

# **Back to School Guidance**

**Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

## **RIPICS Plan**

### **Traducción Oral si es Necesario**

**(Translation Available Upon Request)**

Call at 806-455-1411

llamar al 806-455-1411



**Turkey-Quitaque ISD**

**Valley School**

**[www.valleypatriots.com](http://www.valleypatriots.com)**

**TEA Requirement: Providing Notice**

Turkey-Quitauque ISD is providing notice to parents, families, and the community regarding back-to-school plans and instruction through this initial document. As further required, at least one week prior to the start of school, a plan to mitigate COVID-19 will be disseminated to all families and posted on the district website.

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

**COVID-19 Response Team** - The Turkey-Quitauque ISD has developed a COVID-19 Response Team to respond to concerns and communicate district decisions.

Members of the team and email addresses are noted below:

Jackie Jenkins	Superintendent/Counselor	<a href="mailto:jjenkins@valleypatriots.com">jjenkins@valleypatriots.com</a>
Brandon Smith	Principal	<a href="mailto:bsmith@valleypatriots.com">bsmith@valleypatriots.com</a>
John Stanaland	A. D. /Coach/Teacher	<a href="mailto:jstanaland@valleypatriots.com">jstanaland@valleypatriots.com</a>
Garrett Watson	Director of SPED	<a href="mailto:gwatson@valleypatriots.com">gwatson@valleypatriots.com</a>
Shadi Buchanan	Technology Director	<a href="mailto:sbuchanan@valleypatriots.com">sbuchanan@valleypatriots.com</a>
Kayla Guest	Community Member	<a href="mailto:kguestfarms@gmail.com">kguestfarms@gmail.com</a>

### **TEA Requirements: Prevent and Mitigate**

Turkey-Quitauque ISD (Valley School) must identify and implement practices to prevent the virus from entering the school and mitigate or reduce the potential spread inside the school; therefore, district practices and guidelines have been established for various areas noted below:

On July 12, 2021, the TQISD Board of Trustee voted unanimously to modify the TEA mask policy, as follows: Due to Governor Abbott's action to rescind the mask

mandate, mask requirements for TQISD students and employee(s) are now optional. TQISD will continue to require students and faculty to self-monitor for symptoms related to COVID.

## **Maintenance of Health and Safety Guidance**

### **Social and Emotional Well-Being—**

Students' social and emotional well-being are a top priority. Together, schools and families can support your child during this challenging time. With the endless COVID coverage, it is natural for your child to experience some changes in behavior and mood. Counselors and staff will continue to work closely with families and students to ease the stress. Keeping routines predictable, sharing COVID facts that are age-appropriate, making time to listen and share feelings, and reaching out to us for support and all important. We are here for you and your child(ren).

### **Screening Protocols:**

- Staff, students and visitors will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the school
- Parents will conduct daily screening of their children prior to school arrival.

### **○ Screening Protocols**

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Loss of taste and smell
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills

- Sore throat
  - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
  - New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students/ staff with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough baseline)
  - Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
  - Significant muscle pain or ache
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the front office if symptoms are present.
  - Any staff/students who have been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, will remain off campus for 7-10 days unless the staff/student has been vaccinated.
  - Any staff/students who have a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or who is awaiting their own test results, must remain off campus until test results are received unless the staff/student has been vaccinated.
  - Students who meet the definition of close contact and have not been vaccinated will move to remote learning until the conditions in the “Return to School” section are met.
    1. At least two days (48 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications.
    2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
    3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms appeared.

**ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO PRESENT WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WILL BE SEPARATED AND SENT HOME.**

**Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

- Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of staff and students.
- Alcohol-based sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, classrooms, cafeteria, common areas, school vehicles, hallways and offices
- Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will also be incorporated in the daily schedules.

**Daily Campus Cleaning:**

- Frequent cleaning and disinfection will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff
- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- Cleaning clothes will be changed for each classroom and common area to maximize room to room cleanliness
- Staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.

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

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, quaternary disinfectant, which is recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19, will be used to defog and disinfect

- Custodial staff will defog/disinfect all areas in campus buildings

### **Continuity of Educational Services:**

#### **Instructional Delivery Format - Educational Considerations**

##### **Face-to-Face and Remote Learning**

TQISD will be implementing instructional practices that provide consistency across learning environments and ensure the safety of students and staff. We are committed to ensuring that all students have an equitable experience and access to high-quality instruction.

##### **Face-to-Face Instruction**

Students attend school in the traditional manner. The goal for TQISD students is to have all students attend school Face-to-Face. Valley School is taking multiple precautions to protect both students and faculty. Parents will no longer have the option to have their child(ren) attend school by either Face-to-Face or Remotely.

All students will be required to attend school Face-to-Face. The student comes to campus, meets with the TQISD teachers, and follows a traditional school schedule. In-person attendance is taken and the student is expected to complete assignments and assessments which will be graded according to the TQISD grading regulation

- **In a RARE event, a student with a recommendation by a physician will be allowed to attend virtually for a period of time.**

##### **Considerations of Face-to-Face Learning**

- Students will have access to their teacher and to the instruction during the normal school hours.

- Should a student become ill, he/she will be allowed to return to in-person activities as soon as he/she follows medical protocol and is cleared to return to school.
- During a medically related extended absence the student will have the opportunity to continue his/her classwork in the remote learning venue.

**Considerations for Remote Learning (on RARE occasions, remote will be designated exclusively by school administration)**

- Students participating in instruction via remote/virtual learning are expected to complete and submit assignments as communicated by the remote/virtual learning teacher(s).
- Students must have a robust Internet connection at home in order to participate in remote learning (3+ Mbps recommended). TQISD will NOT supply Internet connections for student residences.
- Each student must have his/her own device.

In both models, the campus must provide instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the required grade level/subject/course. Monitoring student learning and progress remains integral to the success of the students. This includes attendance, grades, formative/summative assessments, and other monitoring systems that help teachers know how students are making progress.

In the event that Remote instruction is allowed, the instruction will be delivered through the asynchronous instruction that DOES NOT require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. TQISD will structure the students' learning schedule to require students to participate in asynchronous learning. Lines of communication between the student, parents, and teachers will be open.

Instruction appropriately focuses on student progress on standards and the continuation of learning. During any periods of school closure and virtual instruction, students may receive instruction in the in the following ways (but not limited to):

- Authentic student work/assignments with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard
- Hands-on activities which may need an extra pair of “at home” hands
- Choice boards and playlists
- Instructional activities with Google Classroom
- Portfolio tasks and turning in os assignments
- Assessments
- Video Lessons
- Project based learning/assignments
- Group/partner projects
- Google Classroom assignment

### **TQISD expectations for Remote learning:**

#### **Attendance and Enrollment**

As per Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. Students will attend school according to the board adopted school calendar. In order to maintain attendance and grades for credit, remote asynchronous instruction will be made available to students in the event of intermittent closure or student illness.

#### **Grading**

Assignments and assessments issued in remote learning and inperson learning will be for a grade. In the same way as in-person learning, failing grades in remote learning could effect your student’s graduation plan, endorsements, CTE certifications, credits earned, and/or promotion to the next grade. In order to



## **Common Misconceptions of Remote Instruction:**

<p><b>It will be just like last spring. Students can choose activities and don't have to work every day.</b></p>	<p>Remote instruction will be very different than last Spring. The lessons and assignments will be much harder and will count for a grade. The student will have to do the lessons and assignments every day during normal school hours.</p>
<p><b>The school will give us a device and internet connection.</b></p>	<p>Students will need their own device. Students will have to have their own high-speed Internet access. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, remote students will not be allowed on school property while in-person students are present to access the school's internet connection.</p>
<p><b>It's just like homeschooling.</b></p>	<p>In homeschooling, parents are responsible for curriculum, assignments, and grade. In TQISD remote instruction, the school will provide lessons, assignments and will also grade the work. Students must pass the class to advance to the next level or to graduate.</p>
<p><b>In remote learning, I don't have to work every day or I can do the work at night.</b></p>	<p>Anyone with experience in learning at home will agree that a parent or guardian will need to be constantly present with the student for guidance, help, and motivation. If the parent/guardian does not stay with the child to keep him/her on task and ensure they have help, then the student's grades will suffer, which could lead to failing the grade level or classes. Access to the teacher for assistance will be very limited and will not be enough by itself to ensure the student's success.</p>
<p><b>Remote instruction is the only way to keep my child safe.</b></p>	<p>While we are sympathetic to the COVID-19 concerns, Turkey-Quitaque ISD is taking exceptional steps to keep students safe during this crisis. Included in the steps are redoubling cleaning and disinfecting, spraying everything in our building with Germinator, hand-sanitizing stations and health screenings upon entry. We understand that this will not guarantee that students will not contract the Coronavirus, but these steps (as well as many others) are being taken to keep students as safe as possible.</p>

receive the correct credit for their work, students must submit all assignments to the teacher through Google Classroom.

## **Prevention**

### **Screening for COVID-19 Before Campus Access**

Turkey-Quitaque ISD's teachers and staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 before coming onto campus each day.

Teachers and staff must report to the district if they:

- \* have COVID-19 symptoms, or
- \* are lab confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the teacher/staff member must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

If a teacher or staff member has been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

**Parents** must ensure they do not send a student to school if the student:

- \* has COVID-19 symptoms, or
- \* is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the parent should opt to receive asynchronous instruction (remote learning) until the student meets the criteria for re-entry. If the student has had close contact with an individual who is labconfirmed with COVID-19, parents may also opt to have the student receive asynchronous instruction (remote learning) until the 14 day incubation period has passed.

**Visitors** must be screened by the District before being allowed onto campuses to determine if the visitor:

- \* has COVID-19 symptoms, or
- \* is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the visitor must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

If a visitor has been in close contact with an individual who is labconfirmed with COVID-19, they must remain off campus until the 14- day incubation period has passed.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will be limiting visitors and people coming in the building from the outside to only those with educational purposes in order to reduce the chance of COVID exposure.

### **Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19**

Any individuals who themselves are either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experience symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the District 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 one day (24 hours) has 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:

- \*obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or

- \*obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

### **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will immediately separate any student, teacher, or staff member who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will disinfect all areas of District's facilities daily and will disinfect areas used by individuals who show COVID-19 symptoms as soon as possible.

### **Response**

If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, Turkey-Quitauque ISD will notify the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will close off areas heavily used by an individual with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 until the non-porous surfaces can be disinfected.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases and legal confidentiality requirements, Turkey-Quitauque ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students at Turkey-Quitauque ISD if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will make hand sanitizer available to all students and staff in several locations throughout the District.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will provide instruction to students on proper hygiene practices.

### **Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks**

Turkey-Quitauque ISD is required to comply with Governor Abbott's Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks. Based on the Governor's Executive Order issued on July 2, 2020, if a county has less than 20 active lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, residents are not required to wear masks. Since our county has less than 20 active, confirmed COVID-19 cases, Turkey-Quitauque ISD students, teachers, staff, and visitors are not required to wear masks at this time.

### **Student-Teacher Groupings**

Social distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

### **Use of Non-Classroom Spaces**

When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), students will gather outside.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will plan entry, exit, and transition procedures to reduce large group gatherings in close proximity.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will follow U.I.L. guidelines regarding extracurricular activities.

### **Transportation**

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will make hand sanitizer available on all buses and will sanitize buses after each trip.

### **Staffing**

Turkey-Quitauque ISD employees must continue to meet the work expectations set by the District subject to any applicable employment contract terms.

### **Review Dates:**

January 19, 2022

July 20, 2022

January 18, 2023

July 19, 2023

January 17, 2024

July 17, 2024

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will review this Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan at a minimum of every 6 months. Any revisions to the plan will address each aspect of **safety** currently recommended by the CDC.