

Huntsville Independent School District

Hornet Return to School Plan



Updated 8/5/2022

Table of Contents

- Introduction:** 2
- Daily Self Screening: 2
 - Health Screening Self Check:** 2
 - Student Health Protocols:** 3
- Mask Wearing: 4
- Transportation Protocol: 4
 - Bus Procedures:** 4
- Student/Staff Common Areas: 4
 - Classrooms:** 4
 - Library:** 4
 - Playgrounds / Recess:** 4
- Child Nutrition: 4
- Clinic/Nurse Visit Protocol: 4
- Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19: 5
- Previous Positive COVID-19 test: 5
- Vaccinated Person: 5
- Hygiene for Staff and Students: 5
- Visitors:** 6
- Cleaning/Disinfecting Rooms/Objects and Use of Hand Sanitizer: 6
 - Expectations for Cleaning:** 6
- Intervention and Support: 6
 - Student:** 6
 - Parent:** 6
 - Teacher:** 6
- Student Social and Emotional Supports (In-Person & Virtual): 7
 - What to Expect/Social and Emotional:** 7
- Employee General Guidelines:** 8





Introduction:

As a school district, Huntsville ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 11th. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide a safe and excellent educational experience for our students. This will continue to be a team effort between the schools and parents.

The Huntsville Independent School District plan for the 2022-23 school year takes into careful consideration the safety and well-being of students and staff. Highlights of the District's plan include continued disinfection and cleaning protocols, social distancing and optional mask wearing.

Also, know that campus options may change depending on health conditions, needed school closure and ongoing guidance received from the State of Texas and the Texas Education Agency. District administrators will continue monitoring the situation along with any updates in requirements for exclusion from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Daily Self Screening:

Health Screening Self Check:

Prior to arriving to school, boarding school transportation, or entering a HISD facility, all students, staff, and visitors should self-screen and be able to answer "no" to each question below. Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is **NOT** normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0°F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea



Student Health Protocols:

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- If a child tests positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the child must be excluded from school for a five-day isolation period consider the day of symptoms onset or test date. Within the last 24 hours of the five-day period the child must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If the child is symptomatic, exclude until at least five days have passed since symptom onset, fever free and other symptoms have improved
 - Children who test positive for COVID-19, but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least five days after the day they were tested.
 - Upon returning to school, we encourage those to wear a mask for five days.
- If a student has been determined to be in a household-based close contact* of an individual with a positive COVID-19 PCR test or an FDA approved home test we require that the student stay at home for a five-day isolation period. The student may return on day six if they are free of COVID-19 symptoms or have a negative PCR acute infection test or an FDA approved home test. The student should administer each day the Health Screening Self Check and be symptom free during the five-day period.
- Parents are asked to report to the school nurse if their child has tested positive for COVID-19. Huntsville ISD is required to report positive cases to Texas Education Agency.
- If your child has been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to keep your child at home until you have received the results. Once the child has received a negative result from a PCR test or an FDA approved antigen test, they may return to school.
- Due to the Health Information Privacy Act (HIPA), we are unable to give any information about a positive COVID-19 student or employee.
- 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
- All students should practice appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Students who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to wear masks, but we are supportive of students or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- All students should regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds.

****Exposure Defined: To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus, and being within 3 to 6 feet with the virus for 15 minutes or more during a 24 hour period without the use of face covering or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.***



Mask Wearing:

Per GA-36 and GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear masks. HISD continues to strongly encourage students, staff, and parents to wear a mask while on Huntsville ISD property. The wearing of masks is a precautionary measure and benefits those that are wearing the mask and those the person is encountering. The best protection is a mask that is multi-layer cotton face covering.

Transportation Protocol:

The Huntsville ISD Transportation Department offers the following guidance to parents and caregivers regarding school bus transportation for daily bus routes as well as field trips. Bus routes will run at regular capacity.

Bus Procedures:

- Each bus will be disinfected between routes and Transportation staff members will be trained in proper disinfecting procedures.

Student/Staff Common Areas:

Classrooms:

- Hand sanitizer use by students in Pre-K, or Kindergarten classrooms will be supervised by a staff member.

Library:

- High touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, chairs, door handles, technology equipment) will be disinfected regularly.

Playgrounds / Recess:

Students should practice good hand hygiene before going out to play and immediately upon returning inside the building.

Child Nutrition:

The CDC states that there is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread by food. It can, however, be spread on shared utensils and when people congregate around food service areas. Students should not share eating utensils and try to keep social distance from one another in the serving area.

Clinic/Nurse Visit Protocol:

- Hand sanitizer application will be encouraged for all before entering a campus clinic unless the student has trouble breathing.
- Students are highly encouraged to wear a mask when visiting the clinic.



Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19:

Those individual students that have a lab confirmed or an FDA approved home test with a COVID-19 positive test are excluded from attending school for a five-day isolation period. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

Previous Positive COVID-19 test:

If a person who has recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has new symptoms of COVID-19, the person may need an evaluation for reinfection, especially if the person has had close contact with someone infected with COVID-19.

Vaccinated Person:

A person is considered “fully vaccinated” once 21 days have passed after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or 21 days for a single dose vaccine. Anyone that has completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over six months and are not boosted are not considered vaccinated. Those that have completed the series of Johnson and Johnson vaccine over two months and are not received a booster are not considered vaccinated. Huntsville ISD encourages those eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine to receive one. No person will be required or asked to identify their vaccination status to Huntsville ISD.

- If the vaccinated individual has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual, they do not have to isolate. Fully vaccinated people should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 5 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, and see their health care provider.

Hygiene for Staff and Students:

All students and staff should follow normal preventative actions while at work which includes cleaning hands and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with 60 % alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Key time to clean hands are:

- After using the bathroom
- Prior to eating
- After blowing nose, coughing, sneezing
- After eating
- Before and after providing care for another person.



Visitors:

- All visitors entering a District facility will be required to sign-in and acknowledge the COVID-19 screening questions (see page 2) before accessing the building beyond the reception area. Screening questions will be posted at the main entrance of the each building.

Cleaning/Disinfecting Rooms/Objects and Use of Hand Sanitizer:

- In addition to our custodial service, all departments and campuses in our school district will have cleaning / disinfectant and hand sanitizer supplies available.
- Each campus will utilize alcohol-based sanitizer stations throughout common areas of the campus to promote safe and healthy practices.
- Sanitizer stations will be set up at the main entrances to campuses.
- Staff and students are encouraged to clean and sanitize hands throughout the school day.

Expectations for Cleaning:

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily with hospital grade or similar products.
- Disinfectant will be provided to each classroom and common areas to maximize room-to-room cleanliness.
- Classrooms and campus areas will be cleaned and disinfected on an assessment of an ill student/staff member.

Intervention and Support: (due to COVID related absences)

Student:

- Attend intervention/tutorial sessions as established by your teacher or school.
- Inform teachers when extra support is needed.

Parent:

- Allow your child to attend intervention/tutorial sessions as needed.
- Assist in supporting your child's needs by establishing and managing the daily schedule communicated by the teacher.
- Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your children to do their part.

Teacher:

- Provide intervention or tutorial sessions as needed.
- Follow student IEPs / 504 accommodations in all learning environments.
- Use data to pinpoint students' specific needs for enrichment and intervention.
- Monitor student progress with fidelity according to recommendations.
- Provide and communicate office hours or conference period for student/parent support.
- Attend and participate in professional learning.



Student Social and Emotional Supports:

- Quaver-A district character education program for grades PreK to 4th grade. This program will help support social and emotional learning
- Capturing Kids Hearts – A District character trait program has been adopted to support social and emotional learning for grades 5th to 12th.
- Trained personnel are available to provide resources and strategies to support students' social and emotional well-being.
- Trained personnel are also available to provide trauma informed practices and to support students and are well versed in how to report potential behavioral threats.

What to Expect/Social and Emotional:

Typical Reactions Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations: Anxiety, worry, or fear related to your own health status.

- The health status of others whom you may have exposed to the disease.
- Concern about being able to effectively care for children or others in your care.
- Uncertainty or frustration about how long you will need to remain in this situation, and uncertainty about the future.
- Loneliness associated with feeling cut off from the world and from loved ones.
- Anger if you think you were exposed to the disease because of others' negligence.
- Boredom and frustration because you may not be able to work or engage in regular day-to-day activities.
- Uncertainty or ambivalence about the situation.
- A desire to use alcohol or drugs to cope.
- Symptoms of depression, such as feelings of hopelessness, changes in appetite, or sleeping.



Employee General Guidelines:

- Employees must conduct a medical self-screening before reporting to work. Medical self-screening includes questions such as new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° Fahrenheit or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed or FDA approved home test to have COVID-19.
- Employee that tests positive for COVID-19 or is actively sick with COVID-19, the employee must be excluded from school/work for a five-day isolation period, from the date onset or test date. Within the last 24 hours of the five-day period the employee must be symptom free. We encourage individuals to seek medical advice from their physician if they receive a positive test or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- If an employee has been determined to be in a household-based close contact* of an individual with a positive COVID-19 PCR test or an FDA approved home test, we recommend that the employee stay at home for a five-day isolation period. The employee may return on day 6 if they don't have continuous close contact exposure and they are free of COVID-19 symptoms or a negative PCR acute infection test or a COVID-19 FDA approved home test. The test should not be taken until the 5th day or after. The employee should administer each day the Health Screening Self Check and be symptom free during the 5-day period.
- Due to the Texas Education Agency reporting requirements, employees must report if they have a received a lab confirmed COVID-19 positive to their direct supervisor.
- 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.
- If you have been tested for COVID-19, we encourage you to stay at home until you have received your results.
- All employees shall know, understand, and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.
- Individuals must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school/work.
- Individuals must be diarrhea free for at least 24 hours without the use of diarrhea-suppressing medications before returning to school/work.
- Employees should adhere to CDC guidance regarding frequent hand washing.
- Staff members who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, but we are supportive of students or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- Show respect, care, and compassion for others in following the guidelines.

**Exposure Defined: To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus, and being within 3 to 6 feet with the virus for 15 minutes or more during a 24 hour period without the use of face covering or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person*

As the public health crisis continues, we have been planning for the opening of the 2022-2023 school year with a focus on the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students, and community. As Huntsville ISD is planning our plan specifically follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health officials and the Texas Education Agency. Ensuring the safety and health of our students and teachers is our top priority.



Updates to Return to School Plan for Employees

August 5, 2022

Positive Test Results:

If you test positive for COVID-19 **everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must isolate.**

Isolation: Stay home for 5 days.

If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house and may return to work/school. If you return to work/school, wear a mask around others for 5 additional days as recommended by CDC.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours.

Exposed to Someone with COVID-19:

Quarantine may differ depending on:

Scenario A

- If you have been boosted, **OR**
- If you have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, **OR**
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

If you develop symptoms after being exposed to someone with COVID-19, then get tested and stay home until you have received your test results or five days.



Scenario B (considered unvaccinated)

- If you completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted, **OR**
- If you have completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted, **OR**
- If you are unvaccinated,

Then stay home for 5 days.

If you develop symptoms after being exposed to someone with COVID-19, then get tested and stay home until you have received your test results or five days.

If possible, a PCR lab confirmed test result should be sent for a positive/negative result to HR (for staff) and campus nurse (for students). Due to the shortage of testing kits and delays in obtaining a PCR lab confirmed test result, FDA approved home test kits will be temporarily approved to determine a positive test result. The following are FDA approved home test kits:

- *iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test*
- *On.Go COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test*
- *BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test*
- *QuickVue Rapid At-Home COVID-19 Antigen Test Kit*
- *FlowFlex COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Home Test*
- *InteliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test*

For home testing kits, be sure to follow the guidelines for a confirmed positive/negative test result. Some tests will require you to test more than once for a confirmed result.

Similarly, parents/guardians should sign, date and send a picture or email of positive/negative test result information to the campus nurse as needed for confirmation and for excusing absences.

See additional information that follows for more details on the FDA approved home tests.



This is a list of FDAs approved COVID (Antigen) home tests that may be used for Students and Staff.

iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test

Authorized by the FDA for at-home use in November, the iHealth at-home COVID antigen test comes with two nasal swabs, test cassettes, fluid vials, and vial caps. Individuals ages 14 and older can self-administer this test, and adults can administer it to children as young as 2 years old. For the test, you'll follow the included instructions to swab your nose, mix the solution, and squeeze a few drops of the solution onto the testing tray. Your results will be ready to view in as little as 15 minutes.

On/Go COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test

The On/Go at-home COVID test allows you to self-administer a rapid antigen test, then read your results and view the results of family members in a convenient app. Start by downloading On/Go's free app via the QR code on the rapid test box. You can administer the test on yourself or on children ages 2-14. Follow the clear step-by-step instructions within the app to better ensure accuracy. If you're hosting guests over the holidays, getting together with friends, or traveling in the near future, this feature makes it easier to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.

BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

The BinaxNOW nasal swab test can detect an active coronavirus infection and display a positive or negative result in as little as 15 minutes. Able to detect both Delta and Omicron strains of the virus in addition to the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, this at-home rapid antigen kit comes with everything you need for two self-tests. Walgreens pharmacists recommend taking both tests over a three-day period, waiting at least 36 hours between each self-test.

QuickVue Rapid At-Home COVID-19 Antigen Test Kit

The QuickVue at-home rapid test aims to detect COVID-19 proteins in your body whether you have symptoms or not. Similar to other self-administered COVID tests, you'll follow the directions to swab both nostrils, then swirl the swab in a tube of solution before inserting the testing strip into the tube. The QuickVue test takes 10 minutes to display your results; if your test is negative, take another test 24 to 48 hours later to confirm the results.



This is a list of FDAs approved COVID (Antigen) home tests. (cont.)

FlowFlex COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Home Test

This nasal swab test comes with one disposable nasal swab, a buffer tube, and a disposable cassette for reading and displaying your results. The included directions guide you through the self-administered test, and the product can be used on adults and children as young as 2 years old. In October, the FDA announced that FlowFlex does not require serial testing like some other rapid antigen tests, meaning you won't need to take multiple tests across several days in order to get an accurate result.

InteliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

The shallow swab in this at-home rapid antigen test is designed to be less prickly than other FDA-authorized models, but it can still detect a SARS-CoV-2 infection in both symptomatic and asymptomatic people. Authorized for use on individuals ages 15 and up, the test involves swabbing the insides of both nostrils, swirling it in the test tube, and waiting 30 minutes for the results. If the test reads negative, you'll need to take a second test (which is included) 24 to 36 hours after the first one to ensure an accurate result.

