

HISD COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information and requirements subject to change based on recommendations from CDC and health officials

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Eugene Salazar, Chair	HISD Interim Chief Operations Officer
Julia Dimmitt.....	HISD Chief Human Resources Officer
Yolanda Rodriguez.....	HISD Chief Academic Officer
Catosha Woods.....	HISD Deputy General Counsel
Alexis Licata	HISD Business Logistics and Purchasing Officer
Alishia Jolivetete	HISD Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations Officer
Lisa Blackmon-Jones.....	HISD Health and Medical Services Director

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Yolanda Rodriguez, HISD Chief Academic Officer.....	Campus-Based
Rick Cruz, HISD Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer.....	Extracurricular Activities – Student Groups
Andre' Walker, HISD Athletics Director.....	Extracurricular Activities – Athletics
Alishia Jolivetete, HISD Facilities, Maintenance, And Operations Officer.....	Facilities Management
Betti Wiggins, HISD Nutrition Services Officer.....	Nutrition
John Wilcots, HISD Transportation Services General Manager.....	Transportation
Silvia Trinh, HISD Chief Of Staff.....	All Other Departments

COMMITTEE MEMBERS — CAMPUS-BASED

Yolanda Rodriguez.....	HISD Chief Academic Officer
James McSwain.....	HISD West Area Superintendent
Stacy Taylor.....	HISD North Area Superintendent
Lisa Blackmon-Jones.....	HISD Health and Medical Services Director
Madison Taylor.....	West Briar Middle School Social Worker
Lara Hulin.....	Bellaire High School Social Worker
Katherine Stempel.....	Travis Elementary School Teacher
Ronith Epelbon Hochman.....	Briar Meadow Elementary School Teacher
Erica Lopez.....	Blackshear Elementary School Teacher
Judy Ricks.....	Deady Middle School Nurse
Johnny King.....	Elrod Elementary School Nurse
Myrna Sonia Garcia.....	Parker Elementary School Nurse
Chanthini Thomas.....	Bellaire High School Nurse
Mary Barraza.....	Durham Elementary School Nurse
Linda Moore.....	HISD Parent
Suja Rajan.....	HISD Parent

COMMITTEE MEMBERS — EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES-STUDENT GROUPS

Rick Cruz.....	Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, Chair
Catherine O-Brien.....	HCC Associate Vice Chancellor of College Readiness
Jonnelle Hollins.....	HISD Afterschool Programs Manager
Kevin Hattery.....	Boys & Girls Club Of Greater Houston President/CEO
Adeeb Barqawi.....	Prounitas Inc . President/CEO
Joshua Martin.....	Frost Elementary School Teacher
Meghan Grout.....	Burbank Middle School Teacher
Heather Golden.....	HISD Parent

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS — EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES-ATHLETICS

Andre' Walker	HISD Athletics Director, Chair
Rosa Hernandez	Welch Middle School Principal
Susan Monaghan	Westbury High School Principal
Laurel Williams	Baylor College of Medicine Associate Professor
Twila Carter	Astros Foundation Executive Director
Sonia Rodriguez	North Houston Early College High School Teacher
Victoria Moore	Hartman Middle School Teacher
Jim Mabrey	HISD Parent

COMMITTEE MEMBERS — FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Alishia Jolivette	HISD Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations Officer, Chair
Cesar Martinez	HISD Northwest Area Superintendent
Christina Reed	Baylor College Of Medicine Placenta Accreta Spectrum Care Team Operations Director, HISD Parent
David Terrell	Frost Elementary School Principal
Felecia German	HISD Educational Consultant
Barry Taylor	HISD Custodial Operations Senior Manager
Rebecca Busse	Bush Elementary School Teacher
Brittany Corprew	Patterson Dual Language & Literature Magnet School Teacher
Johnny King	Elrod Elementary School Nurse
Naomi Lofton	HISD Parent

COMMITTEE MEMBERS — NUTRITION

Betti Wiggins	HISD Nutrition Services Officer, Chair
Geovany Ponce	HISD East Area Superintendent
Gwendolyn Hunter	Pleasantville Elementary School Principal
Maria Solis	Farias Early Childhood Center Principal
Zeph Capo	Houston Federation Of Teachers President
Heather Kohn	HISD Nutrition Services Quality Assurance Manager
Kimberly Fletcher	Wisdom High School Teacher
Lisa Tauser	HISD Parent
Carla Tessman	HISD Parent

COMMITTEE MEMBERS — TRANSPORTATION

John Wilcots	HISD Transportation Services General Manager, Chair
Nicole Moore	South Area Superintendent
Ross McAlpine	Jordan Career Center Principal
Cesar Maldonado	HCC Chancellor
Cheryl Fulmer	River Oaks Elementary School Nurse, HISD Parent
Sonya Crawford	Coop Elementary School Teacher
Rebecca Hiatt	Baylor College of Medicine Biotech Academy at Rusk Teacher
Shreela Sharma	HISD Parent

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS — ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Silvia Trinh	HISD Chief of Staff, Chair
Scott Gilhousen	HISD Chief Technology Information Officer
Rebecca Suárez	HISD Chief Communications Officer
Glenn Reed	HISD Chief Financial Officer
Patrick Porter	HISD Information Technology Director
Pete Lopez	HISD Police Department Chief
Mike Webster	HCC Workforce Instruction Association Vice Chancellor
Juliet Stipeche	City of Houston Mayor's Office of Educator Director
Raechelle Anglin-Kay	Cookies Place Healthcare Natural Medicine Specialist and Wellness Director and Home Experts of Kay Team Realty Team Lead/Agent Trainer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2020, the Houston Independent School District established a Communicable Disease Plan Task Force — a working group made up of key employees, educators, parents, community members, and healthcare officials.

The [72-member task force](#) was charged with reviewing guidance from local, state, and federal health and education officials, as well as feedback from HISD parent and teacher surveys, and then providing recommendations that prioritize health and safety.

The group worked diligently through [the summer](#) to identify ways HISD could return students and teachers to classrooms and employees to office workspaces while following public health guidelines and mitigating transmission of [communicable diseases](#).

The HISD Communicable Disease Plan outlines its recommendations — as well as accompanying procedures, protocol, challenges, and needs — for all facets of the country's seventh-largest district. The information below provides a high-level summary of the plan.

The task force expects all procedures outlined in this document to be implemented upon reopening of district schools and buildings.

Because of changing conditions, this plan is considered a living document. The task force expects HISD administrators to continually monitor health conditions and review procedures and protocols, making adjustments as needed to ensure compliance with public health guidelines and local, state, and federal law.

[Updated versions of this plan will be issued as adjustments are needed. The most updated content will be printed in blue for quick identification.](#)

DISCLAIMER

[The Communicable Disease Committee believes it is important to follow guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials, including the Harris County Public Health department.](#)

[The committee also agrees with the Harris County Public Health Roadmap to Reopening Schools released on Aug. 12, 2020 \(See Appendix 98\). The committee believes the HISD Communicable Disease Plan is closely aligned with the Roadmap to Reopening Schools and encourages the district to follow its guidance whenever possible to ensure the safest environment for students and staff. However, the committee cannot recommend full adoption as we understand the district may need to deviate from recommendations that may potentially conflict with current or future Texas Education Agency directives.](#)

General Safety Protocols

Before buildings reopen, employees, students, and community members will be notified about and trained on new safety and screening protocols. New protocols include requiring all HISD employees, students, and visitors to undergo entry screenings, wear masks, wash hands regularly, and practice physical distancing.

The district will provide enough hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to accommodate frequent cleaning of high touch areas.

Campus Management

Classrooms will be reconfigured to ensure 6 feet of space between [desks whenever possible](#). Students may have staggered schedules and alternate between in-person and virtual learning to accommodate physical distancing. Student assemblies will be held virtually.

All campus-based employees and students must follow infection and high-touch area protocols. Schools should limit visitors and assign a team to notify their communities of the updated visitation procedures.

Campuses must establish isolation areas for students and adults who become sick during the school day.

Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Extracurricular activities will follow the same safety practices employed on school campuses during the school day. School-based extracurricular activities will resume when in-person instruction begins. Masks must be made available to and worn by students and teachers during all extracurricular activities.

Student sporting events are tentatively scheduled for the fall, but HISD Athletics will adjust plans as [public health](#) conditions change.

Fine Arts

Fine arts will require physical distancing and reorganize classrooms to ensure desks are spaced 6 feet [apart whenever possible](#). Students will not be allowed to share personal belongings, equipment, or other items, including computers, instruments, costumes, and uniforms.

Facility Management

Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations employees will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines regarding the cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection of district facilities. FMO employees will adhere to physical distancing and sanitation guidelines regarding work orders, rentals, and building use.

Student Meals

Nutrition Services will provide breakfast, lunch, snack, and afterschool at-risk supper in classrooms for students engaged in in-person learning. Curbside meals will be available for students enrolled in virtual learning. Employees will continue to accommodate student health, medical, and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns.

Department employees will follow public health hygiene recommendations and enhance custodial cleaning and surface disinfection. Additionally, Hattie Mae's Café will reopen to customers in alignment with state-mandated health protocols.

Bus Transportation

Transportation Services will enhance cleaning protocols and implement physical distancing for all buses and buildings. Because physical distancing drastically reduces bus capacity, only special education and homeless students will be transported when in-person instruction resumes. Additionally, priority will be given to certain student populations based on the district's [phased-in](#) return plan.

The department also will implement contingency plans for responding to student bus riders and bus drivers who develop a presumed or confirmed case. Touch time clocks will be phased out to eliminate additional high-risk surface contacts for employees.

12-Month District Employees

All non-campus, 12-month employees will return to normal operations in phases. Employees will receive prior to their return to work clear communication about phased timelines, as well as educational information and online training related to best practices for returning to office workspaces. Additionally, employees must follow public health hygiene recommendations and HISD procedures and protocols for building visitors and facility and district closures.