July 15, 2020

Dear Pearland ISD Families,

Our Pearland family of educators, as well as our peers throughout the United States, are preparing for an entirely new educational era, necessitated by the current pandemic. We see these new realities as both a health/safety challenge and an opportunity to advance student learning through emerging technological capabilities.

Texas has thus far directed school districts to prepare both of the following, with parents choosing the option they deem best:

- On-campus learning
- Remote learning

Our first and foremost challenge is to protect student/staff health and safety while delivering instruction under both scenarios. An incredible amount of work is underway to accomplish this. Effective and accountable teacher and student interaction is critical. While we learned some sudden lessons in Spring 2020, we are now building a much more rigorous, accountable, and comprehensive educational product within the constraints imposed by pandemic realities. Such a system must be constantly monitored and improved over the course of the coming academic year. This is why we surveyed our educators and parents as we design, implement and review our progress.

Time is short. While there remains uncertainty about the trajectory of the pandemic and any resulting directives from state and regional officials, we must NOW make commitments and non-negotiable safeguards geared toward protecting our students/staff and promoting excellent instruction under unprecedented circumstances. Therefore, the following plan communicates initial decisions reached and commitments made regarding the opening of school in Fall 2020.

May God bless the efforts of our teachers, staff, parents and students!

John P. Kelly, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Student Health Protocols

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- All students will be instructed on methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at school.
- All students should practice appropriate social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- All students should regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds.
- All students will be trained on proper handwashing techniques and participate in scheduled handwashing times throughout the day.
- All students (developmentally appropriate and health exceptions) are required to use non-medical grade face coverings, covering nose and mouth. *(Updated 7/23/20)*

Employee Health Protocols

- All Pearland ISD employees will be required to complete a daily self-screening prior to coming to work.
- All employees shall know, understand and practice methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work.
- All employees must practice appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (i.e. cough/sneeze into arm, cover mouth with tissue, etc.).
- All employees shall regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds.
- All employees shall maintain recommended social distancing from others, unless intervening in an emergency where an individual's safety is compromised.
- All employees shall use, at a minimum, non-medical grade face coverings, covering nose and mouth.
Face Coverings

- Following federal, state and local mandates, the use of non-medical grade face coverings will be enforced in all Pearland ISD facilities.
- Face coverings will be required for all Pearland ISD staff.
- All students (developmentally appropriate and health exceptions) are required to use non-medical grade face coverings, covering nose and mouth. *(Updated 7/23/20)*
- Any individual coming to campus during the instructional day will be required to wear a face covering for building access.

Health and Hygiene Practices

- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility.
- Campuses will have structured times for student handwashing.
- Students and staff will be instructed in proper handwashing techniques.
- Students and staff will be trained in proper health hygiene and disease transmission prevention measures.
- Signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings, in the restrooms and at the entrances.

Building Logistics/Procedures

- All buildings will post self-screening and mitigation practices.
- Classrooms will be arranged to provide the maximum social distancing possible within the constraints presented by the facility and the functions within that classroom.
- Isolation rooms will be identified at each campus/facility.
- When permitted, student gatherings will be held outdoors.
- Large group meetings and assemblies will be limited, held outdoors when feasible and held virtually when applicable.
- Maintenance staff will monitor HVAC systems to ensure better air exchange in buildings.
- Close off shared drinking areas and adjust restroom capacity.
- Limit locker usage.
- Remove or limit soft furnishing and shared toys.
- All practices will be reviewed to promote social distancing and limit the spread of COVID-19.
Arrival/Dismissal/Transitioning

Arrival

- Multiple entry points will be established (where applicable).
- Students will report straight to classrooms whenever possible.
- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) will be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.

Dismissal

- Multiple exit points will be established (where applicable).
- Campuses will implement staggered release procedures (where applicable).
- Students will be released straight from their classroom whenever possible.

Transitioning

- Whenever possible, the transitioning of students will be limited during the school day.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Staff and signage/floor marking will be posted to reinforce physical distance expectations.
- Students will be encouraged to move directly from one class to the next without congregating in the hallway during transitions.
- Considerations will be made at all levels based on student needs.
Meal Service

All Food Services staff will use PPE while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations. **To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted. Visitors will not be allowed during breakfast/lunch times.**

Parents are encouraged to make online payments to student meal accounts in order to reduce exchange of cash at the point of service.

**Breakfast**

- Students will be seated to allow social distancing (when applicable).
- Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned as students transition.

**Lunch**

- Students will utilize the cafeteria for lunch on a limited basis.
- Students may eat in various locations throughout the building to maximize social distancing.
- Cafeteria, serving and eating areas will be cleaned between uses.

Transportation

**As a response to COVID-19, Pearland ISD encourages all families, with the ability to do so, to transport students to and from school.** Bus transportation will be offered; however, the standard number of transported students compromises the ability to socially distance. **For this reason, students utilizing bus transportation will be required to utilize face coverings.**

- Students in all grade levels will be required to complete an online transportation request form through Skyward in order to be scheduled for bus service. **Online transportation requests must be completed by August 1, 2020, in order to receive service when school begins.**
- Bus seating will be assigned for all students.
- When possible, siblings or students residing in the same household will be seated together.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus and students will use the hand sanitizer upon entry to the bus.
- All bus drivers and monitors will wear appropriate face coverings.
• All students (health exceptions) will be required to wear face coverings. Families are required to provide these for their students.
• Each bus will be sanitized between routes and Transportation staff members will be trained in proper sanitizing procedures.
• When possible, windows and roof vents will be opened while the bus is operating to increase the fresh air flow through the bus. Air conditioners will continue to be used in conjunction with the open windows.
• Bus stop locations may change from previous years in some areas to reflect the actual students who are utilizing bus service. As a result, some locations may require a student to walk a bit farther to a bus stop than in the past.
• For students choosing to use the optional bus fee service, payment may be made in full for the entire year once the fees are added in Skyward, or monthly payments may be made throughout the year. **If monthly payments are made, payments are due on the first day of each month (August through May.)** If payment is not received within 15 days, bus service will be discontinued for the student. The parent or guardian may request to have service reinstated, but it is subject to the delinquent payments being made and the availability of route service and capacity to accommodate the student.

Campus Cleaning Plan

• Campuses will be cleaned throughout the instructional day.
• Custodial staffing will be realigned to allow for ongoing cleaning of touch surfaces during the instructional day.
• Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between student transitions.
• Teachers and students will be trained on cleaning techniques.
• Cleaning products will be properly stored when not in use.

Response to Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 (Deep Cleaning)

Deep cleaning is triggered when an employee or student is identified as lab positive for COVID-19. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected by custodial staff, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
Extracurricular/Non-Academic Activities

- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.
- Students who choose the remote learning option will be able to participate in UIL and extracurricular activities. Those extracurricular and co-curricular activities which can be held in a remote environment will be done so at the discretion of the campus and sponsor. (Updated 7/20/20)
- There will be no indoor pep-rallies during the Fall semester. Outdoor pep-rallies or gatherings must be in compliance with state social distancing guidelines.
- Any student social activities (i.e. dances, celebrations) must be conducted in open air venues or limited to less than 50 participants. All such activities, regardless of location, must be in compliance with federal, state and local social distancing guidelines.
- Hand washing or hand sanitation stations must be available for any activity.
- Use of face coverings should be implemented as feasible. All employees, parents, visitors and students must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or exercising, unless an exception applies.
- Pearland ISD staff will follow the response protocol in the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
- Clubs and campus organizations are encouraged to meet virtually.
- For all UIL extracurricular activities, the district will follow all federal and state guidelines for spectators. The district reserves the right to limit spectators at its discretion to ensure social distancing and satisfy participant health and safety requirements. Elementary, Middle School and Junior High students will only be allowed to attend events with a parent/guardian. High School students may attend events without a parent but will be required to leave if they do not follow campus guidelines.
- All spectators attending an event must wear a face covering (age and health exceptions).
Visitors/Deliveries/Miscellaneous

- Pearland ISD will restrict all visitors to schools to only those essential to school operations.
- Visitors will not be allowed to visit during lunchtime.
- Excluding the parental drop-off and pick-up times, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, campus staff must screen all visitors for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Essential meetings will be done by appointment or through a virtual format.
- To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted (i.e. food, gifts, DoorDash, etc.).
- If possible, campus staff will establish a “no contact” system to allow parents/guardians to drop off essential items to students during the school day.
- Until further notice, field trips will be postponed.
- Until further notice, there will be no large student assemblies.

Response

- Pearland ISD will work with Brazoria County Health Department (BCHD) for Contact Tracing for any individual with a positive COVID-19 test.
- Each campus or facility will create an isolation room for individuals who are suspected to have COVID-19 symptoms.
- For contact tracing, the district will assume that an individual is infectious two (2) days prior to showing symptoms or two (2) days prior to an asymptomatic positive COVID-19 test.
- Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes while not wearing a mask or face shield.
## COVID-19 STUDENT SCENARIOS

### Student is either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- The student may return to campus after 10 days have passed from positive test result or symptom onset, the student has improvement in symptoms **AND** at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. *(Updated 8/24/2020)*
- Upon notification of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff and families of students who were potentially exposed.

### Student reports one or more symptoms BEFORE entry to building using screening tool

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- The student may return to campus after 10 days have passed from symptom onset with improvement in symptoms **AND** at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. *(Updated 8/24/2020)*

### Student reports experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day

- The student will be sent to the campus isolation room.
- The campus will follow the Illness Isolation Plan (plan follows).

### Student reports having prolonged close contact* with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- Student should contact their primary care physician for guidance and remain home to monitor symptoms for 14 days.

### Student reports someone in their home was exposed to someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

- Student may report to school as usual. This is not considered to be prolonged close contact as the contact is not someone who is NOT lab-confirmed.

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*To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person with the virus, being within 6 feet of a sick person with the virus for at least 15 continuous minutes without the use of a face covering or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.*
ILLNESS ISOLATION PLAN

- Any student with a temperature greater than or equal to 100° and/or showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated as a possible positive case.
- Symptomatic students will be required to apply a face covering, report to the designated isolation area, and the parent will be notified for pick-up.
- The ill student will remain isolated with assigned designated staff member to be monitored and receive medical care if needed until parent/guardian arrives for student pick-up.
- Parent/guardian will be provided with instructions regarding criteria for re-admission to in-school activities.
- A tracking system will be utilized to ensure students who are sent home ill do not return sooner than allowed by current guidelines unless medical documentation is provided stating the student is clear to return to school.
- Monitoring staff member must perform hand hygiene and wear PPE for the duration of the isolation period.
- Campus administrators will immediately notify District Health Services and will follow their guidance.
- After students and staff are removed from the isolation area, it will be sanitized using approved germicidal agents by Pearland ISD custodial staff wearing appropriate PPE.
- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities. The student may return to campus after 10 days have passed from symptom onset with improvement in symptoms, and at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. (Updated 8/24/2020)
# COVID-19 Standard Response Protocol

## Prevention

**LEVEL 1**

No confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff or students
- Health prevention measures are in place.
- Daily intensive cleaning and frequent cleaning of common areas.
- Limited visitor access.
- Monitoring virus trends in the community via health departments.

## Mitigation

**LEVEL 2**

One or more confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 at one facility
- Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be personally contacted by health experts and advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- Self-screening of symptoms, prevention information and stay home if ill communication to all persons at the school or facility.
- A short-term closure of facility may be necessary for three days.

## Modified Operations

**LEVEL 3**

Three or more confirmed COVID-19 cases in one specific area (i.e. classroom)
- Students and staff of that area will be advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Students impacted move to remote learning.
- Affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- Self-screening of symptoms, prevention information and stay home if ill reminders sent to all persons at the school or facility.
- A short-term closure of facility may be necessary for three days.

## Facility Closure

**LEVEL 4**

COVID-19 cases exceed 10% of facility occupancy
- Entire facility will be closed for a minimum of two days.
- All students and staff at this campus may return if symptom free upon determination by the school district and health authorities.
- Those in close contact of the confirmed COVID-19 positive persons will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days per CDC guidelines.
- District-wide communication to staff/parents with health monitoring guidance.

## District Closure

**LEVEL 5**

COVID-19 cases exceed 10% of occupancy in more than 10 facilities
- All Pearland ISD facilities close for a minimum of 14 days.
- Students and staff move to remote learning and work.
- Disinfection of all facilities and school buses.
- All auxiliary areas such as playgrounds and athletic fields are closed.
- Extracurricular activities are cancelled.

*Decisions are made with the best information at the time and are subject to change with limited notice.*
On-Campus Instruction

Students in Pearland ISD will have the opportunity to attend schools and receive instruction via face-to-face format for the 2020-21 school year. This scenario will include in-person instruction, as well as utilizing the district-wide Learning Management Systems (LMS), Seesaw (grades PK-4) and Canvas (grades 5 – 12) in the classroom. This will ensure that students are familiar with the virtual platform in the event we have to quickly switch to an all-online setting. On-campus instruction is highly recommended for any students who experienced difficulty or were unsuccessful in the remote online learning platform in the Spring of 2020.

Due to the nature of this pandemic, parents and educators should expect to see some campuses close for brief periods during the upcoming school year. If there are significant changes to the public health situation, there may need to be additional changes to the framework as well.

Remote Instruction

Pearland ISD will also provide instruction via online format for the 2020-21 school year. Online instruction will be offered through Remote Synchronous and/or Remote Asynchronous Instructional format. Remote online learning will be as rigorous as on-campus instruction.

- Remote Synchronous Instruction - Two-way, real-time/live virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day. Synchronous instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device.
• **Remote Asynchronous Instruction** - 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. The student is required to be engaged daily throughout the school day with work and the teacher is required to give daily feedback. Students may have set times they are required to interact virtually with the teacher.

Remote instruction will consist of the following:

- **Grades PK – 4:**
  - Remote synchronous instruction *(most core content courses)*
  - Remote asynchronous instruction
- **Grades 5 – 6:**
  - Remote synchronous instruction *(most core content courses)*
  - Remote asynchronous instruction
- **Grades 7 – 8:**
  - Remote synchronous instruction *(most core content courses)*
  - Remote asynchronous instruction *(designated elective courses, some elective courses may not be offered)*
- **Grades 9 – 12:**
  - Remote synchronous instruction *(most core content courses)*
  - Remote asynchronous instruction *(designated elective courses, some elective courses may not be offered)*

**Registration Process for Remote Instruction**

- Selection for remote instruction will be included in the registration process for Pearland ISD, which will open in Skyward on July 22.
- **Deadline for remote instruction selection MUST be completed by August 5.**
- Remote instruction selection is a nine-week grading period commitment.
Technology and Equipment

Remote instruction in the 2020-21 school year in Pearland ISD will look vastly different from remote instruction during the Spring semester closure. Students must have access to the following:

- Broadband Internet access
- Updated iPads are preferred for Grades PK-1
- Laptop or desktop computer for use during each school day, touchscreen laptop preferred. (Monday-Friday)
- Access to a microphone and camera on the device
- Please check the district website for device specifications

Specialized Programs

Students in specialized programs including but not limited to, Special Education, Section 504, Dyslexia, ELL, Dual Language, GT, CTE or Dual Credit will receive information related to their program once individualized plans are finalized. Individual education plans, accommodations and modifications will be followed in on-campus and remote learning settings.

Student Expectations and Agreements

- The student will participate daily in all required coursework and remote lessons during normal school hours.
- The student must have passing grades at the end of each grading period. Failure to have passing grades could result in enrollment in on-campus learning at their assigned school.
- The student will participate in all tutoring sessions and videoconferencing required by the teachers.
- For accelerated and advanced high school courses and many CTE courses, students may be required to report to a designated campus on assigned days and times to take assessments or demonstrate hands-on skill proficiency of units of study.
- Students participating in remote instruction will be allowed to participate in Extracurricular or UIL activities. (Updated 7/20/20)
- Selection for remote instruction is a nine-week grading period commitment.
Attendance

Students are required to attend at least 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Type</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus</td>
<td>Follows required campus attendance procedures</td>
<td>Student must be physically present at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote - Synchronous</td>
<td>Teachers will take attendance daily during live instruction</td>
<td>Student will earn attendance by logging in at the teacher’s documented official attendance time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote - Asynchronous</td>
<td>Teachers will take attendance based on student daily engagement measures</td>
<td>Student will earn attendance through engagement – daily progress in the LMS, daily progress via teacher-student interaction or completion/submission of assignments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any student who has selected on-campus instruction and is absent from school may be required to participate in asynchronous instructional activities.

Grading

Grades received in a remote instructional format will follow the same grading guidelines as on-campus instruction. See student handbook for details. Teachers and staff will receive additional support and guidance on effective grading practices to ensure that grades are valid and reliable for all students.
Parent Expectations and Agreements

The success of online remote learning relies on a true partnership between school, parents and student learners. Parents must support the partnership and success of students by agreeing to the expectations below, which include, but are not limited to:

- Have a parent or an adult home with PK-4 grade students who will facilitate learning during the scheduled school day.
- Accept the role of a “learning coach.” The commitment of the learning coach will vary based on the age and needs of each student and encourages independent task completion.
- Support your student’s health and well-being by encouraging time for physical activity, conversation and play.
- Be mindful of your student’s stress and/or worry and provide opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions both individually and as a family.
- Ensure that the student has reliable internet access.
- Provide a suitable study space with minimal distractions.
- Provide each student in the household access to a grade level appropriate device.
- Support your student to manage their time to meet all relevant deadlines.
- Establish positive routines by setting clear guidelines, study times and break times/mealtimes based upon their required remote school schedule.
- Set up and access your student’s Learning Management System and Skyward to monitor grades and assignments.
- Provide transportation for your student if required by the teacher to complete on-campus assessments or activities.
- Contact the student’s teacher with any questions.
Information in this document is subject to change based on updates based on guidance from local, state and federal health officials, as well as the Texas Education Agency.

**PEARLAND ISD PLEDGE #3: STUDENT AND STAFF SUPPORT**

Pearland ISD is dedicated to providing academic, social and emotional support to students and staff to help build resiliency skills.

**Counselor Support Information:** School counselors will focus on prevention, intervention and postvention activities. Students will have opportunities to participate in individual and group counseling. Community resources will be available to share with students, parents and staff.

**Outreach Support Information:** The Outreach/Attendance department provides a district-wide approach to engage students to stay in school and to improve and maintain the district’s attendance and graduation rates. Collaboration occurs between district staff and outside personnel to provide counseling and intervention strategies. We will provide assistance in removing all barriers for students through community support and guidance.

**Social and Emotional Needs for Students and Staff**

Along with the implementation of several health and safety protocols to address student and employee needs, Pearland ISD will also address the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

**Plans include:**

- Provide professional learning opportunities on social/emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed classrooms.
- Provide in-class instructional opportunities on social/emotional learning, following specific SEL competencies (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making).
- Provide resources for parents to use with their student to help prepare for the return to school.
- Provide resources for student mental health concerns for students learning remotely.
- Adjust curriculum to support digital and social milestones.
- Leverage and make available community resources for mental health supports for students and employees.
- Encourage employees to utilize the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for additional counseling support.
• Home and/or virtual visits to provide academic, social and emotional support to students.
• Work closely with campus attendance clerks/registrars and administration to monitor student academic engagement.
• Liaison provides intervention support to remove barriers for unforeseen circumstances.

In Closing

We hope this information answers many of your questions. Information regarding COVID-19 is fluid and constantly changing and we will make adjustments accordingly, with guidance from local, state and federal health authorities, as well as the Texas Education Agency.

Pearland ISD will support families in the decisions they feel are best for their children, and we will support our employees in navigating the next steps in the Plan to Proceed for Pearland ISD. We sincerely appreciate the patience and grace you have extended us as we work through these unprecedented times.

We will share further details and plans as they are developed. Should you have any questions regarding the information in this document, please contact the Pearland ISD Virgil Gant Education Support Center at 281.485.3203.