

## IRION COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### “PLAN FOR RE-OPENING 2020 – 2021”

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Irion County Independent School District is committed to continuing to provide the highest quality, TEKS-Based instruction to all ICISD students during these challenging Coronavirus (COVID-19) times. While we realize that it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of the pandemic, current science suggests that there are many steps schools can take to significantly reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. This guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for all schools and others that are recommendations. These include:

- PROVIDING NOTICES and Updates to stakeholders;
- PREVENTION MEASURES and practices to keep the virus from entering;
- RESPONDING to any lab confirmed positive case in the school; and
- MITIGATION by utilizing required practices to reduce spread.

Through this plan, we are committed to: (1) The safety, health, and well-being of all staff and students; (2) The highest levels of achievement by all students; and (3) Equal access and adequate time for high level instruction for all. This plan has been created with input and guidance from the Texas Education Agency (please see their Public Health Guidance document at <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/covid19-SY-20-21>), the Region XV Education Service Center, the ICISD administrative team, and has been approved by the Irion County Independent School District Board of Trustees.

By a survey vote of Irion County ISD stakeholders, a 94% response indicated that the community is overwhelmingly ready to return to the “traditional” school setting. With that in mind, we have taken several measures to ensure that our facilities are as sanitary, safe, and effective as possible. In addition, President Trump, Governor Abbott, and TEA Commissioner Mike Morath have dictated that schools will need to re-open this fall.

As with any situational issue, there are four key factors to be considered. These will be a vital part of our plan. They include: PREVENTION, which includes activities and measures to intervene to stop an incident (i.e. positive case) from occurring in order to protect the health and safety of all involved such as building access, wearing protective equipment (i.e. masks – which will be provided by ICISD), covering cough, social distancing, etc.; PREPAREDNESS, incorporating a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective actions where needed to ensure effective coordination during incident response; MITIGATION, which includes activities to reduce spread and/or loss by avoiding or lessening the impact of the situation; and RESPONSE via activities that address the short-term, direct effects of the incident or case to include immediate actions to save lives.

# Irion County ISD's Return to School Plan



## **FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION (PK-12)**

# 1

- **5 Days a week on-campus classes with face-to-face instruction by ICISD Teachers**
- **Normal curriculum and grading will apply**
- **Face masks recommended but not required**
- **Buses will run on normal schedules**
- **First day of student instruction: Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **ICISD will follow state and local guidance to ensure a safe and hygienic learning environment. Details will be posted on the ICISD website.**

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOL (On-Site, Traditional Setting):

The key to returning to successful, sustained in-person instruction will be our commitment to health and safety guidelines. On-site, in-person traditional setting will resume on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Irion County will be following the requirements listed below. Please understand that several of these are “out of the norm” for us as well, but designed for the safety of all concerned.

### AT-HOME SCREENING

All employees will be expected to conduct and monitor self-health screening every morning before reporting to work. Employees will also be expected to practice all recommended health and safety precautions at all times.

Parents and guardians are expected to closely screen and monitor their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their child to school. We need parents’ cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting any signs of the virus, especially if they are running a fever.

### SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

(Any Of The Following Indicate Covid-19 Infection)

- A temperature of 100.4 or above (Oral Thermometer)
- Sore Throat or Persistent Cough
- Difficulty Breathing or Shortness of Breath
- Diarrhea, Vomiting, or Abdominal Pain
- New Onset of Severe Headache, Aching, or Pain

### ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

We ask that no student drop-off or arrival at school be prior to 7:30 in the morning. Students are to arrive by walk-up, car drop-off, or school bus, but parents, guardians, relatives, and/or siblings are asked to not leave their vehicles (not allowed to escort their child to the building) until further notice.

On the first two days of school (Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>), parents of students in Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade only (WEARING MASKS) will be allowed to escort their child to classes.

Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available (use required) via touch-free dispensers at all campus main entrances, cafeteria, gymnasiums, and the auditorium. In addition, all classrooms will have hand sanitizers available.

Only students who choose to eat breakfast in the cafeteria will be allowed in the dining area before school until further notice.

## DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

In order to minimize large groups, we will attempt to stagger dismissals (i.e. to bus, car rider, etc.) as much as possible. This protocol will help manage large group student movement in the building at dismissal times. Parents picking up students during the day (i.e. for medical appointments) will be asked to call ahead so that students can be accompanied to the main campus entrance door upon arrival for sign-out and pick-up purposes.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Irion County ISD will make every attempt to promote and enforce social distancing between all individuals. Obviously, this will be a difficult task given space considerations. Teachers and staff will do their best to limit close contact which could potentially lead to spread, while still providing quality instruction and activities. Common areas (i.e. Cafeteria, Gymnasiums, Hallways, etc.) will also be monitored closely for social distancing.

## PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY ICISD

Over the course of the summer, ICISD personnel and facilities staff have taken a number of measures to ensure the safest and most sanitized setting for staff and students to return to the traditional setting. The following is a brief synopsis of measures:

--Masks will be provided and strongly recommended (but not required) for wear by all students and staff members. (Individuals may choose to bring and wear their own as well). Notices will be posted at entrances that masks will be required of all visitors.

--All classrooms, restrooms, dining areas, common areas, gymnasiums, dressing rooms, halls, and meeting rooms have been fully deep-cleaned and sanitized by facilities, maintenance, and custodial personnel. We will be continuing this process daily.

--Touch-free hand sanitizers have been purchased and installed at all main entrances. In addition, each classroom will have individual hand sanitizers for student and staff use. Also, teachers will have disinfecting wipes that will be utilized throughout the school day. Sprayers (and germ-killing agents) have been purchased which will disinfect all busses, classrooms, restrooms, and common areas during and at the conclusion of each day. For the safety of our maintenance and custodial personnel, protective wear is being provided in an attempt to prevent spread.

--Drinking fountains have been replaced with "water dispensers" for students and staff to fill individual bottles to help curb the spread of germs.

--Teachers will be teaching and promoting healthy habits such as hand washing, social distancing, etc. in an attempt to prevent spread. In addition, schedules for "transitioning" from one area to another will be in place to help eliminate close proximity.

--Temperatures will be taken by the school nurse on an "as-needed" basis.

## VISITORS TO ACADEMIC CAMPUS FACILITIES:

Due to the unique nature of the Coronavirus situation, ICISD will be temporarily not allow visitors past the main entrances (Please check in with the Campus Secretary) until further notice. While we understand that this is very much “out of the norm” from our normal protocol (i.e. allowing parents to have lunch with their child), please understand that we are making every possible attempt to prevent the spread of germs and disease. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this area.

As outlined above in the “Arrival at School” section, we will be making an exception for the first two days of school for parents of PK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students only.

## IN THE EVENT OF A “POSITIVE” CASE:

The following steps will be taken if and when a confirmed “Positive” case of the Coronavirus is known:

--The Principal, Superintendent, or Director should be immediately notified, identifying the student or staff member who has been affected.

--An affected person will not be allowed in the buildings or on school properties until return protocol (with proper documentation) has been met or achieved.

--The person affected is to let school personnel know who the student or staff member had close contact with.

--The affected area will be immediately sanitized and disinfected by ICISD staff personnel, and students and staff will be temporarily relocated from the affected site until it has been deemed safe to return.

--The affected person (student or staff member) and immediate family/household members are asked to self-quarantine per the CDC required length of time.

--The affected person will not be allowed to return to school facilities until all of the following criteria have been met:

--At least 72 hours have passed since recovery or Negative test.

--At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

--The individual has been officially (medically) released and cleared for school (Per Center For Disease Control) protocol.

--Parents will be notified if their child has come in close contact with an affected person. Also, per regulation, ICISD is also required to notify Health Department officials and all members of the District.

**\*\*\*Due to confidentiality issues (i.e. FERPA), the District will be unable to share the student’s or employee’s name publicly. Please know that we appreciate your understanding in this highly sensitive matter.\*\*\***

## ATTENDANCE AND STATE FUNDING:

All rules pertaining to student attendance will be strictly enforced. The state requires (Texas Education Code 25.092) that a student to be in attendance for at least 90% of days in the school calendar per semester in order to be eligible for attainment of academic credit (Traditional, Synchronous, and Asynchronous Settings included). "Packet" protocol, similar to what we ended last school year utilizing, will not receive funding.

In order to meet attendance requirements and receive state funding, minimum academia minutes must be met in terms of minutes required (180 for Elementary, 240 for Secondary).

In the event of a positive case, the affected student will have an immediate ten-day "virtual learning" scenario and protocol will be enacted.

Irion County ISD's revised school calendar for 2020 – 2021 meets all requirements of the 76,500 minutes of instruction.

Please understand that public schools in the state of Texas receive funding on a "per student, per day" basis.

## TRADITIONAL, ON-SITE SETTING:

Irion County ISD will resume traditional, on-site instruction on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. (Please see #1 "Face – to Face Instruction PK – 12 above).

As highlighted above, every hygienic precaution will be taken by ICISD to ensure student and staff safety.

A student must be enrolled in the traditional, on-site setting in order to be eligible for extracurricular activity participation.

## SYNCHRONOUS, OFF-SITE LEARNING:

Synchronous (Virtual, Internet paradigm) will be offered for students who have deemed to require this setting for medical reasons. The District believes that students choosing this option have health concerns related to possible contact with others. Therefore, students choosing Synchronous Learning will not be allowed to participate in Athletics, Band, UIL, FFA, One Act Play, or School Clubs/Activities.

This option will be significantly more difficult than in the Spring of 2020. Students will follow the same expectations as those attending face to face instruction. All students will follow set class times as per their individual schedules. All dress code stipulations will be in effect. Workspaces will be expected to be conducive to learning and performance, and free of distractions. Students will be required to show their face on screen at all times during instruction, and will be expected to engage with the teacher virtually, as well as participate actively in class.

Students who choose this option will not be eligible for course credit which require “hands-on” learning (i.e. Welding). All grading policy requirements and methods will be the same as for Traditional, On-site students. Details for this paradigm will be posted soon, and must be made by written request.

#### ASYNCHRONOUS (OFF-SITE) LEARNING:

The Asynchronous setting will be offered only for students who have deemed to require this setting for medical reasons. The District believes that students choosing this option have health concerns related to possible contact with others. As with the Synchronous approach, this protocol will be significantly more difficult than in the Spring of 2020. Asynchronous, off-site instructional options for ICISD will be limited to students in Grades Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.

This option will be significantly more difficult than in the Spring of 2020 (i.e. “Packets” will no longer be utilized). Students will follow the same expectations as those attending face to face instruction. All students will be required to complete at least 180 minutes of academic instruction in order to attain a day’s credit for attendance. All dress code stipulations will be in effect. Workspaces will be expected to be conducive to learning and performance, and free of distractions.

All grading policy requirements and methods will be the same as for Traditional, On-site students. Details for this paradigm are being finalized by school administration, and will be posted soon on the school’s website.

Instruction for this format must be made in writing to the campus principal.

#### GRADING AND STANDARDIZED TESTING:

ICISD will return to established grading requirements, policies, and protocol to start the new school year. These will be outlined in your student’s respective campus handbook.

The state has dictated to school districts that “...student outcomes are to be measured as before, to include standardized (i.e. STAAR and End of Course) testing for all students in grades 3 – 12. As always, Irion County ISD will continue to hold students to the very highest standards of accountability academically.

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

The University Interscholastic League (the governing body of extracurricular activities in Texas schools) has issued the following:

--“Individual school districts have the authority to mandate rules for participation on extracurricular activities.” The Board of Trustees of ICISD has approved the following policy: “Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities at ICISD must be enrolled in and attend as a ‘Traditional, On-Site’ student”.

--"It is strongly encouraged that visitors and spectators to extracurricular events take all recommended health and safety precautions (i.e. social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, etc.).

--At this time, Districts are responsible for limiting stadium, gymnasium, and/or facility capacity to 50% occupancy.