



Yoakum Independent School  
District  
2021 RIPICS Plan

# Health and Safety Guidelines

Please Note: The details in this entire document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

## STUDENT & STAFF SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### *Protocols for Screening and Isolation*

#### General

All Students and Staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who show symptoms will be separated and sent home.

#### Screening Protocols

All staff members are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. If a staff member is experiencing any of the symptoms listed below in a way that is not normal for them, the campus administrator will be notified, and the staff member will not report to the campus. Symptoms to screen for include:

- 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
- Diarrhea

Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school.

Yoakum ISD Staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

## **ISOLATION PROTOCOLS**

### **Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms**

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and the student's parent/guardian will be contacted. These students will be placed in a secure area while waiting for parent/guardian pickup.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) when feasible so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the parents of students who came in contact, as defined by TEA, with COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students or staff who come in "close contact" with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 10 days and may not return to campus during that time. YISD will use the Texas Education Agency's "close contact" definition for all cases.

## **PROTOCOLS FOR FACE COVERINGS**

Protective measures, including the use of face coverings, will be determined by the level of disease activity of COVID-19. The district will rely on data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Lavaca County Office of Emergency Management, and the Texas Education Agency to determine the disease activity level and the appropriate protective measures. The district will develop a process to alert students, parents, and staff of the disease activity level and when face coverings must be worn.

Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to campus administration.

# PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPUS VISITORS

## General

Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible. Individuals who proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

## Visitor Screening/PPE requirements

- Individuals proceeding beyond the reception area will be subject to the following guidelines:
  - Visitors and staff will maintain physical distancing for ARD and other meetings in smaller conference areas.
  - Visitors will be allowed limited access to a designated area in the building.
  - When possible, virtual meetings will be available.

# PROTOCOLS FOR DISINFECTING AND HAND SANITIZING

## General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff.

## Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available at designated entrances, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout the school including restrooms and water fountains.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Requirement for hand washing and/or use of Yoakum ISD provided hand sanitizer:
  - Provide hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom and periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.
  - Thorough hand washing upon return from outdoors, before eating, following restroom breaks.

## Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

# PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPUS CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

## General

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

## Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- Custodians will wear gloves during work hours.

## Additional Cleaning Measure for COVID-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, an intensive sanitization effort will be conducted.
- Custodial staff will disinfect all areas within the entire building.

# WORK AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

## Classroom Configuration

- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- When possible, eliminate communal supplies. Shared supplies will be sanitized between uses.
- Remove blankets, pillows, and other shared non-essential items from the classroom.
- Recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education service locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

## Collaborative Work and Projects

- When possible, technology will be utilized when students are involved in collaborative work.
- Group or pair work may be implemented while maintaining physical distancing.

### General Classroom Supplies

- Multiple locations of hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans will be available in several locations to limit student and staff movement.

### Specialized Classrooms

- When appropriate, students will be provided face masks for safety when there is an increased risk.
- Specialized equipment will be sanitized between each use. There will be adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high-touch materials or limit the use of supplies of equipment to one group of students at a time.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting of equipment, students changing clothes, showering, and other areas where distancing is essential.
- Career and Technical Education classes will follow industry-based safety guidelines as appropriate to the equipment and course content.

### Physical Education Classroom Protocols

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact will be avoided.
- Visual markers will be on the gym floor and bleachers as reminders of social distancing rules.
- Procedures will be implemented in the locker rooms to limit social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Activities requiring multiple students to touch or handle the same equipment will be avoided.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided.

### Common Areas

In order to provide the safest environment possible in our common/collaborative spaces, while promoting disease prevention and mitigation, the following guidelines will be implemented:

### Meeting Spaces

- Meetings will be limited to video conferencing when possible.

- If meetings must be held in person, all social distancing protocols will be implemented.
  - Facial coverings during substantial and moderate transmission levels
  - Social Distancing
  - Limit the sharing of materials/supplies

Administrative Spaces – Reception, Offices, Conference Rooms, Workroom

When possible, meetings will be conducted virtually. However, if the need arises to meet in person please follow campus guidelines:

- Facial Coverings or masks will be utilized during substantial and moderate transmission levels.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in front office spaces.
- Distances of 6 feet will be provided between all occupied seats and workspaces.

Restrooms

- Restrooms will be monitored and sanitized throughout the day. Students must wash hands and then use hand sanitizer before entering the classroom.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the day.
- Each campus will comply with health agency recommendations and social distancing.

Library

- Visual reminders will be added and furniture rearranged to help students maintain social distancing while in the library.
- Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
- Occupancy will be limited.

Transitions

- Students and staff will follow protocols for face coverings
- Classroom doors will be propped open to reduce high touch areas when possible.

- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separates individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.

### Arrival

- Entry doors will be designated based on arrival method: Bus Riders, Parent Drop-off, Student drivers, Students with unique needs. Students have the option of going to a classroom for tutorials, eating breakfast in the cafeteria, or social distancing in the designated areas prior to the school day beginning.
- Designated entry doors will be propped open for no-touch entry. Any open doors will be continuously monitored by staff to stop unauthorized access and to monitor for threats.
- Entry protocols will be established to maintain physical distance.
- Sanitizer stations will be placed at each entrance and students will sanitize hands upon entry.
- Parents may not accompany students into the building.

### Breakfast/Lunch

- Students will be socially distanced as much as possible during meal times.
- Meals may be packaged as “grab and go” to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating locations.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.
- Appropriate shielding will be used to reduce the possibility of contamination.