

As of:
7/24/2020

Hemphill ISD 2020-2021 School Plan

The information in Hemphill ISD's 2020-2021 is currently in **DRAFT** form so the district can collect feedback from staff and parents. Please submit feedback via our Back To School survey on our [website](#).

Message from HISD

The HISD administrative team, faculty and school board are working to create the best educational opportunities in safe learning environments for all students. COVID-19 has and continues to impact the norms of our schools and society and HISD will strive to stay abreast of new developments in information and best practices. HISD realizes that there are and will be differing opinions and seeks to respectfully work with all stakeholders.

Public Health Considerations (per TEA School Year 20-21 [Public Health Guidance](#))

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and school system leaders should do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities 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. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.”

Instructional Options:

Hemphill ISD students will have the option to either attend school in person or virtually during the 2020-2021 school year. Options are to be selected no later than two weeks prior to the first day of instruction for a particular grading period. For example: Instructional options for the first grading period must be determined by July 29, 2020. Once an option is selected, students will not have the ability to change from Virtual Instruction to In-Person Instruction until the end of the current six-week grading period. Parents and students must be fully aware of the requirements and expectations of this instructional model before selecting this mode of instruction.

On-Campus Instruction

- Hemphill ISD intends to begin On-Campus Instruction on the first day of school for students, August 12, 2020.

- On-Campus Instruction is traditional at-school learning.
- Additional safety protocols and social distancing will be implemented as recommended for on-campus learning.
- If a student participating in On-Campus Instruction is diagnosed with COVID-19, that student will immediately be transitioned to Virtual Instruction until all reinstatement requirements are fulfilled, and they are released to come back to school.

Virtual School Requirements

The Texas Education Agency has approved two different virtual school models in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for districts to utilize in addition to on-campus instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. Synchronous instruction (real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students) and asynchronous instruction (real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students and/or teachers provide pre-recorded videos of instruction and guided support while students engage in learning materials on their own time and interact daily with the teacher). Hemphill ISD will provide asynchronous instruction for students in grades PK-12.

Hemphill ISD students participating in virtual instruction (asynchronous instruction) will be required to engage in learning activities on their own time during the school day, interacting daily with the teacher(s) via computer or other electronic devices, or over the phone. Teachers will post an assignment/activity each day and give guided support under this model of instruction.

For students participating in asynchronous instruction to be counted for attendance purposes, **they must be engaged in one of the following ways for each enrolled class during each school day:**

1. Daily attendance via live virtual instruction as available; or
2. Daily progress in the Learning Management System (LMS) as defined in the Hemphill ISD learning plan; or
3. Daily progress via teacher-student interactions as defined in the Hemphill ISD learning plan; or
4. Completion/submission of assignments from student to teacher (potentially via email, online, or mail).

Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course (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 effect during the 2020-2021 school year.

Attendance and Enrollment

- Hemphill ISD will be required to take DAILY attendance under all learning models. This means students will have to be present on-campus or engaged online in their Learning Management System (LMS) each day to be counted present for credit purposes.
- For a student participating in Virtual Instruction (asynchronous instruction) to be counted for attendance, they must be engaged in one of the following three ways in each class daily:
 - Daily progress in the Learning Management System (LMS), as defined in the approved learning plan; or
 - Daily progress via teacher-student interactions, as defined in the approved learning plan; or
 - Completion/Submission of assignments from student to teacher (potentially via email, on-line, or mail).
- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course (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 2020-2021 school year.
- Student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA.

Special Programs

- Special Programs staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Instruction - Special education and 504 students will receive instruction and related services in accordance with their individualized education/accommodation plan. Virtual learners will receive services remotely rather than on campus.
- Related and/or other services (speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, direct psychological services, and/or vision services) will be provided by the same service provider when possible through various digital platforms (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) for virtual learners. Some related and/or other services such as vision, orientation and mobility, and adapted physical education may be provided via consultation and not as a direct service.
- Students with disabilities whose needs pose additional challenges to learning in a virtual environment are encouraged to attend On-Campus Instruction.

- Therapy services will continue for students receiving those services within both learning platforms. Virtual students will receive these services through an electronic digital platform provided by the district. Students attending school on campus will receive these services face to face while at school.
- Regression will be addressed in an ARD/504 committee meeting.
- Special education transportation services will be provided as written in the ARD paperwork for on-campus learners.
- Additional PPE for staff and additional sanitization procedures will be practiced in special education classrooms.
- Evaluations for special education/504 eligibility will vary on a case by case basis. Hemphill ISD will encourage on-site/in-person evaluations in order to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the evaluation. In the event that an evaluation is needed and an in-person or on-campus accommodation cannot be made, the evaluation will be conducted remotely when possible.

Technology Support

- HISD students, Pre-K through 12th Grade, who need a device for virtual instruction may have access to a district-issued device.

Health and Safety

General Health & Safety Protocols

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- Misting machines will be used to treat all surfaces with a hypoallergenic electrostatically charged disinfecting solution prior to the arrival of students and staff.
- Misting machines will also be used in restrooms, classrooms (when vacant), and other common areas throughout the day.
- Students, teachers, staff, and essential campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Tissues will be provided in classrooms and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- Sneeze Guards and Plexiglass will be added to public reception desks.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- Visitors to the school offices will be required to wear masks/face coverings.

- No outside visitors or parents will be allowed to enter the student areas of the school buildings.
- Main school entrances will be locked immediately after arrival times and remain that way throughout the day to help ensure effective management and safe screening of visitors.
- Hemphill ISD is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry to the campus.
- Hemphill ISD will provide and reinforce instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices.
- Hemphill ISD will continue to monitor and comply with state and local guidelines/orders for face coverings. Hemphill ISD encourages all staff and students to wear masks or faceshields.

Health Pre-Screening for Staff & 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 conditions for re-entry are met.
- Students and staff are expected to take their own temperatures daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of 100 or higher should not come to school or any Hemphill ISD facility.
- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- Teachers will have access to a thermometer in their grade level or department to check/verify temperatures throughout the day as needed and will immediately send anyone with a 100 or higher temperature to the school health clinic for temperature verification and symptom check by the school nurse.

- Hemphill ISD will be pre-screening and checking the temperatures of all contracted workers and essential volunteers before they are allowed entrance on campus.

School Health Clinic Procedures

- School Nurses and substitute nurses will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Minor health needs will be handled in the classrooms to reserve the health clinic space for students experiencing symptoms or fever.
- Attendance clerks will be trained to ask questions to screen students/staff who are absent for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who come to the school health clinic showing symptoms will be required to put on a face covering/mask until their parent arrives to take them home.
- School Health Clinics will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Protocols for Individuals Confirmed, Suspected or Exposed to COVID-19

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

- 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 the school system 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:
 - at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least ten 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 two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart 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

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

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, 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).
2. Schools must 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 3 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, schools 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.

Individuals including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors/volunteers who have had **close contact** with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, as narrowly defined in this document as determined by the appropriate public health agency through the 14-day incubation period, and should not be allowed on campus.

Hemphill ISD school nurses will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual can be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above have been met.

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19.

Close contact is defined as:

a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or

b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;

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.

Remediation of Affected Facilities

Hemphill ISD will create and train a remediation team to address areas where lab-confirmed COVID-19 individuals were known to be for extended periods of time (example: classrooms).

The team will be supervised throughout a step by step remediation to include the following:

- Access to the area(s) will be restricted to the remediation team only until the protocol is complete and the remediation form is signed by the remediation team supervisor
- The campus principal or department director will not allow students or staff into the area until the signed remediation form is received
- Follow accepted procedures for removal and disinfecting of any body fluids
- Cleaning all desk/table surfaces with disinfecting solution
- Cleaning all wall surfaces surfaces with disinfecting solution
- Cleaning all hardware (door knobs, etc) with disinfecting solution
- Cleaning all floor surfaces with disinfecting solution
- The entire area/room is sprayed with the electrostatic sanitizing solution and allowed to dry

School Procedures

Arriving at School

- Elementary and MS students partaking of breakfast will go to the cafeteria.
 - Elementary students will be served and eat in the cafeteria which will be monitored for capacity with social distancing considerations.
 - Middle School students will be served in the cafeteria and eat in designated areas outside and in the Middle School.
 - As students finish eating and social distancing capacities are reached, both Middle School and Elementary students will be dismissed to classes.

- High School students will have breakfast available at the HS campus and may wait in designated outdoor areas as well as identified classrooms.
- Parents are encouraged to drop their child off at school to reduce possible virus exposure.
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building.

Bus Transportation Protocols

- Hemphill ISD will provide bus transportation.
- Bus Drivers will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Bus riders will be encouraged to social distance as much as possible.
- Bus riders will be taught to space themselves out from others as they exit the bus and walk into the school building.
- Drivers and riders will be strongly encouraged but not required to wear a face-covering/mask.
- Hand sanitizers will be on all buses and are to be used by students when entering and exiting the bus.
- Seats, handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected after each route.
- Buses will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing solution after/before each route/trip.
- When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

Cafeteria Safety

- Hemphill ISD plans to utilize the school cafeteria for student meals. Additionally, weather permitting, outdoor spaces will be utilized as well to allow for greater social distancing.
NOTE: No parents/visitors during lunch.
- When possible, food items will be pre-packaged and boxed to minimize face-to-face contact in the cafeteria line.
- Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria each period.
- All cafeteria staff will be wearing masks and gloves while serving students.
- Students will verbally provide the cafeteria staff their individual account number as part of the "no-touch" lunch purchase process.
- Seats, tables, door handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- The cafeteria and dining areas will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing solution after/before breakfast and lunch.

Classrooms

- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily as described in **General Health & Safety Protocols**.
- Disinfecting solutions will be available in every classroom for teacher and student use.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- Social distancing arrangements will be made to the extent possible

Playgrounds & Outdoor Spaces

- Playgrounds will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- When feasible and appropriate, students will gather outside (for instance, during physical education class), rather than inside due to the reduced risk of spreading the virus outdoors.

Extracurricular Participation

- Students may participate in extracurricular activities **only if enrolled in on-campus instruction**.
- Students and staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- All participants, coaches, and directors will follow rules established by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- UIL guidance can be found on the [UIL Website](#).
- In response to healthcare providers' focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, the UIL recently waived the required pre-participation physical examination for students involved in band/athletics who already have a physical on file for the 2019-2020 school year. Those students who are new or do not have a physical already on file will be required to get a physical and complete the pre-participation physical examination form **BEFORE** participating in band/athletics for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Locker rooms and showers are currently ordered "CLOSED" by the Texas Education Agency.

Facility Rentals & After-School Events

- Due to COVID-19 and the impact on facility management, Hemphill ISD will not be renting school facilities.

Large-Group Gatherings & Special Event Announcements

- Hemphill ISD will avoid scheduling non-essential large group gatherings and events where adults and students must commingle or where students would be unnecessarily exposed to the virus in public places such as field trips, assemblies, dances, pep rallies, etc.

Social-Emotional Support/Mental Wellness

- Hemphill ISD counselors will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Counselors will develop strategies and support for students, families, and staff members.
- Counselors will develop a referral system for individuals who need targeted support as well as access to school-employed and community mental health professionals.
- Students in need of social-emotional support will be provided tiered interventions which could involve referral for additional school-based services or referral for outside mental health support.

Communication

- Hemphill ISD will continue to inform key stakeholders regularly while offering opportunities for feedback to help shape Hemphill ISD's plan moving forward.
- The district and campuses will communicate official HISD news using School Status for phone calls, text messages, emails, and will also post updates on the district website, e-newsletters, and social media accounts.