

Rice ISD Safe Return-To-School Plan

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Rice ISD's Safe Return-to-School plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Rice and Navarro County.

Please know that Rice ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

Health and Safety Measure

Infection Control Measures

- **Schools will abide by any Governor Order regarding face coverings and at this time everyone age 10 or older would be required to wear a face covering for much of the school day.**
- If the Governor's Order ceases, students and staff will be highly encouraged to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain social distance as well as in hallways and common areas and during arrival and dismissal. Face coverings include cloth masks, gaiters, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth.
 - Please note that if the number of cases in Rice and other data points increase past a certain threshold, regardless of a Governor's Order, face coverings may be required in the future
 - It is important to note that if students or staff come into "close contact" with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, **they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days if they were not wearing a face covering.**
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be encouraged at all times, including 12 feet between cohort groups where possible (PreK-4th)
 - It is important to note that under any scenario where most students are allowed to attend every day, that 6 feet of social distancing will not be possible as there is not enough square footage in our classrooms or campuses with most students attending daily.
- Water fountains will be available for filling of water containers only
- Staff will work to try to maintain social distancing at restrooms where possible **See note above about the feasibility of this with all/most students attending school*
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE will be provided as needed to staff and students
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands

- Students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. Elementary students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess. All secondary students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

Health Screenings

- Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present
- Visitors required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building **See Visitor section for more information*
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation where appropriate

Campus Operations

- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces
- Campuses will open multiple entrance/exit points during arrival/dismissal to promote social distancing
- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day as well as other events
- Visual aids will be used to illustrate appropriate spacing and traffic flow throughout the building
- Mixing between cohort groups will be limited as much as possible (PreK-4th). **This may not be possible for the entire day as multiple classes join together for specials like PE.*
- Restrooms will continue to be disinfected daily / Classrooms will have surfaces disinfected daily
- Plexiglass will be installed in high-traffic public areas (reception desks, cafeteria cashiers, etc.)
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transitions to reduce high-touch areas
- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established
- Lockers will not be utilized in order to discourage group gatherings and maintain hallway traffic
- Custodians will wear face coverings and gloves during work hours

- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, etc.), including how to sanitize between use. Hand sanitizer will be available in all common areas.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.
- **Learning Environments**
- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly
- To support contact tracing, students will have assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the classroom teacher
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies where possible
 - All students (Pre-K-12) will be issued an individual device (Google Tablet for Pre-K-2 / Chromebook 3-12) to reduce sharing of devices
 - Students will use their own art supplies
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain at least 12 feet of social distance between other classroom groups

Breakfast / Lunch

- Cafeteria staff will wear face coverings and gloves and will follow all health & safety protocols
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink
- Meals will be in disposable packaging and condiments and pre-wrapped silverware to be included with all meals
- “Grab and go” meals for breakfast may be utilized to lower numbers in the cafeterias
- Lunch tables will be spread out across cafeterias to maximize space between groups
- Where possible, cohorts will be grouped together to eat lunch with 12 feet of space in between cohorts
- Plexiglass shields will be used at cashier counters
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches

Transportation

- Ridership will remain at typical district capacity
- Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily as it is the safest means of transportation due to COVID-19
- Under the Governor’s Order, face coverings are required of all riders. Once the Governor’s Orders cease, face coverings are highly encouraged. Please note that **if your child does not wear a face covering and there is a positive case, they may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.**
- To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver

- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading

- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation where appropriate

Visitors

- Visitors will be restricted for those essential to school operations. We will not allow non-emergency drop-offs...i.e. snacks, lunch, instruments, Sonic, etc. Parents will not be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch at the school until further notice.
- All visitors who enter the building are required to wear a face covering
- Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible
 - Social distancing is encouraged for all meetings that are not able to be virtual
- Any visitor who needs to go beyond the front office will be subject to a health screening
 - Visitors are required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building
 - Any visitor who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed

Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19

- If a student or staff member have displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home
 - If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the cohort will be located to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected
- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system 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 three days (72 hours) have 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 (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>
- **Students or staff who come into close contact** (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes **while not wearing a face covering**) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and should contact the school for meeting the **Return to School Criteria**
- District communication will be provided to the staff and students who came in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 **See Notification Procedures below*
- RISD will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive. In the event that this cannot be done before the start of the next school day, RISD may need to close for a day to complete this process if relocating students is not an option.
- Any student requiring quarantine will transition to Remote Learning for the period of self-isolation

Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Students or staff who present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present: staff member will be sent home, and student will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until parent arrives
- Nurse will notify campus administrator to move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected
- Student will be escorted to vehicle upon parent arrival
- Nurse will provide parent/staff with **Return to School Criteria**
- Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted

Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities. If you were determined to have had close contact you will be individually contacted

- Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine who came into close contact with
- Close contact is defined as:
 - being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
 - being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield

Example: A RES student tests positive in the third grade. All RES parents are notified that a student has tested positive at the campus. Through contact tracing, RISD determines who has been in “close contact” and contacts those families to determine next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation depending on if face coverings were worn and degree of contact).

Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 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

Definition of “Close Contact”

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. 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 while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, **while not wearing a mask or face shield**; 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.

Return To School Criteria

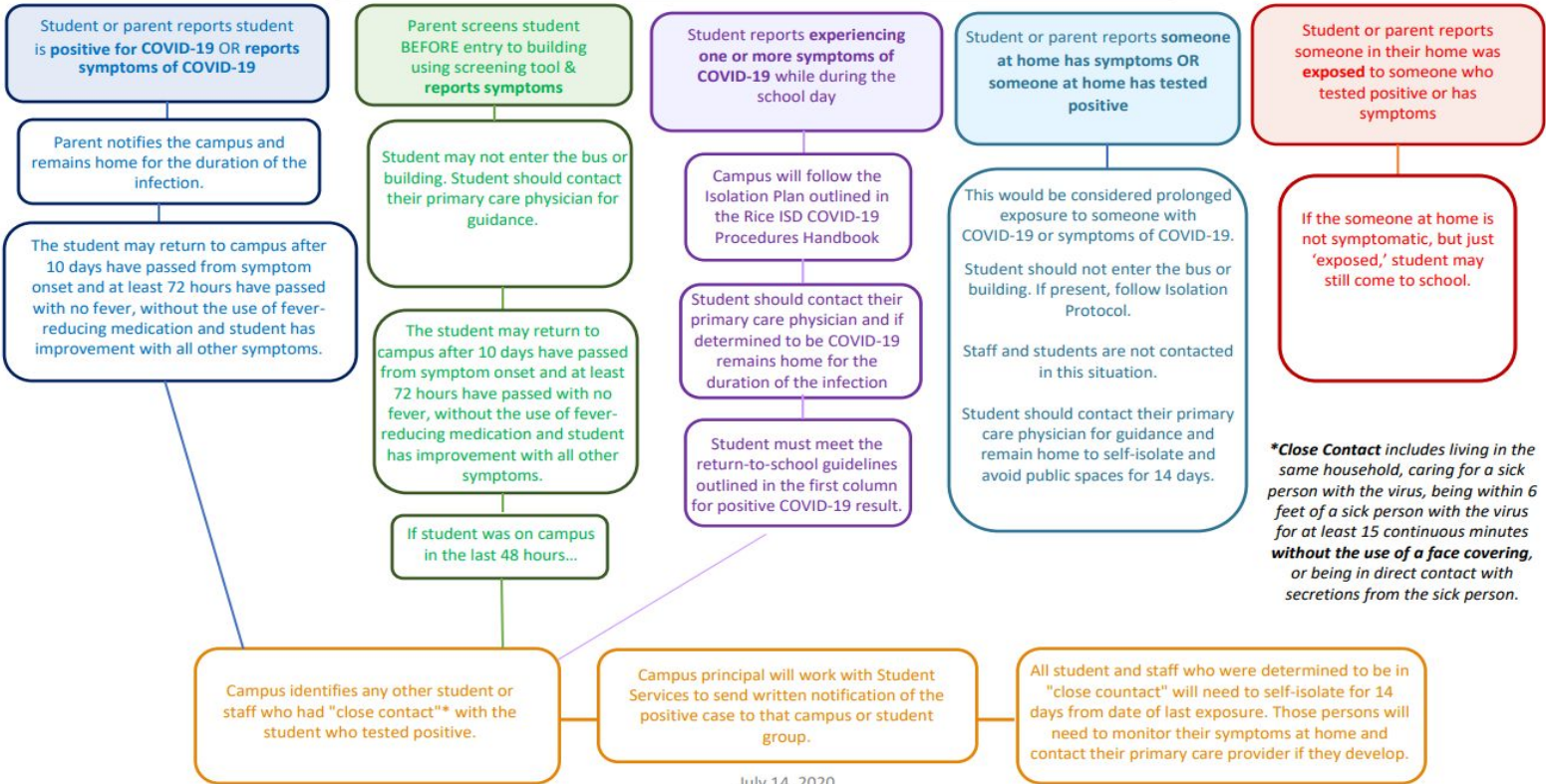
Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system 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 three days (72 hours) have 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 (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Please see COVID-19 Process Maps for specific information related to students.

Rice ISD Student Process Map for COVID-19



July 14, 2020

Instructional Delivery Models

Providing a high-quality education through two instructional delivery models:

- In-Person Learning (Traditional Classroom Experience)
- At-Home Learning (Virtual Learning Experience)

Parents will be asked to **commit to one of these two learning environments prior to July 27th**. Once the school year begins, parents will need to wait until the end of each 9 weeks to transition to a different learning environment.

In-Person Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to face learning on campus all day, every day
- Students in grades 2-12 will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same
- Implementation of preventive safety measures
- **School Day & School Calendar:** TEA has given schools flexibility the first three weeks of school for schools to slowly transition back to face-to-face learning. Rice ISD will use this flexibility by bringing back only ½ of the students on August 26th, the other ½ of students on August 27th, and all students on August 28th. This will allow our teachers to teach health & safety protocols in small groups and also teach all learners how to access remote learning at home, in the event that any students or campuses have to transition to remote learning.
 - **August 26th:** All PK-12th grade students, A-L
 - **August 27th:** All PK-12th grade students, M-Z
 - **August 28th:** All RISD students attend
- **Possible Future Change:** One of the biggest challenges for small school districts is that there may not be enough remote learners to have a stand-alone teacher to serve those students. Designing and supporting remote learning takes extraordinary time and effort from our teachers. We are exploring all options on how best to do this, but we are also petitioning the state to allow flexibility with in-person instructional minutes to allow dedicated time for designing and supporting remote learning.
 - What this means: Our in-person learning schedule is subject to change to allocate time for our teachers to support remote learners. For example, we may shorten the school day to allow teachers more time to design remote learning content or we may designate one full day for remote learning only for everyone. **We are not currently allowed to make these changes as it would not meet the state's requirement in instructional minutes or offering on-campus instruction 5 days a week. **We will keep you posted if this changes.***

- Once a student chooses In-Person instruction as their learning environment, they must remain in-person for the 9-wks grading period before they're able to make a change in their learning environment.

At-Home (Online) Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities on our Remote Learning Platforms
- Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required (each day students will have to show "engagement" in order to be marked present in the form of submitting work, interacting with teachers on progress of content or in engagement on our online learning platform)
- The schedule will reflect short periods of synchronous learning scheduled throughout the week followed by time for independent, asynchronous learning activities.
- Students will have to demonstrate engagement all 5 days each week (via synchronous meetings with the teacher, progress in online activities or submission of work)
- A care-giver will need to be available to support younger students in navigating the daily schedule and providing assistance with the learning as needed. Staff will be available throughout regular school hours each day to assist at-home students and parents. Assistance and contact are expected to be done during regular hours.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same
- Instruction provided by Rice ISD teachers
 - There is a possibility that we will partner with a 3rd party vendor to provide remote instruction for our secondary courses.
- Some high school electives may only be available in an In-Person format and remote learners would have to travel to campus for those courses (transportation not provided)
- Some high school courses may require remote learners to come on campus to demonstrate certain skills.
- **Remote Learners will be able to participate in extracurricular activities**, both during the school day and before/after school. Transportation will not be provided.
- Once a student chooses At-Home (remote) learning, they must remain online for the 9-wks grading period before they're able to make a change in their learning environment.
- Accommodations and support services will be provided to all remote learners
- In the event that students participating in In-Person Learning are required to quarantine, the education of these students will continue through At-Home Learning for the duration of the quarantine period

- Sufficient internet connection is required
- District computer device provided

Online Learning Management System

- PK-8: RISD will continue to use the Remote Learning Platform on Google Classroom to house its learning activities. Each grade level will have a weekly assignment chart that outlines the learning material and activities. Students will submit work primarily through Google Classroom in all grades
 - There is a possibility that we will partner with a 3rd party vendor to provide remote instruction for our secondary courses.
- All At-Home learners will use Google Meets to connect with their teacher and other students
- Teachers will provide training to students on how to use these digital tools
- Resources will also be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools

Technology

- All Pre-K-12 students will check out a device for the 2020-21 school year to assist with In-Person and At-Home learning
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Social Emotional and Mental Health Support Systems

Addressing the mental health and social-emotional development of all students, staff and community by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports
- Other key systems and supports

Social Emotional Learning

- Social Emotional Learning lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure will be developed for all campuses
- Counseling support will be accessible to both In-Person and At-Home learners

Family Support

- Families will be provided information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness
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Parent Communication

Providing families with clear and concise communication through the following outbound channels:

- Email / Text Messages
- Social Media
- Website
- District Newsletters

Communication Tools and Channels

- Parents will receive emails from Rice ISD, sent through the School Messenger system. Email addresses will be collected from TXEIS Student Information System
 - Information about Back to School 2020 will be posted on the Rice ISD website. The website will include:
 - Health and safety protocols
 - Information on both in-person and at-home learning
 - Campuses will share campus-specific information with parents via email, newsletters, and other campus communication tools
 - Regular updates will be posted on Rice ISD's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter).
 - At-Home learning support offered to parents through consistent communication
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Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year and we will keep all parents informed if conditions change.

FAQ's

1. Will health and safety training be provided for all staff and students?

Yes. All staff members will receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. All students will receive instruction on health protocols related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

2. How many students will be assigned to each classroom?

Rice ISD will follow TEA guidelines for class size. At this time, the class size requirements are the same as a regular school year. The maximum number of students per class varies by grade level and also varies by class at the secondary level. If all students are attending school each day, class counts will remain the same and social distancing will not be possible.

3. Will cafeterias be open and will school lunches be served?

Cafeterias will be open to serve breakfast and lunch daily. The physical setup for the cafeteria and the schedule will be adjusted to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Each campus cafeteria space will be evaluated to ensure social distancing. Some students will be eating in the cafeteria, spaced according to the recommended guidelines, and other students may eat in the classroom if necessary. All school meals will be served by employees. Safety and health measures will be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions.

4. Will bus transportation be provided for qualified students?

Yes, transportation will continue to be provided for all who qualify. Parents are encouraged to provide their own transportation

5. How will seating arrangements be determined on school buses?

Ridership will remain at typical district capacity. To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver. The bus driver and students will be highly recommended and encouraged to wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer provided when boarding and exiting the bus. Rice ISD will comply with all health and safety recommendations established by the Governor, the health department, and the Texas Education Agency. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Safety and health measures may be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions.

6. How will social distancing be promoted in cafeterias, gyms, restrooms, and other commons areas?

Signage reminding students and staff about social distancing, handwashing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school.

Elementary classrooms will be assigned specific bathrooms, breakfast, lunch, and gym access times to reduce the number of students in any given area as much as possible.

Secondary students will be encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines.

7. What precautions will be in place for athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities?

Safety guidelines are being developed for conducting all on-campus workouts, rehearsals, and practices. The district will continue to follow all guidelines provided by UIL, TEA, and the state. These safety guidelines will be published as soon as they become available.

8. Will students have recess or the ability to play and socialize with other students?

Elementary campuses will limit the number of students at recess at one time and may create different play areas for activities to further reduce student interactions. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer and wash their hands before and after recess.

9. Will students in grades 7-12 be able to participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs and organization meetings?

Yes, students who select At-Home Learning or In-Person Learning may participate in clubs and/or organizations when available. Some club meetings may be held virtually, as applicable. Students must have their own transportation to and from campus.

10. What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted? Will students be able to participate in At-Home Learning during the quarantine?

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to recover. When notification of a possible exposure occurs, in coordination with local health authorities, the campus/district will investigate who may have had "[close contact](#)" with the student. Based on the results, a determination will be made as to whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine. In the event students are required to temporarily quarantine, the education of these students will continue through At-Home Learning for the duration of the quarantine period.

11. What happens if my child's campus is temporarily closed during the school year?

During the period of the school closure, students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities that are primarily delivered through an online learning management system. Live, teacher-led instruction and peer collaboration will be scheduled throughout the day to expand students' opportunities to engage with content and interact with teachers and classmates. Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required. Instructional time will also be dedicated for independent learning activities. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required times for participation in live instruction.

12. How will teachers address any potential learning needs from the school closure last spring?

To support all students, the district curriculum will highlight academic standards that teachers will consider as they plan to address the potential learning impacts resulting from the school closure. Teachers will use formative assessments and supplemental resources to personalize student learning to address areas of need.

13. How will student progress be reported?

Overall progress on learning outcomes will be communicated in a “traditional” format using numeric grades. Assignments and grades will be entered into our grading system. The expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same.

14. Will STAAR/EOC be administered in 2020-2021?

Yes. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has indicated that STAAR testing will still occur during the 2020-2021 school year, in compliance with state and federal legislation.

15. Can students change their commitment from In-Person Learning to At-Home Learning after the start of the school year?

Due to the scheduling complexities inherent in these two options, parents will be asked to make a commitment for at least one full nine-week grading period. Special circumstances that affect a family will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the campus principal. Please note that if a student switches between In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning, then that student may not have the same teacher(s) or course schedule, as teachers may or may not be teaching both an At-Home and an In-Person class

16. How do parents commit to an instructional model of choice for their child?

For current students, parents will complete the commitment form no later than **July 27 at 8:00 a.m.** **Parents will receive an email and can access this form on our website www.rice-isd.org.** Upon enrollment, new students will be provided the opportunity to select their instructional model. Parents have until August 5th to contact the campus principal if they choose to adjust their selection.

17. How will At-Home Learning be different from the instruction provided during the school closure last spring?

Students who select At-Home Learning will be required to virtually attend and participate in daily. In the spring of last year, students’ assignments were provided at a reduced amount of instructional minutes as compared to a traditional school day. At-Home Learning this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that is comparable to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. In addition, grading procedures will be the same as In-Person learning. Teachers delivering At-Home instruction will receive additional training and support in best practices that are effective in a remote, online environment.

18. Will there be attendance requirements for At-Home students?

Yes, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will require daily attendance and participation in At-Home Learning. Students will be required to participate in online classes daily and traditional attendance rules will be enforced. A student will be considered absent if the student does not engage in the designated live-instruction and/or independent learning activities each day.

19. Will students in At-Home Learning have access to instructional materials, such as guided reading books or other classroom resources?

Students will be provided with some instructional materials that will vary based on the grade level and coursework of the student. Some resources may be provided digitally. The design of classroom instruction will account for student's access to specific instructional materials in the home.

20. Will students participating in At-Home Learning need to purchase school supplies for the new year?

Yes. Families will need to purchase typical school supplies. Students who are participating in the At-Home Learning will need to purchase the necessary listed supplies from the grade level supply list in order to complete their assignments.

21. Will courses taken in At-Home Learning be included in GPA calculations and class rank for high school students?

Courses taken by students participating in At-Home Learning will be included in calculating GPA and class rank in accordance with EIC (Local) policy.

22. Can students in grades 7-12 who select At-Home Learning still participate in UIL/Extracurricular competitions, including athletics, fine arts, etc?

Yes, students who select At-Home Learning may participate in UIL events/courses if they meet all UIL requirements, are enrolled in the applicable course section, and are able to attend on-campus practices and competitions. Students must have their own transportation to and from the campus.

23. Will meals be provided for students who select At-Home Learning?

Options are being explored for providing meals to students who select At-Home Learning. This information will be provided as soon as possible.

24. Are immunizations required for students enrolled in At-Home Learning?

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students.

25. Will my child have virtual access to their campus nurse during the school day?

Yes, parents and students may contact the school nurse by phone or e-mail during school hours.

26. Will resources be available for parents to support and monitor their child's At-Home Learning?

Yes. Resources will be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools. These resources will be available in August.

27. Will students identified as English Learners, Dyslexic and/or Gifted and Talented receive services during At-Home Learning?

Yes. More information will be available at a later date.

28. Will students receiving services from Special Education or 504 be eligible for At-Home Learning?

Yes, all students in Rice ISD will have the opportunity to choose In-Person Learning or At-Home Learning.

29. Will an ARD/504 meeting be required if At-Home Learning is chosen?

ARD and 504 meetings will be scheduled on a case by case basis. For students served in special education, the schedule of instructional and related services should be accurately documented in the ARD/IEP to reflect the supports and services the student requires for FAPE. A parent/guardian may request an ARD or 504 meeting at any time.

30. I have chosen At-Home Learning for my student, but he/she requires an evaluation for 504 or special education this school year. Will the evaluation also take place via virtual methods?

If your student requires an initial or re-evaluation, the parent/guardian will be contacted to discuss the evaluation and determine components that can be completed virtually versus those components that require face-to-face interaction. Appointments with evaluation staff will be scheduled at the campus to complete face-to-face components.