

# SANDS CISD 2024-2025 SAFE SCHOOL Health Plan

(Renewed on February 7, 2023)

The goal of the Sands CISD Health Plan policy is to create a school environment that BEST meets the needs of our students and staff. This includes doing everything in our power to keep our students and staff safe and healthy while promoting excellence in character, academics, and extracurricular activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has created some unique challenges, but it is our strong desire to have on-campus learning for all students. Sands CISD will comply with all local(school board mandated) and state(governor mandated) measures to meet the health needs of our students.

## COMMUNICATION, PREVENTION, MITIGATION, RESPONSE.

### I. Communication:

- A. Sands CISD will strive to properly communicate to all stakeholders and parents all policies and procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of our students. This information will be posted or published in the following locations:
- The school website: <https://www.sands.esc17.net>
  - The Sands CISD Facebook page
  - The school messenger All Call (as necessary).
  - Electronic mail as possible.

- B. Contacts for COVID-19 concerns: The persons responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns at the District and campus level are the Sands CISD administrative team:

- Wayne Henderson - Superintendent
- Lenny Morrow - Principal

We will also have a COVID-19 Health Committee that will assist in planning, communication, making decisions and carrying out policies and procedures.

These individuals will include:

- Amy Grumbles - Business Manager/Superintendent Secretary
- Susan Henderson - PEIMS coordinator/Campus Secretary
- Tana Howard - Counselor/Teacher
- Dustin Wall – SHAC committee /Teacher
- Kari Reese - Special Education Director

- C. Attendance and Enrollment

- Student attendance for those that are on-campus will follow standard attendance procedures as in years past. 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. There will be no attendance credit awarded for those that stay home on scheduled school days.

## II. Prevention: This includes all Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

- A. Sands CISD will follow state guidelines on screening students, staff, and visitors on campus.
- B. Screening for COVID-19 before campus access: Sands CISD teachers/staff/students will be required to self-screen for symptoms each day.
  - Visitors/Parents will not be allowed on campus without first being screened and approved.
  - All parents should screen their children prior to sending them to school as a precautionary measure. This screening will seek to determine if the student has any of the following symptoms:

**Have you recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for you?**

1. **Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
2. **Loss of taste or smell**
3. **Prolonged Cough**

**Students with these symptoms should stay home until the severity of the illness is determined. Students with fever, body aches, persistent coughing, or other Virus-like symptoms should stay home until they are symptom free for 24 hours.**

- C. Individuals who have been **lab-confirmed** with COVID-19 (teacher/staff/students/parents/visitor)
  - Teachers, staff, students, parents, and visitors must report with a phone call or electronic communication to the district if they have been lab-confirmed positive with COVID-19, and, if so, they must complete the following return to school protocol:
  - A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

If symptomatic, exclude until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and 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 5 days after the day they were tested. \*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

\*\*Policies are subject to change based on Local and State mandates.

- D. Identifying possible COVID-19 cases on-campus procedures
- Sands CISD will immediately separate any student or staff member who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school. These individuals with symptoms will be sent home immediately.
  - Students who shared a classroom with the infected student/staff member will be moved to a new location until the room is disinfected appropriately.

### III. Mitigation: Practices to Reduce the Likelihood of the Spreading of the Virus Within the School

- A. Sands CISD will follow state guidelines on mitigation practices to prevent the spread of

COVID-19 Health & hygiene practices:

- Sands CISD will provide hand sanitizing stations at every entrance of the district
- Sands CISD will provide hand sanitizer in every classroom, which will be used frequently throughout the school day
- Sands CISD will teach students proper hygiene precautions to limit the spread of illness
- Sands CISD extracurricular activities will follow the guidelines of UIL and policy set forth by Sands CISD. To be eligible for extracurricular activities, students must be receiving on-campus instruction.
- Sands CISD will provide hand sanitizer as students enter the school bus each day.

- B. Visits to school

- Sands CISD will restrict visits to the school to only those essential to school operations.
- Parents and guardians will be allowed to be on campus once they are screened at the entrance and they abide by school health guidelines. They must always check in at the office upon arrival.
- Excluding parent drop-off and pick-up, before visitors (parents) are allowed on campus, visitors **MUST** be screened according to state guidelines.

- C. Students Who Are Close Contacts

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that **individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts**. Given the data from 2021-22 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children than adults, school systems **are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing**. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system should notify the student's parents. Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period.

- D. Staffing:
- Employees will be trained in COVID 19 prevention, mitigation, and response.
  - Employees will follow guidelines set forth by the District in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
  - Sands CISD employees, like employees of any other organization, must continue to meet the expectations of their employers and their contractual obligations.

#### IV. Response: Sands CISD's Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case Within the School District

- Sands CISD will follow local and state guidelines in reporting and responding to Lab Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school district.

