

**Plainview Independent School District**  
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H. T. Sanchez, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Plainview ISD School Community:

As we go into 2021-22, we will proceed as much as we can with a normal start of school and with daily operations. We will allow parents and visitors on campus, and we will encourage parents to walk their little ones in on the first day and take all those great first-day pictures. Like any other school year, we ask that ill students stay home and personnel who are not feeling well to stay home, too. As we proceed forward, the new COVID-19 reality requires a heightened level of personal responsibility to oneself, one's family, and one's community. Plainview ISD will not request proof of vaccination. We firmly believe this decision belongs to each family, guardian, or district employee.

We would like to share information regarding our approach to addressing COVID-19 and its variants. We would like to stress that we will continue with our enhanced cleaning protocols, such as wiping down and disinfecting all flat surfaces, door handles, and door push bars. We will also continue the use of our disinfecting foggers. We will continue to monitor campuses and district facilities to ensure cleaning precautions have their intended effect, and we will take additional steps if we see COVID-19 infections increase beyond 1.0% of enrolled students on any given campus.

Regarding masks, via an executive order from Governor Abbott, no school district or governmental entity outside of the governor himself can mandate masks in Texas public schools. That means that the Plainview ISD Board of Trustees, superintendent of schools, or Plainview Health Authority do not have the authority to require masks. Each district employee or student may select to wear a mask but cannot be required to wear one at any time for any school related function on campus or in a district facility.

We do encourage parents of students who have known medical conditions or concerns about COVID-19 to consider the use of a mask, and we still have masks available for those who would self-select to use them. This also applies to any district employee. Our goal is for every student and district employee to feel safe and comfortable in district facilities.

Regarding quarantining, all decisions of this nature will fall under the expertise of the Plainview Health Authority. They are best equipped to navigate the different and evolving requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated infections and exposures. They will also conduct contact tracing and advise individual district personnel and family members what steps to take. We will also work with them to identify any campus or district facility that has an elevated number of cases at or beyond 1% of enrolled students.

Plainview ISD will require a return to work or return to school notice from a medical professional, much like any other case when a district employee or student has been on extended leave. For district employees, please present return to work information to the benefits office, and for students, please provide your return to school notice to school front-office staff, just as you do with a note from a dentist, optometrist, or medical doctor. Any time taken for COVID-19 related matters will follow existing time-off procedures. For students, existing attendance protocol will apply.

Should new requirements or changes come from Governor Abbott's office, we will make the necessary adjustments and communicate with parents, guardians, students, and district personnel. Working together, we will experience a safe and successful year.