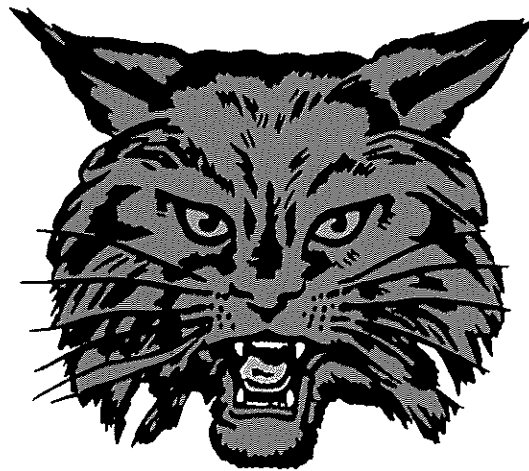


Refugio
Independent School District
2020-2021



Strong Start
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

2020-2021

Forward Address to Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians of Refugio ISD:

Public education is a cornerstone of a free society. Refugio ISD takes seriously the responsibility to our community to provide a safe environment for children to learn and grow. Throughout these challenging times, Refugio ISD remains committed to providing accurate and timely information of our students, staff, and community.

The Refugio ISD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan outlines the protocols, precautions, and measures that will be taken by the district to prevent exposure to COVID-19. This document is subject to change due to the ever-changing guidance from health authorities, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Sincerely,



Melissa Gonzales
Superintendent

2020-21 School Calendar



REFUGIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020-2021 Revised 7-23-20

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	H
4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	SD	SD	8
9	SD	SD	SD	SD	WD	15
16	SD	SD	SD	WD	WD	22
23	S	T	T	T	T	29
30	T					

September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
6	H	T	T	T	T	12
13	T	T	T	T	T	19
20	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	26
27	SD	[PTI	PTI			

October 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
4	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	10
11	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	PTI	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	SD	[3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	CF	CF	H	H	H	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	W	CF	CF	19
20	H	H	H	H	H	26
27	H	H	H	H		

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2
3	W	CF	[5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	H					23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	H	SD	CF	[17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	H	H	H	H	H	20
21	22	23	24	CF	CF	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	[19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	W	29
30	31					

June 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

GRADING PERIODS

1st Six Weeks - 8/24/20-9/23/20 (24)
 2nd Six Weeks - 9/29/20-10/30/20 (24)
 3rd Six Weeks - 11/3/20-12/15/20 (26)
 4th Six Weeks - 1/5/2021-2/12/2021 (28)
 5th Six Weeks - 2/17/2021-4/16/2021 (35)
 6th Six Weeks - 4/19/2021-5/27/2021 (29)

Semester Dates
 8/24/20-12/15/20
 1/5/21-5/27-21

Graduation - May 28, 2021

Total Instructional Days - 166

Updated: 7-23-2020

CALENDAR KEYS

SD: Staff Development Comp/COVID Flex
 NT: New Teacher Orientation
 SD: Staff Development/COVID Flex
 S: First Day of School
 H: Student/Teacher Holiday
 W/CF: Work Day/COVID Flex Days
 []: Beginning/End of Six Week Grading Period
 STAAR/EOC Test
 CF: COVID Flex/ Bad Weather Days
 TI: Transitional Instruction Days
 PTI: Possible Transitional Instructional Days

HOLIDAYS

Independence Day - July 3, 2020
 Labor Day - Sept. 7, 2020
 Thanksgiving Holidays - Nov. 23-27, 2020
 Christmas Holidays - Dec. 17-Jan. 4, 2021
 Martin Luther King Day - Jan. 18, 2021
 Presidents Days - February 15, 2021
 Spring Break - March 15-19, 2021
 Fair Days - March 25-26, 2021
 Good Friday - April 2, 2021
 Memorial Day - May 31, 2021

Total Teacher Days - 187

TEACHER CONTRACT DAYS

New Teacher Orientation - August 6, 2020

Staff Development Comp/COVID Days
 August 6-7, 2020
 June 1-4, 2021

Staff Development/COVID Flex Days
 August 10-13, 17-19, 2020
 September 28, 2020
 November 2, 2020
 February 16, 2021

Work Days/COVID Flex Days
 August 14, 20, 21, 2020
 December 16, 2020
 January 4, 2021
 May 28, 2021

Transitional Instructional Days
 August 24 - September 18, 2020

Possible Transitional Instructional Days
 September 21 - October 16, 2020

COVID Flex/ Bad Weather Days
 November 23-24, 2020
 December 17 - 18, 2020
 March 25 - 26, 2021

Staff and Student Safety Protocols

Because COVID-19 can be contracted by people of all ages, it is crucial that Refugio ISD take appropriate action to keep its employees and students safe. The following protocols shall be followed by each staff member and student at Refugio ISD during the 2020-21 school year. The ongoing pandemic is continuously evolving, and these protocols will be periodically reviewed and revised as appropriate to reflect orders and/or recommendations from local, state, and national government officials and/or health authorities. If changes are made to this document, the District will promptly notify parents, students, and staff members.

Screening

- The following are the recognized symptoms that District officials will screen for during daily screenings:

COVID-19 Symptoms for Screening

- o Fever (100° or higher) or chills
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Fatigue
- o Muscle or body aches
- o Headache
- o New loss of taste or smell
- o Sore throat
- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

- “Close contact,” unless defined otherwise by local health officials, is defined as contact in the last 14 days with an individual who is lab-confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and:
 - o Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); **OR**
 - o Being within 6 feet for a total duration of 15 minutes.
- All staff members must self-screen for the COVID-19 symptoms listed above prior to reporting to campus each day.
- Staff members who experience COVID-19 symptoms or receive a positive, lab-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 must report such symptoms or

diagnosis to their campus principal/supervisor and to Carla Boxell, COVID-19 District Contact, and must remain off-campus until completing the Isolation Procedures below.

- Parents should not send a student to District campuses if the student is exhibiting any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for the virus, or comes in “close contact” with an individual who tested positive for the virus, as defined above. Throughout the school day, teachers will monitor students and notify the district nurse if a student begins exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students will be screened for symptoms upon entering school facilities.
- Temperature screeners are installed at Refugio Elementary School, Refugio Jr. High School, Refugio High School, Refugio Athletic Facility, Refugio Band Hall, Refugio Sportsplex, and Refugio Gymnasium.
- Any student who exhibits symptoms while at school will be **immediately** separated from other students until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. These students must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification.
- If a student or staff member begins showing COVID-19 symptoms while at school, appropriate personnel will promptly clean and disinfect all areas used or occupied by that individual.
- If a student reports feeling feverish during the school day, a temperature check will be performed.
- Visitors must schedule an appointment to enter district facilities.
- Prior to entering a district facility, visitors will be screened to determine if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, or came within “close contact” with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, as defined herein. This will be accomplished through a QR survey and temperature checks.

Isolation Procedures

- The following procedures must be followed by staff members and students before they return to campus following exposure to the virus.
- For the purposes of this Plan, all individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 but do not undergo virus testing or medical evaluation are assumed to have COVID-19 and also must observe these procedures.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 **or** exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, that individual may not return to school until the following criteria are satisfied:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); **AND**
 - The individual has improvement in COVID-19 symptoms as listed above; **AND**

- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Alternatively, if a student or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 without obtaining a positive, lab-confirmed result, that individual may return to campus upon satisfaction of the following criteria:
 - The individual obtains a medical professional’s note clearing that individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis (the person had or has a disease other than COVID-19); **OR**
 - The individual receives one test result that the individual is free of COVID-19.
- Additionally, staff members are required to notify the district if they come in “close contact” with an individual who receives a positive, lab-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, as defined herein, and if so, must remain off-campus until a 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Upon return to school after the quarantine period, students should report to the campus office to ensure that requirements to return to campus have been met.
- Upon return to duty after the quarantine period, employees should report to their campus principal/supervisor and Carla Boxell, District COVID contact.
- Each campus will close off areas that are heavily used by any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 until surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.

Reporting

- In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the District shall notify its local health department in observance of applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Consistent with local policies and legal confidentiality requirements, the District shall notify all staff members and families of all students within that campus if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students or staff members who participate in any on-campus activities.

Health and Hygiene Protocols

- Masks/face coverings must be worn by all staff members while attending on-campus instruction and related activities. Students in grades PK-3 are encouraged to wear a mask; however, face shields will be provided for each child. Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks/face coverings while attending on-campus instruction and related activities.
- Masks will not be required for any person while the person is:

- Exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and
- Maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household.
- During activities where it is determined by District officials to be impractical for students to wear masks/face shields, students must still wear masks/face shields when entering and exiting facilities and when they are not actively engaged in those activities.
- If during participation in activities it is determined that the mask requirement is impractical, students and staff members must wear masks/face shields until they can arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.
- The District will provide instruction to all students on appropriate hygiene practices and other illness mitigation practices.

Safe Instruction

- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water will be made available at each campus entrance and each classroom.
- Staff members, students, and visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- Staff members and students will be encouraged to practice good hygiene relating to virus transmission, including coughing and sneezing into tissues or elbows as well as immediate handwashing or sanitizing.
- District janitorial staff will daily sanitize all facilities. Highly touched areas will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Classroom teachers will have access to disinfecting supplies in their classrooms.
- The District will eliminate assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or staff members together at once.
- During breakfast and lunch, students will have assigned seating in order to practice appropriate social distancing. In addition, food will be served on disposable trays and utensils.
- Circulating library books will be sanitized using an ultraviolet light wand.
- Teacher lounges and work rooms will be frequently sanitized.
- Refugio Elementary School will open for students at 7:30AM. Any student arriving prior to opening will not be permitted inside of the building. Parents who arrive early must wait with their child until the school building opens.

Safe Transportation

- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation to and from school for their child. Due to limited transportation resources (buses and drivers), it will not always be possible to observe social distance protocols.

- Students and staff members will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus or other district vehicles.
- When feasible and appropriate, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- Buses will be sanitized after each bus trip, with special focus on “high-touch” areas.
- ANY student (regardless of age) transported in a district vehicle must wear a mask/face covering.

Safe Visits

- With prior arrangement, parents and other adults may still visit District campuses when such visits are essential to school operations. At all times, visitors must adhere to the District’s virus transmission prevention and mitigation requirements set forth in this Plan.
- When feasible and appropriate, the District shall arrange for virtual visits with parents in lieu of physical visits to their child’s campus.
- All visitors to District facilities will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

Virtual Instruction

- Once on-campus instruction resumes, parents will retain the right to have their child instructed virtually.
- Even during the emergency pandemic, students are required by state law to attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.
- If a parent or guardian wishes to arrange for their child to enroll in virtual instruction, he/she must notify the District of this decision no later than September 11. If you wish to commit your student to virtual instruction, please complete the online student registration available on the District’s website www.refugioisd.net.
- A parent may request a change to a student’s instructional environment at any time; however, the change will not be in effect until the next regular grading period begins.

Extracurricular Activities

- Athletic practices, performances, and contests will be conducted according to safety protocols provided by the District, UIL, and TEA.