The Safe Return to School Plan has been specifically developed for the Katy Independent School District for the 2021-2022 School year. The Safe Return to School Plan provides guidelines to inform staff, students, and families of the safest possible methods to ensure the health and safety of all while continuing to remain in compliance with all governmental mandates.

These guidelines are included as part of the District Emergency Operations Plan’s (EOP) Infectious/Communicable Disease Annex and are approved by the District Superintendent and Office of Emergency Management.

The Infectious/Communicable Disease Annex and its guidelines apply to all Katy ISD campuses and support facilities. While the general concepts and considerations remain constant for all district campuses, each campus will assign critical tasks and responsibilities differently based on their respective structure and governance.

The Infectious/Communicable Disease Annex provides a general framework for prevention, preparedness planning, response, and recovery for a large-scale outbreak of an infectious/communicable disease. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of School District personnel and units and the support that public partners can be expected to provide to the School District.

The protocols outlined below, utilize the Annex’s framework, and serve as a guide in the specific response to the current COVID-19 pandemic within the Katy ISD community. Depending on the virus and the spread of the virus, some or all of these steps may be expanded, modified, or eliminated. The district superintendent, or his delegated representative, will work directly with state and local health authorities, Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Department of Health & Human Services (TDHHS), authorities to implement appropriate actions based on the public health hazard.

This appendix is provided in this abbreviated form to be released to the public in order to inform families and stakeholders while maintaining the integrity and privacy of the District Emergency Operations Plan, which is a protected document under Government Code. These guidelines are also adapted to be specific to the current COVID-19 pandemic and may change in accordance with on-going public health state orders and guidance.

The following guidelines serve to comprehensively meet the Texas Governor’s Executive Orders GA-36, GA-34, TEA guidelines, University Interscholastic League (UIL) and all federal, state, and local public health department orders as best possible, while still providing in-person learning and participation in student programs.
Self-Prescreening: The best way to prevent the spread of illness in our schools is to stay home when ill. Students should not attend school if they have a fever of 100.0 F or higher or new onset of any of the following symptoms of illness that may include:

- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting

Washing and sanitizing hands often, especially before eating, after using the restroom, after blowing your nose, after coughing or sneezing, and after coming in to contact with highly touched objects such as door knobs, handrails, etc. can help reduce the spread of illness.

Facial Coverings

- Facial Coverings will be optional for all staff and students (grades PK-12) to wear at their personal discretion and preference.
- Katy ISD will continue to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) including hand sanitizer for all employees and students.
- Campus clinics will have facial coverings and other PPE items available for any employee or student upon request.

Current CDC guidance recommends the wearing of facial coverings for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons when indoors and in confined spaces. Additionally, Governor Abbott’s Executive Order 36 effective as of June 4, 2021, no governmental entity including public school districts may mandate the wearing of facial coverings.

Immunizations and medications

- All students enrolled in Katy ISD must be in compliance with state required immunizations. Immunization requirements can be found at http://www.katyisd.org/dept/healthservices/Pages/Immunizations.aspx
- COVID-19 vaccines are not required for staff or students. According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and recommended for all eligible individuals.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19: Katy ISD is required to report positive cases to the respective County Public Health Office and the Texas Education Agency. Staff and students positive for COVID-19 should complete the COVID-19 Positive Self-Report APP available at www.katyisd.org or the MyKaty APP tile.
In addition, staff should notify their supervisor/principal of work absences and parents notify their child’s campus attendance office. Both students and employees should isolate for ten days after the date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Control (CDC). Individuals must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school or work. Individuals must be diarrhea free for at least 24 hours without the use of diarrhea-suppressing medications before returning to school or work. District administrators will continue monitoring the situation along with any updates in requirements for exclusion from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (refer to symptom list on page 2) should:

- Consider isolating to prevent the unintended transmission of the virus to others as recommended by the CDC.
- Consider seeking medical guidance from your health care provider.
- Consider testing as recommended by the CDC.
- Consider wearing a mask or face covering if respiratory symptoms are present and if you choose not to test for COVID-19 to prevent the unintended transmission of the virus to others.

Employees are expected to stay home when ill and notify their supervisor. Students should not be sent to school when ill. The school nurse will assess students who become ill during the school day and parents/guardians will be contacted as needed. Students with a temperature of 100.0 F or higher, active vomiting and/or diarrhea, or any other signs of a communicable condition will be excluded from school until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Visitors should not enter district facilities if they are ill.

Individuals who have had close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should:

- Consider self-isolating for 14 days after the date of last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for 14 days after the date of last contact as recommended by the CDC.
- Consider wearing a mask/face covering if choosing to return to work/school prior to the end of the 14-day quarantine period.
- Consider testing between day 3 and day 7 after exposure and if symptoms develop.

Employees with questions about FMLA medical leave should contact a Human Resources Leave Specialists:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Last Names: A-G)</th>
<th>(Last Names: H-O)</th>
<th>(Last Names: P-Z)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Ramirez</td>
<td>Lorraine Ponce</td>
<td>Ruth Sanchez Gaud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 281-396-2362</td>
<td>Phone: 281-396-7853</td>
<td>Phone: 281-396-2835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:JacquelineRamirez2@katyisd.org">JacquelineRamirez2@katyisd.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:LorraineMPonce@katyisd.org">LorraineMPonce@katyisd.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:RuthASanchezGaud@katyisd.org">RuthASanchezGaud@katyisd.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities will follow the same guidelines and protocols, with specific services and accommodations as needed, to meet their individual needs.
Cleaning/Sanitizing:

- Maintenance and Operations custodial teams will maintain a regular cleaning schedule to disinfect high traffic and commonly used spaces throughout the instructional day, including door handles, restrooms, large group transition areas, and cafeteria between meals.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located in multiple areas throughout the campus.

COVID-19 Positive Case Notifications: Katy ISD will notify the respective County Public Health Agency and the Texas Education Agency of any test-confirmed COVID-19 positive as required. Katy ISD will utilize the district’s COVID-19 Dashboard as notification to employees, students, and others of COVID-19 positive cases in district facilities.

District Communications during COVID-19 Pandemic:

In coordination with the local health departments, Katy ISD shall coordinate and disseminate all communications related to the specific infectious disease.

- General communications from the school district will include –
  
  o information about the disease in general
  o information about the disease impact within the school district
  o actions of the school district
  o what the school district should/should not do
- Targeted communications to affected or vulnerable populations within the school district, as needed
- Specific information regarding the prevention of the spread of the disease

Katy ISD posts this document and all COVID-19 response information on its main webpage as a reference for guidance and provide answers to many questions. Additionally, the District has a dedicated phone number and email addresses for parents and staff to reach out for further explanation and concerns.

- COVID-19 Questions:  
  COVID19responses@katyisd.org
  (281) 396-7499
  Katy ISD employees should direct any COVID-19 inquiries to their immediate supervisor.