



# Sam Houston State University Charter School

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instructional Plan

**Board Approved September 23, 2021**

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

### In-Person Protocols

The SHSU Charter School will follow the protocols below for teachers, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors to the campus:

#### 1) Temperature Checks

All employees, volunteers, students, and visitors will have their temperature checked before they can enter the building. We will scan the student's temperature in the drop-off line before they exit the vehicle. Any person with a temperature higher than 100°F will be sent home.

#### 2) Face Coverings (Masks)

In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order (GA-36) issued on May 18, 2021 public schools may not require face coverings be worn by staff, students, or visitors to the campus. Face coverings may be worn by individuals that choose to do so.

#### 3) Hand Sanitizer and Hand Washing

As students enter and exit the buildings, classrooms, and other areas of the school they will be given hand sanitizer to use. We will also add into each instructional schedule a specified time for supervised hand washing in the morning and in the afternoon.

#### 4) Social Distancing

In the classroom students will be social distanced as much as possible.

#### 5) Sanitizing Classroom Materials

Books and other manipulatives will be sanitized after each student use. iPads and Chromebooks will be sanitized after each student use as well.

#### 6) After School Cleaning

Each owner of the buildings understands the importance of deep cleaning all school areas at the end of the day.

## Prevention and Response to COVID-19

### PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

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

**EMPLOYEES:** The SHSU Charter School will require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the SHSU Charter School administration if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the SHSU Charter School administration if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, must remain off campus if they have not been fully vaccinated until they are tested and cleared return to work.

#### (SECTION A)

Governor Abbott released **Executive Order GA-38** regarding confirmed COVID cases and Close Contact with COVID cases in public school.

**LAB CONFIRMED CASE:** The Executive Order mandates that all confirmed cases must quarantine according to the protocols in our **Return to In-Person Instruction Plan (Section B)**. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed (PCR) with COVID-19. **The SHSU Charter School does not accept “at home” COVID tests.**

**CLOSE CONTACT:** The Executive Order **did change** the protocols for Close Contact quarantines. Parents may choose from one of the following options below:

- a) Continue to send your child to school if the child is not exhibiting any symptoms, **OR**
- b) Parents can opt to keep their students at home for a **quarantine period** as outlined below:
  - 1) Quarantine can end on **Day 10** after close contact without testing
  - 2) Quarantine can end on **Day 7** after negative test result
- c) **Students who have had Close Contact with a lab-confirmed case will have their absences excused during the quarantine period.** Parents may choose to quarantine siblings of those students who have had close contact with a lab-confirmed case, **but those absences during a quarantine period cannot be excused unless the sibling**

develops symptoms during the quarantine period.

d) **NEW** Due to updated Health Guidance from TEA on September 17, 2021, the SHSU Charter School highly recommends students who have had household-based close contact with lab confirmed positive COVID cases to stay at home during the recommended Close Contact quarantine period if the campus is located in an area with high or rising COVID Case rates.

- 1) **VOLUNTEERS:** Before volunteers and visitors are allowed onto campuses, the SHSU Charter School will screen all volunteers and visitors to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below.

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

#### **(SECTION B)**

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed (PCR) to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the SHSU Charter School staff screens the individual to determine all the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

**o 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);
- iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**o 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.**

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

**\*The SHSU Charter School does not accept “at home” COVID tests.**

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

- o The SHSU Charter School will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- o The SHSU Charter School will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- o Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

### **RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

#### ***Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School***

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the SHSU Charter School will notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. The SHSU Charter School will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the SHSU Charter School will notify all teachers, staff, and families with direct contact to an individual with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions:

***Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?***

- o Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- o Loss of taste or smell
- o Cough
- o Difficulty breathing
- o Shortness of breath
- o Fatigue
- o Headache
- o Chills
- o Sore throat
- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Shaking or exaggerated shivering

- o Significant muscle pain or ache
- o Diarrhea
- o Nausea or vomiting

## 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)
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset.

In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.