



**Mt. Enterprise ISD
SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN
2020-2021**

The protocols described in this document were created to address the public health situation as we understand it today, and are based on guidance from state and local entities, including the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Department of State Health Services (DSHS), County Health Department, and Texas School Safety Center. (Any change in the public health situation may require a change to protocols in the future. The Mt Enterprise Independent School District is dedicated to keeping the community apprised of any protocol changes that take place, and will release information through various outlets if needed.) The required use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may vary from campus-to-campus and class-to-class. PPE will be described later in this document.

A note from the Texas Education Agency: The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and school system leaders should do everything feasible to keep students safe. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. Nonetheless, a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others. The same is true for adults. Because of this, MEISD has the following protocols in place to begin the 2020-2021 school year. (Should the public health situation change during the school year, these protocols will be updated, and that information will be shared with the community.)

School Start Date

August 17

August 17th is the first day students arrive on campus. This will also be the first day remote/virtual learners will begin the process of logging on and connecting with their teacher. Actual lessons may not begin until the following day. The first day of face to face school will be used to go over proper protocols for students, class rules and normal 'get to know you' activities that take place on the first day.

Academics

Mt. Enterprise ISD will be offering two types of instruction:

TRADITIONAL ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

- Students will be present daily with daily routines/schedules with precautions in place
- Staff will self-screen daily
- Parents will screen students before attending school each day
- Students can participate in UIL and other extracurricular activities
- District grading policy will be followed
- Students will be taught how to use and access remote learning in the event of a school closure or the student chooses to learn remotely or is required to learn remotely due to quarantine measures.
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place

VIRTUAL/REMOTE INSTRUCTION

- Instruction will be delivered virtually
- Attendance will be taken daily based on student engagement and/or assignments that are turned in each day
- Certain electives may not be available in distance learning
- Certain electives may require time on campus to earn credit
- Rigor and expectations of remote instruction will be equal to on-campus instruction
- District grading policy will be followed
- Some AP or other exams may be required to be taken on campus
- Student may not participate in UIL or other extra-curricular activities for student safety reasons
- Secondary students will be required to work 240 minutes and elementary students 180 minutes per day on assignments

We are asking parents to choose an instructional setting by August 10. Please contact your student's principal if we don't have your choice by that date.

For the first two weeks of school, families will have the option to move their children to a different instructional setting. After the 2nd week, the student will have the option to stay in the remote learning environment or switch to on-campus instruction. If a switch is made, the student will stay in the chosen instructional setting until the end of the 6 weeks grading period.

At the beginning of the subsequent 6 weeks, families will have a one week grace period to switch learning options. After the first week of the 6 weeks, students will have to stay in their chosen learning option until the end of the 6 weeks. Extenuating circumstances may be considered as they arise.

IN THE EVENT OF STATEWIDE OR LOCAL SCHOOL CLOSURES

- MEISD will transition to the remote learning model.
- Instruction will be delivered virtually using Google Classroom, Seesaw, Plato and other forms of distance learning.
- MEISD will work with families that don't have internet access to provide a hotspot for virtual learning.
- MEISD will provide Chromebooks or other technology devices if the student does not have access to one.
- District grading policy will be followed.
- Attendance will be determined by student engagement in the remote learning environment on a daily basis.
- Paper packets of learning will be the last resort (only used if it is impossible to have internet service at the home or student cannot access the districts wifi from parking lot).

Public Health Protocols

Mt. Enterprise ISD is committed to providing a safe return to school for its students, teachers and staff. Below are the four areas MEISD will provide as we work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to help our students and staff have the best possible school year under this difficult situation.

PROVIDE NOTICE: Parental and Public Notices

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread inside the School

Provide Notice

MEISD is committed to providing proper notices on health and safety procedures and district protocols. The district will inform parents, students and staff of any information that the public is required to receive with COVID positives and other facts while adhering to FERPA laws.

Attendance and Enrollment Notice

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course

and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year, including those students who choose remote instruction.

2. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.

3. Mt. Enterprise ISD must provide on-campus attendance as an option for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus, subject to school closure.

Prevent: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access (Per TEA Order)

1. Teachers and Staff: MEISD will require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed below in this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

2. Parents and Students: Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. MEISD may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their child from inside the school. Regularly performing a forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended, but MEISD may conduct checks periodically.

3. **Visitors:** Before visitors are allowed onto campuses, MEISD must screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, the district must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who **themselves** either:

(a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or

(b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until MEISD screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met: In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

1. At least 24 hours has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either

(a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; or

(b) receive a confirmation that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- a. MEISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- b. The district will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- c. Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, MEISD 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).
2. MEISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, MEISD must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. MEISD will have hand sanitizer available to students and staff and at entrances.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently. MEISD will encourage students to handwash for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows.
3. MEISD will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
 - a. MEISD will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This would include objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.

- b. The district will arrange for cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.
 - c. MEISD will ensure cleaning products are stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them, and ensuring that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.
4. Whenever possible, campuses will open windows to allow fresh air in the classrooms.
5. On the first day a student attends school on campus, the district will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other protocols adopted in the local school system such as mask wearing and social distancing when appropriate.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

1. **Consistent with the Governor's executive order, all employees and visitors will be required to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth while in school buildings until Rusk County is below 20 active COVID cases.** This is especially important where staff congregate in relatively close settings, for example, during staff meetings or in employee break rooms, or where visitors may congregate.
2. Students in grades 4-12 will wear face coverings in hallways, common areas, and when social distancing is not feasible, including in classrooms, to the extent it is developmentally appropriate. Students under grade 4 are highly encouraged to wear a face covering while in the building. Decisions may be made before school begins to require masks in lower grades. That decision will be made no later than August 10.
3. Students are asked to bring and wear their own mask. The district will have additional masks if a student is in need of one.
4. There may be certain health accommodations for students in regards to mask requirements. The student may want to wear a face shield if he/she has trouble breathing in a face mask, or if there are other health reasons. If neither are appropriate for use under certain health requirements or doctors' orders, please contact your campus administrator.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Please note: One symptom by itself does not necessarily mean a person is positive for the coronavirus. Some of the symptoms listed above are common occurrences in students, especially elementary (diarrhea, fever, sore throat). A combination of symptoms or some symptoms that are not common among an individual could mean there is a positive case. The most common positive symptoms are shortness of breath, fever and/or difficulty breathing. Obviously, COVID can affect people in different ways but those listed in the previous sentence are the most common symptoms of positive cases.

Another Note: Students who want to return to school who were sent home based on the symptoms, please see *Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19* portion of the document above.

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
 - b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;
- if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Screening Questionnaire Information

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, the district will only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific

symptom confirmation. MEISD is not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.

2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, the district will destroy those individuals’ responses.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Groupings, Transportation, Cafeteria and Visitors

Student-Teacher Groupings

1. Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, students will be encouraged to practice social distancing.
2. In classrooms that allow it, student desks will be placed as far apart as is feasible, with the goal being a 6 foot distance between desks.
3. Some classes may meet outside in the commons or other appropriate area if temperature and weather permits.
4. Elementary classes will have dividers for small group instruction.

Transportation

1. All students and staff will be required to wear a mask while riding a bus.
2. Families are encouraged to drop students off and pick them up from school to reduce riders on buses.
3. Buses will be sanitized after morning bus routes and after afternoon bus routes, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, handrails, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Cafeteria

1. The cafeteria staff will follow all health guidelines set forth from the TDA and the Federal Government.
2. Staff will wear face coverings around food and students.
3. All cafeteria seating areas will have clear plexiglass dividers to reduce the risk of exposure.
4. Students will be required to wear masks until they are seated to eat.

5. A custodian will be on duty during the entire lunch period sanitizing tables/areas between usages.
6. The microwave will not be available for student use until students can eat lunch without the plexiglass dividers.
7. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with their child this school year or until the restrictions have been lifted.
8. Parents can drop off lunch in the office for their students. Please contact the school office before you arrive.

Visitors/Parent

1. MEISD is limiting visits to essential school business only. Parents who desire a meeting at the school will need to contact their child's office to set up an appointment time to meet with the teacher, principal, or other school personnel.
2. Parent/teacher conferences can be held by conference call or virtual meeting such as Zoom. This is the preferred method of meeting for the time being.
3. ARD meetings may be held by conference call, virtual meetings or in person. The SPED office will contact the parent for the type of meeting that will be held.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have concerns related to COVID-19, or the MEISD Reopening Plan, please contact:

Health-Related Questions

Texas Department of State Health Services

Email: coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov

Phone:* Dial 2-1-1, then choose Option 6.

Website: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

Area Counties Health Department, Public Health Region 04/05N

Phone: (866) 310-9698

Contact: Sharon Huff MD, MS
Website: dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

MEISD District Nurse
Susy Davis RN
Email: sdavis@meisd.org
(903) 822-3575

General Questions Regarding Remote Instruction

Elementary- Lawren McDermand: lmcdemand@meisd.org; 903-822-3575
Secondary- Dr. Chance Mays: cmays@meisd.org; 903-822-3575
Technology- Andy Lee: alee@meisd.org; 903-822-3575
Counselor- Dr. Tiffanie Jones: tjones@meisd.org; 903-822-3575

General Question Regarding the Reopening plan

Superintendent- Byron Jordan: bjordan@meisd.org; 903-822-3575

