

San Isidro Independent School District
Safe Return to School And Continuity of Services Plan
August 2021

Dear Parents and Employees,

We successfully remained open during the 2020-2021 school year and we opened the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, August 23, 2021 with face-to-face instruction in our classrooms. The safety and well-being of all our students, employees, and visitors are top priority, and we will continue to follow procedures and safety guidelines recommended by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Our goal is to ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible.

This document reiterates the [San Isidro Independent School District Illness Protocol and Health Services: Response to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 School Year \(See Addendum 1\)](#). **[Created for SY21-22: Jun 5, 2021, Updated Aug 5, 2021, Updated Aug 19, 2021, Updated Sep 20, 2021]** and consists of the prevention procedures we are using for the safe return to in- person instruction and learning this year. This Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan also includes information for how we will provide continuity of services, use ESSER III funding, and address the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised at six-month intervals. If adjustments are necessary during the school year, we will promptly inform you of the changes and updates, and we will provide the most current information on our district website.

If you have questions about our procedures and plan or any information regarding San Isidro ISD, please click on www.sanisidroisd.org or email our district contacts below:

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|---|---|
| Health Information Candi Requenez, LVN District Nurse candi.requene@sanisidroisd.org | San Isidro ISD Information Mario Alvarado Superintendent mario.alvarado@sanisidroisd.org |
| SIISD Finance Information Leonel Olivarez Assistant Business Manager leo.olivarez@sanisidroisd.org | Continuity of Instructional Services Information Social and Emotional Learning Information Dr. Juan Garza District Principal juan.garza@sanisidroisd.org |

We look forward to a great 2021-2022 school year, and we appreciate your support.

Sincerely

Mario Alvarado
San Isidro ISD Superintendent

Objectives

1. Health & Safety Procedures
2. Instruction & Continuity of Services
3. Social, Emotional, and Physical Needs of Students and Staff
4. Communication

Section One – Health & Safety Procedures

Please click here to see the [San Isidro Independent School District Illness Protocol and Health Services: Response to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 School Year \(See Addendum 1\)](#). [Created for SY21-22: Jun 5, 2021, Updated Aug 5, 2021, Updated Aug 19, 2021, Updated Sep 20, 2021]. You may also see the contents of this document as **Addendum #1** herein. The safety and well-being of all of our students, employees, and visitors are a top priority, and we will continue to follow procedures and safety guidelines recommended by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). For questions or concerns about the SIISD Illness Protocol, contact candi.requenez@sanisidroisd.org and/or (956) 481-3113.

Section Two – Instruction & Continuity of Services

Instruction & Continuity of Services

- SIISD will provide face-to-face learning 5 days a week.
- As with all of our special/federal programs' protocols, students who have a qualifying medical condition or situation which prevents them from attending school face-to-face may have access to facilitated homebound instruction beginning August 30, 2021.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

As part of the American Rescue Plan in response to the COVID -19 pandemic, the federal government provided additional funding to schools in districts across the country to address the impact of the pandemic on students over the next few years. In the spring, San Isidro ISD solicited feedback from stakeholders through Google Surveys to help determine how ESSER III funds should be utilized. A plan was developed, and a public meeting was held July 20, 2021 to share the plan. The SIISD application for these funds was submitted to TEA and it has been approved. In SIISD, ESSER III funds priorities will provide the following:

- **Supported Classrooms and Teachers**
 - Additional instructional support staff;
 - Targeted intervention (whole group, small group, & individual) for ELL, SPED, 504, & RTI;
 - TTESS & TPSS grading cycle feedback;
 - Accelerated learning training;
 - Ongoing Professional Development Plan: technology integration, compliance, & instructional practices trainings
 - Instructional Coaching (K-3 Reading Academy, Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Accelerated Learning, Collaborative Culture); and
 - Staff retention incentive

- **High Quality Instructional Materials**
 - Learning Management System – Microsoft TEAMS & TEA Adopted Curriculum Platforms;
 - Blended learning software – District Approved Core Digital & Consumable Curriculum & Progress; Monitoring Programs: Istation Reading & Math, Amplify, Edmentum: Study Island, Edgenuity, Renaissance,DMAC, etc.; and
 - Other Instructional resources based on identified campus needs

- **Additional Time**
 - Master schedule adjusted for student and staff instructional purposes;
 - Instructional embedded support during differentiation periods during the day and tutoring after school;
 - Saturday Acceleration Sessions ; and
 - Summer Acceleration Camps

- **Mental and Emotional Health Support**
 - Additional counseling support (Elementary and Secondary);
 - Districtwide Health & Safety Team & Resources;

- **Facility Support**
 - Technology devices, infrastructure upgrades (bandwidth, electrical);
 - Safety: HVAC & Disinfectant Cleaning Protocols;
 - Specialized instructional spaces; and
 - Signage and PPE provided

Academic Calendar

See the [2021-2022 San Isidro ISD Calendar](#) as **Addendum #2 attached herein.**

Accelerated Instruction

Teachers are expected to teach and students are expected to learn the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for their current grade level and subject. The San Isidro Independent School District Accelerated Learning Plan includes support for teachers and students in all core content areas, but particularly in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics.

The key learning acceleration strategies include:

- prioritizing essential grade-level knowledge and skills; and
- using evidence-based instruction for all core subjects to close the gaps experienced by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Attendance

Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. For more information, please review the Absences/Attendance section of the SIISD 2021-2022 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct:

Click here:

[SIISD 2021-2022 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct](#)

Social, Emotional, and Physical Needs of Students and Staff

San Isidro ISD is dedicated to social emotional learning, mental health support and awareness, resiliency, trauma informed practices, transition services, and overall wellness. For social emotional learning, the focus will be on the core competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. Through a collaborative approach, we strive to meet the needs of our students and families. Our team, consisting of a district nurse, professional school counselors, licensed specialists in school psychology, and numerous community mental health partners under the leadership of our social emotional learning specialist, will offer the following support:

District Nurse will:

- Assess and evaluate overall student and staff health, including physically, environmentally, mentally & socially;
- Provide leadership and education to both students and staff by promoting all aspects of health and safety, including maintaining a healthy environment;
- Provide information and referrals for health concerns identified in the school setting, such as through health screenings;
- Follow student Individual Health Plans according to a medical professional's diagnosis;
- Follow student medical Individual Accommodation Plans as directed by the SIISD Admissions, Referral, Dismissal (ARD) Committee; and
- Follow student medical Individual Education Plans as directed by the Section 504 Committee

Professional School Counselors will:

- Support all staff on the implementation of the SIISD 2021-2022 Think Strong, Be Strong, & Finish Strong Character Building Curriculum;
- Provide individual planning to guide students as they plan, monitor and manage their individual educational, career, personal, and social development;
- Provide responsive services to support students that have an immediate personal concern or circumstance, including providing individual and group counseling;
- Communicate with students, staff, and the community available supports and resources;
- Provide mental health referrals to outside agencies;
- Promote self-care/wellness for students, staff, and families; and
- Promote homebound services for students who qualify under federal/special programs: ESL, GT, Special Education, 504, RTI, etc.

Licensed Specialists In School Psychology will:

- Link families to community resources, including special education transition services in coordination with the transition specialist; and
- Facilitate special education individual education plans according to individual student needs.

Social Emotional Learning Specialist will:

- Communicate available resources to staff, parents and community; and
- Serve on district and community committees to ensure continuity of care

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Illness Protocol

Updated 9/20/21

| Exclusion for Illness | Readmittance Requirements |
|--|--|
| Fever | May return when 24 hrs fever free without the use of fever suppressing medication |
| Nausea, Vomiting, and/or Diarrhea | May return when 24 hrs free of symptoms/fever without the use of symptom/fever suppressing medications |
| Bacterial Infections (pink eye, strep throat, etc.) | May return 24 hours after starting antibiotics for a variety of bacterial infections or when medically cleared by a physician. Please refer to the exclusion criteria above for fever |
| Undiagnosed, new, and/or untreated rash or skin condition (i.e. hives, wound with purulent drainage, etc.) | May return when medically cleared & treatment has been started. Open wounds must stay covered with a bandage. Ringworm must stay covered by clothing or a bandage |
| <p><u>ANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE</u> <i>For more information regarding school exclusion criteria and a more comprehensive list of communicable diseases, please review the following link to the Texas Administrative Code: 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7</i></p> | May return by submitting documentation of the attending physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant attesting that the individual does not currently have signs or symptoms of a communicable disease or to the disease's non-communicability in a school setting. For attendance purposes, please submit as soon as possible or upon the individual's return |

For a complete list of all diseases requiring exclusion from school and the readmission criteria, please visit [DSHS School Health Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in a Group-Care Setting](#).

Health Services: Response to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 School Year

Learning Method:

- SIISD will provide face-to-face learning 5 days a week.
- As with all of our special/federal programs' protocols, students who have a qualifying medical condition or situation which prevents them from attending school face-to-face may have access to facilitated homebound instruction beginning August 30th, 2021.

Hygiene:

- **Self Monitoring:** There is no formal screening process of students and visitors. Students, Staff, & Visitors are asked to monitor their own health and stay home when sick. Temperature checks are to be done before school and will be

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implemented into daily screening practices.

- **Masks:** Per GA-38, *Masks and face coverings are optional.*
- **Handwashing:** Students, staff, & visitors are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to eating, after using the restroom, and any other time throughout the day. The use of hand sanitizer is encouraged when soap and water is not readily available. Education on hand hygiene will be implemented throughout the school year.
- **Cough & Sneeze Etiquette:** Students, staff, & visitors are encouraged to practice good cough & sneeze etiquette by using the elbow as a barrier or a tissue and then washing their hands vs. hands cupped over the mouth and nose.

Visitation:

- Visitation by parents, guardians, & community members will be limited to the designated Open House/Meet the Teacher and other essential visits only for the first month of school until reevaluated.

Sanitization & Disinfection:

- SIISD has implemented a strict daily routine for sanitization and disinfection implementation and protocols. All campuses are disinfected throughout the day as well as after hours as a proactive and precautionary measure. Each building is provided with hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, wipes and disinfectant for use as needed. Classroom desks will continue to be wiped down between use and as needed.

Physical Distancing:

- Physical distancing of at least 3 feet will be encouraged and maintained at the maximum capability, however, there are times when this may not be possible.
- Plexiglass Desk Shields will be made available upon request and are encouraged.
- Face-to-face meetings, events, and celebrations are permitted. Capacity and attendance limits have been lifted unless otherwise specified under certain circumstances.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities:

- On campus extra-curricular activities are permitted with this guidance in place. UIL sanctioned events and programs, such as Athletics, are permitted with UIL approved safety guidelines.
- A student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in all extracurricular activities.
- <https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>

Transportation:

- Students must sanitize their hands upon entering the buses.
- Buses will be sanitized regularly for precautionary reasons.
- When weather permits, windows may be opened for air flow.
- Masks are optional, as per the explanation above under "Masks."

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School Closures:

- We do not anticipate school closures. However, should conditions change and a SIISD school or building need to close, the determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by a collaborative team consisting of SIISD Administration and Health Services in consultation with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Clinic visits:

- Students reporting to the health clinic will receive a temperature check upon entry. The District Nurse and/or her designee will follow the exclusion criteria from the *Texas Administrative Code*: [25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7](#) for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
 - A school administrator *shall* exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.
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Positive COVID-19 Cases:

As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Parents must ensure they **do not** send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. *Visitors* must remain off of the premises if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed with COVID-19 until the conditions for re-entry are met. **Per 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7:** Upon the notification of a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual will be excluded from the premises until cleared by the following criteria:

→ For those who **have symptoms of COVID-19 & Test POSITIVE:**

The school system will screen the individual to determine the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- ◆ at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset,
- ◆ fever free (for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher), and
- ◆ and other symptoms have improved.

→ For those who **have NOT had COVID-19 Symptoms but Tested POSITIVE:**

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but *do not have any symptoms* must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

→ **If the individual is excluded from school by the District RN and/or her designee for having suspected symptoms of COVID-19 in reference to [25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7](#), the individual must either:**

- ◆ obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or
 - ◆ obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
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Close Contacts:

→ Definition of Close Contact:

- ◆ Close Contact through [Proximity and Duration of Exposure](#): Someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for [discontinuing home isolation](#).
- ◆ Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time. *This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.*

→ Public Health Recommendations:

- ◆ Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should [quarantine](#). However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:
 - People who have been [fully vaccinated](#)
 - People who were [previously diagnosed with COVID-19](#) within the last three months

Response to Close Contacts/Close Contact Household members:

- If the SIISD school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, we will **notify** that student's parent/guardian.
 - ◆ Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 *may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period.*
 - ◆ *Parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms.*
- For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Alternatively, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

Contact Tracing:

- Given the data from 2020-21 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults, *school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. San Isidro ISD will however continue to conduct in depth contact tracing, however; each positive case and student exposure will be handled on a case by case basis.*

Attendance:

- Absences accrued by exclusion due to a positive COVID-19 test will be considered medically excused if a doctor's note is provided. Make-Up school work can be coordinated between the student's parent, the campus principal, and the student's teachers. For more information regarding attendance, please contact your student's school.

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Reporting:

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school *must* notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days(Monday-Sunday).
- Cases are tracked on a dashboard maintained by the Texas COVID-19 Education Committee (TCEC) and used to inform the Governor's Office, DSHS, and TEA executive staff, LEAs, and other stakeholders.
 - ◆ SIISD Positive cases can be accessed weekly at this public link:
<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/schools/texas-education-agency/>

Communication:

- 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 classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.
- To ensure safe face-to-face experiences, SIISD will maintain consistent communication with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
- Regular and routine updates will be provided to students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community by the District Nurse, District Principal, and the Superintendent of Schools.
- Parents of students who are believed to be close contacts will be notified.
- Parents of students who show symptoms of COVID-19 in the school setting will be notified immediately.
 - ◆ Please make sure your contact information with school is up to date at all times for timely communication

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remains the #1 priority.

For questions or concerns, contact us at 956-481-3110.

Resources:

[TEA Public Health Planning Guidance](#)

[25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7](#)

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/schools/texas-education-agency/>

https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/health/schools_childcare/School-Health.aspx

<https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>