

# Zephyr ISD FAQ 2020-2021

Dear Parents,

I know that each of you have several questions about the upcoming school year, and many of them are the same as mine as a parent. I have put this together to try to answer some of the frequently asked questions pertaining to the reopening of school. We are excited to see your children again and are working to the best of our ability to provide the best situation possible for them in every aspect.

## **Is my child required to wear a mask?**

If they are 4<sup>th</sup> grade or above they are required to wear a mask per Governor's orders. There will be some 4<sup>th</sup> graders that are below 10, but to keep the consistency per grade level all 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be treated the same and required to wear a mask. They are not required to wear one:

- When they are outdoors and can maintain social distancing
- When actively participating in extracurricular events
- While eating lunch or breakfast
- When in smaller classes where social distancing is possible, if allowed by the teacher
- When there is a condition or disability

The District will have mask and face shields available for students that would like/need one if they do not have one. We have ordered screen printed masks for students, but they may be on backorder.

## **Can visitors come to school?**

No, we are not allowing visitors at this time for lunches or random visits. If there is a meeting that is not virtual, such as parent meeting or ARD, we will but there will be a screening process at the front office, which may require a temperature check.

## **What is difference in the cafeteria this year?**

- We are going to use the cafeteria, classroom next to cafeteria, and outdoor tables to space the students and staff out for lunches.

- Students cannot get their own water at lunch, so we will hand them a glass or they can bring a translucent/clear bottle to lunch.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture is not allowing microwaves in the cafeteria.
- During breakfast, JH will be allowed to eat outside the cafeteria in the foyer of the new gym, and HS will be allowed to take theirs to the old gym to allow more room for the elementary.
- If we allow elementary students to go to the playground after breakfast, it will be one grade level per day and they will be required to wear a mask.
- Kids can be dropped off at the cafeteria, starting at 6:30 but will be required to stay in a specific seat and maintain social distance.

**Can we attend ballgames/extracurricular events, and if so what are the restrictions?**

Yes, you can attend the games. The UIL has stated that all attendees must wear a mask and to try to limit the seating to 50% of the capacity to promote social distancing. With that being said, the Districts are handing out tickets for entry into the events so that you can enter. You will need to ask your child, or call the District to get your ticket so you can enter the facility on the game night. I believe that we will have plenty for home games, but some road games, depending on the facility, may get tight. You can call the school at 325-739-5331 ext. 102 to see about the tickets if you would like.

**Will there be temperature checks every morning?**

No, for students there are not temperature checks, but you are required to self-screen your child before sending them to school. If they are ill, please keep them home and call the main office to make arrangements for off-campus instruction. Our staff is required to do temperature checks on themselves and self-assess daily.

There will be a contactless infrared thermometer in every building so that teachers can administer a temperature check on your child quickly, and without contact if they start to feel ill.

**If my child is sick, do they have to stay home the entire 14-day incubation period?**

Students may return to school before the 14 day incubation period, if you take them to your pediatrician and they diagnose them with another illness; or, if you have a screening done and they are negative for COVID-19.

### **What is the protocol I need to follow if my child tests positive for COVID-19?**

First, contact the school District and notify them so they can let the Health Department and parents know there is a confirmed case.

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:

- i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

### **What will at home learning look like this year?**

- Students will need to access Google Classroom.
- Students will need to be logged in and/or engaged on a daily basis.
- Assignments will need to be turned in digitally or in person on a daily basis.
- The grading policy will remain the same regardless of where instruction is received.
- All students will need to have access to be able to participate via ZOOM teleconference throughout the day.
- JH and HS students may be expected to connect via a ZOOM meeting for each of their eight classes.

### **When can at home learning be utilized?**

There are several scenarios:

- If you choose to stay at home because of COVID-19 concerns
  - Please fill out this survey so we can plan accordingly. [Instructional Delivery Survey](#)
- If your child is feeling sick and needs to stay home
  - Please call the office at 325-739-5331 ext. 104, to let them know so we can make the teacher aware and they can get their assignments online; if they complete them online while at home we can give them credit for attendance.
- If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test
  - Please contact the school District and notify them so they can let the Health Department know there is a confirmed case.

**What is the process I need to follow if I need to pick my child up early/ or they start feeling sick?**

- If you need to pick them up early, please call the main office at 325-739-5331 ext. 104, or ext. 102 if there is no answer, and make arrangements prior to your arrival. Once you are in front of the main HS (rock building), call the office and they will escort your child out of the building.
- If your child is feeling ill, we will have your child in the administration building, building B. This is the room we are using for the quarantine room to mitigate the possible spread of the virus if there is a positive case. We ask that you try to the best of your ability to come within 30 minutes of being contacted.

**What is close contact according to the school policy?**

Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b) being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; 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.

**Will my child be allowed to attend recess?**

We are planning to allow a small break for recess, which we will schedule so there are not multiple classes on the playground or field at the same time.

We will try to have PE outdoors and will social distance as much as possible.

**Will there be parties, pep rallies, or other events like Fall Fest?**

At this time, and it may change later, we are not planning to have anything outside of the normal school day other than UIL sanctioned activities. We will not have pep rallies, but we do plan to have the “theme days” on Fridays. We do not see a way to have Fall Fest effectively with the current restrictions from the governor and TEA.

### **What will it be like on the bus?**

We are going to:

- have hand sanitizer dispensers mounted on each bus for entry
- require mask for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above, and the driver
- attempt to load back to front, and unload front to back
- have windows down when possible for ventilation
- disinfect after each route
- seat them by household to the extent possible

### **What will be required for my child to get credit in their class compared to last Spring?**

In the Spring TEA waived the 90% attendance required to get credit for a class. So, there was not any summer school to make up lost time for students that did not log on enough to meet the requirement. **This year TEA is enforcing the 90% rule for all students.** If your child does not log on to complete assignments or zoom with the teacher they will be counted absent, which will run the risk of attending summer school or repeating the class. **The rules will be very strictly enforced this school year.**

### **Are there any other major differences?**

We are planning to leave student books in the classrooms, or if needed for homework, take them home in their backpacks. In order to reduce the traffic in the main hallways of the HS, we do not plan to utilize lockers. If you need help acquiring a backpack please let us know and we will do our best to help you out.

### **What are the red lights by the doors?**

(This was in the works prior to COVID-19)

We purchased a locking door system for the upcoming school year. It is not fully operational yet, but should be soon. The students and staff will have ID cards they can swipe on the door so they can get into the buildings. This will log who goes in and out and will allow us to leave all doors locked during the school day.

The main entrance on the HS building (rock building) has a camera that visitors can buzz into the main office. At that point, the Principal's secretary can push a button to allow entrance. With the current situation, even if you buzz the door, we may talk to you through the monitor and send your child out of the door. This will be a great system for us, but please be patient as we continue with our set up.

## How will we get notices about updates?

We will send them out through our school Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/zephyrbulldogs>), Remind messages, and on our website at [www.zephyrisd.net](http://www.zephyrisd.net). If you are not on our Remind messages you can get on them by:

- a. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to: [rmd.at/zephyr](http://rmd.at/zephyr) ; follow the instructions to sign up for remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.
- b. If you don't have a smartphone, you can still get text notifications. Text the message @zephyr to the number 81010. If you are having trouble with 81010, try texting @zephyr to 325-455-8993.
- c. We are also in the process of building a school app. Along with this app, we will be switching to a new notification system called School Messenger. Once everything is up and running we will let everyone know how to access the app.