In-person (face to face) for students.

In-person (face-to-face) learning will be the only mode of instruction that will be offered for all students and campuses during the 2021-2022 school year. Students receiving in-person instruction will begin school on August 11, 2021 and follow a traditional, Monday through Friday schedule.

Robstown ISD is implementing significant proactive measures to help safeguard the health and safety of our students and staff. Our health and safety measures will follow recommendations from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\), State and Local Health Officials, and Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Public Health Guidance](#). Safety is everyone's responsibility. Students and staff will be expected to adhere to hygiene and social distancing routines in order to maintain healthy, safe learning environments.

Curriculum and Instruction

The COVID-19 pandemic is an ever-evolving and fluid situation. Similarly, our learning environments will likely evolve over the course of the year. Regardless of the learning environment, we are committed to providing high-quality learning experiences.

Curriculum

The Robstown Independent School District utilizes the TEKS Resource System. All Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards will be taught in entirety. Students who receive services or accommodations through special education, gifted and talented, 504, or multilingual services will continue to receive those supports and services.

Learning Management System

Robstown ISD has adopted the Google Classroom learning management System for use by all students, regardless of whether they are learning at school or at home. The Google Classroom is a learning management system providing a collaborative online environment that integrates instructional resources, learning assignments, and assessments. The Google Classroom is accessible from any device, including cell phones with internet capability.

Instruction

Students will receive in-person instruction and utilize the Google Classroom to access lessons, instructional materials and activities, and assessments. Devices will also be used for collaboration between the teacher and students as for extended after school intervention support.

Physical Environment

Each campus will designate a COVID Campus Contact who will work closely with district staff to ensure safety precautions are in place. Enhanced safety measures are being implemented, including:

- Installing additional hands-free sanitizer stations throughout campuses
- Installing hands-free water bottle filling stations and turning off water fountains on all campuses
- Designating isolation rooms and isolation protocols for symptomatic students or staff.
- Training all District and campus staff (such as teachers and educational assistants) in the proper method of sanitizing participation of and cleaning of high-touch surfaces and other areas
- Installing plastic shields or barriers as needed
- Fogger HVAC (Every 90-days)
- Using recommended disinfectant to continuously clean high touch areas and routinely fog classrooms and other areas

Facility Cleaning

Campuses and other district facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily. Commonly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs and railings, will be disinfected frequently throughout the day. Disinfectant wipes will be provided to teachers to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use, and hand sanitizer will be available within classrooms and throughout the campus.

Students should not share any items amongst themselves.

Teachers will wipe down any additional surface spaces that have been used during the class period, including their own technology and door handles.

After all students have left the classroom, teachers will wipe down the following:

- Teacher technology equipment
- Surface spaces that have been used during the day
- Door handles
- Pencil sharpener
- Items in the “used” box
- Personal desk

In addition, custodial services will also do a thorough daily cleaning of every classroom.

Social Distancing

To minimize the risk of exposure, on campus visitors will be limited to those essential to school operations:

- Guest Educators
- Contractors
- Emergency personnel
- Mail Delivery (front office only)
- Others as determined by Campus Administration

Protocols for Campus Visitors and Campus staff should consider utilizing virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors. All visitors who enter the building will be required to wear a face covering and those who proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

Requirements

- Parents are discouraged from entering the campus and will not be allowed beyond the front office area.
- Volunteers are not allowed to visit campuses (including mentors, college representatives, guest speakers, etc.) unless approved by campus administration and/or superintendent.
- Virtual tools will be used to conduct meetings such as ARDs, 504, LPAC, etc.
- All visitors will be subject to receiving and completing a symptom screening form before entering any Robstown ISD facility.
- If visitors have COVID-19 symptoms, or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.
- Masks will be strongly recommended for individuals entering a district facility (building).
- Visitors will stand behind the shield guard installed at reception desks.
- Any individuals permitted to proceed beyond the reception area must follow all safety and campus protocols
- Parents/Guardians who need to provide student medication should contact the school nurse and set up an appointment to deliver the medication to the school.

Before School

Prior to arrival at school, parents/guardians will be asked to do the following:

- Conduct a [COVID assessment screening](#) each morning for students attending school
- Keep child(ren) at home if they have any symptoms
- Ensure that their child(ren) have a clean face covering to bring to campus every day.
- Provide child(ren) with several writing utensils and discuss with them the importance of not sharing items with others; if they are in need of something, remind them to ask the teacher
- Limit the number of items going to and from school
- Assist child(ren) in sanitizing any materials, backpacks, supplies at the end of each school day and prior to the following school day
- Remind child(ren) that they need to keep their face covering on while at school to protect themselves and the health of others
- Practice thorough hand washing and remind child(ren) to wash their hands as often as possible for 20 seconds and use hand wipes/sanitizer throughout the day
- Bring child(ren) as close to the beginning of the school day as possible to reduce the number of people waiting for the school doors to open

After School

- Encourage child(ren) to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water upon returning home
- Assist child(ren) in sanitizing materials, backpacks, and supplies at the end of each school day
- Ensure child(ren) have a clean face covering for the following school day

- Collect child(ren) as close to the end of the school day as possible to reduce the number of people waiting for parents to pick them up

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival: When possible, separate entrances will be utilized for bus students, all others will use the main school entrance. All staff will be utilized for duty to maintain a line of sight in hallways and distancing of hallway cohorts. Students will go straight to the designated areas set by each campus. Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms. Students will sanitize their hands upon entering their classrooms.

Dismissal: Campuses will designate staggered dismissal groups to help manage student movement in the building to decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time. Students will sanitize their hands prior to exiting their classrooms. Sibling connections at Elementary campuses will be done outside the building.

Playgrounds

Physical activities that provide for proper social distancing are encouraged. The use of playground equipment will be limited based on the need to continually clean the space. Students will be made aware of the importance of maintaining social space while in outdoor spaces. Classes will not intermingle students and each student group must maintain a distance of 75 feet from other groups of students.

Breakfast and Lunch Service

Breakfast and Lunch will be served in the cafeteria and/or classroom for specific grade levels. Safety and health precautions will be put in place to maintain social distancing and will follow specific guidelines as specified in the [COVID and UIL](#) document.

Bus Stop Expectations

- Students should practice social distancing, whenever possible (if there is adequate space and it is safe to do so) while waiting for and approaching the school bus.
- Students should NOT share food, drinks or personal devices.

Morning Boarding Bus Procedures

- Students should practice social distancing as they approach and board the bus.
- Use hand sanitizer (provided near the bus stairwell).
- Seating: Students will be seated starting from the back seats, then toward the front.
 - Considerations for siblings & younger students mixed with older students may be made.
- Bus in motion rules: Standard Robstown ISD bus rules apply.
- Students should NOT share personal devices.
- Food and drinks are not allowed on the bus.

Unloading at Campus

- Unloading will start from the front to the back.
- Students should practice social distancing and follow campus guidelines.

Afternoon Campus Boarding Bus Procedures

- Students should practice social distancing as they approach and board the bus.
- Use hand sanitizer (provided near stairwells).
- Seating: Students will be seated starting from the back seats then toward the front.
- Considerations for siblings & younger students mixed with older students
- Bus in motion rules: Standard Robstown ISD bus rules apply.
- Students should NOT share personal devices.
- Food and drinks are not allowed on the bus.

Unloading at Bus Stop

- Unloading will start from the front to the back.
- Students should practice Social Distancing and avoid gathering in groups.
- Students should NOT share personal devices.

Disinfecting Protocol

Between each AM & PM Campus drop-off

- School bus drivers, bus assistants and staff will and wipe down seats and high touch items with disinfecting spray.
- Bus seating areas will be disinfected after each bus route, particularly high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs and stairway handrail.
- When possible, bus windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- Cleaning of bus interiors will occur daily

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to submit a daily COVID-19 screener?

- No.
- Students and staff are asked to do a self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at school each day. Screening tools are located on the District's website under the Community tab, Critical Updates: Coronavirus page.
- Parents/Guardians: Per the Robstown ISD Student & Parent Handbook, by sending your child to school, you are attesting that your child has a very low risk of carrying or spreading any disease. We appreciate you partnering with Robstown ISD to ensure a healthy environment for all our students and staff.
- Staff: By coming to work the employee is attesting that they are free of illness or any symptom/s of a communicable disease.

2. Can I come to school/work if I have symptoms from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Some individuals report experiencing mild symptoms 24-48 hours after receiving the vaccine. If you have not had close contact with a known positive case in the previous 14 days, you may come to work with mild symptoms of low-grade fever (below 100 °F), fatigue, headache, chills, and/or muscle or body aches, which is common during the first 48 hours. If symptoms persist for more than 2 days, the employee should isolate and consider testing.
- Symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell are NOT consistent with post-vaccination symptoms, and employees with these symptoms or fever >100 °F should isolate and consider testing.

3. Will I be notified if my child or I (staff) am a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual?

- Robstown ISD will notify the appropriate local health department of a probable or lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81. Communicable Diseases.
- Robstown ISD will utilize the District's COVID-19 Dashboard as a way to provide transparency to our COVID-19 positive cases within district facilities.
- Students and staff will be notified if identified as a close contact.

4. What do I do if I choose to quarantine?

If you choose to quarantine, please consider following the CDC guidance on how to quarantine.

Student:

- A virtual learning environment will not be available
- Student will be responsible for missed work
- Student may not participate in any Robstown ISD-sponsored UIL/extra-curricular activities; this includes being a spectator.
 - Example: sporting/fine arts practices, games, or performances

Staff:

- Responsible for informing direct supervisor and human resources

5. Is there a virtual learning option available?

- The state announced it will not fund remote learning this school year.
- Robstown ISD will not be offering remote learning at this time.

6. Do employees have to use personal leave if they are diagnosed with COVID-19?

- The Board passed a resolution granting employees that have been vaccinated prior to contracting COVID, up to 10 days of COVID leave (or asked by district to quarantine).

7. Do employees have to use personal leave if they are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual?

- Yes, if they choose to quarantine.
- Employees who choose to quarantine themselves are able to use any accrued personal leave days.

- TEA states that if employees choose to continue reporting to work, they must COVID test every other day, for 10 days from the last date of exposure.
- If an employee has no leave available, pay will be docked for days missed.
- If an employee is fully vaccinated and tests positive or is asked by the District to quarantine, the employee may use the COVID leave benefit (if qualifies) up to 10 days (once for the 2020-2021).
- See the Employee Handbook for more information about available leaves.