



# Boerne Independent School District Pandemic Plan

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is a pandemic?

An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new [influenza A virus](#) that is very different from current and recently circulating human seasonal influenza A viruses. Pandemics happen when new (novel) influenza A viruses emerge which are able to infect people easily and spread from [person to person](#) in an efficient and sustained way. Because the virus is new to humans, very few people will have immunity against the pandemic virus, and a vaccine might not be widely available. The new virus will make a lot of people sick. How sick people get will depend on the characteristics of the virus, whether or not people have any immunity to that virus, and the health and age of the person being infected. With seasonal flu, for example, certain chronic health conditions are known to make those people more susceptible to serious flu infections.

### What is influenza?

Influenza, also known as “the flu,” is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. Influenza is most usually a seasonal illness that often occurs each winter. Flu spreads mostly by droplets containing the flu viruses traveling through the air (up to 6 feet) when a person coughs or sneezes. These droplets may be inhaled causing others to become infected with influenza. People may also get the flu by touching surfaces or objects with the flu virus on them and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines influenza-like illnesses as having the following symptoms:

Fever of 101.5° Fahrenheit or higher AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Muscle Ache

### What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is not the same as the [coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans](#) and cause mild illness, like the common cold. There are [many types](#) of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

# BOERNE ISD PANDEMIC PLAN

**Coronavirus pandemic:** The district will follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and will partner with Texas Department of Health Services on any concerns.

**Prevention:** Protecting the health and safety of our district's staff, students and their families is our priority. BISD will educate, promote and reinforce the practice of everyday preventive actions to our staff, students and parents/guardians to protect themselves and our community from flu and other contagious respiratory illnesses. These healthy habits should include:

- Stay home when you are ill.
- Cover your cough and sneeze and discard the tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- If no soap and water is available, use 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Don't touch your face, mouth or nose with unclean hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects frequently.

Any student or staff with flu-like symptoms should be sent immediately to the nurse for evaluation. They will be sent home with a fever of 100.4 degrees and above. They should remain home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications.

The Maintenance Department, through the custodial staff, will redirect work duties so they can concentrate on a disinfectant program to ensure sanitation of common surfaces as recommended. The instructions concerning this shall be provided on an on-going basis to head custodians throughout the district. BISD uses Environmental Protection Agency-approved products.

**Communications:** In the event of a pandemic, BISD will communicate with the staff and community by using these methods: e-mail, phone trees, print media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the Boerne ISD website, [www.boerneisd.net](http://www.boerneisd.net).

Dr. Elaine Howard shall be the media contact for Boerne ISD: [elaine.howard@boerneisd.net](mailto:elaine.howard@boerneisd.net).

For up to date information concerning the coronavirus pandemic, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**Activation of Pandemic Plan:** The Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Price, in coordination with the Texas Department of Health Services shall declare the Pandemic Plan activated.

**Initial Activation:** At the time the Pandemic Plan is activated, the BISD website will be updated with informational links on the homepage to assist in communication with the community. Staff and parents will be updated using other communication tools as mentioned previously. The Maintenance Department, in coordination with the head custodians, should evaluate supplies and order any disinfection supplies, hand sanitizer, and paper towels as necessary.

# SEQUENCE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR PANDEMIC

- **Level One** (low risk) First pandemic illness case reported in the country but no reported cases in Texas.
- **Level Two** (moderate risk) Initial pandemic illness cases reported in Texas. An increasing number of cases reported in the country.
- **Level Three** (medium risk) Initial pandemic illness cases reported within the community and/or Boerne ISD.
- **Level four** (high risk) widespread reports of confirmed pandemic illness within the community and/or Boerne ISD.

**At all levels, school staff should send any students with flu-like symptoms to the school nurse. The recommendations of the Texas Department of State Health Services will be followed.**

## **LEVEL ONE**

**Communication:** The BISD website, emails, phone chain of communication and other social media will provide information to the community and staff. A parent letter will be sent if necessary.

**Campus Access/School Events/Transportation/Operations/Food Services:** Normal school policy.

**Attendance/Nursing:** Screening tools may be used at the front office:

- Have you traveled in the past 2 weeks? Have you had close contact with a person known to have had the COVID-19 illness?
- Have you had a fever in the last few days?
- Do you have a cough or shortness of breath?

If yes to the above, place a facemask on the person, isolate the person in a private room or separate area, check their temperature. Inform the health department to report at-risk people and their clinical status.

## **LEVEL TWO**

**Precautionary measures outlined at Level One continue with addition of the following:**

**Communication:** Periodic updates to the community and staff as necessary. Emphasize instruction on proper hand washing and coughing/sneezing etiquette in classrooms.

**Campus Access:** School is open to all staff, students, and parents. Teachers will send any students that have flu-like symptoms to the school nurse for evaluation. Any staff member or student with a temperature at or above 100.4 degrees will be required to stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications.

**School Events/Field Trips:** The status of school events and field trips will be evaluated/ monitored on the campus and district level as necessary.

**Transportation:** Normal operation.

**School Operations/Child Nutrition Services:** Continual disinfection of shared surfaces. The Food Services Director shall check with food suppliers to maintain supply lines in the event of an escalation of the pandemic levels.

### **LEVEL THREE**

**Precautionary measures outlined at Level Two continue with addition of the following:**

In the event of an outbreak, anyone considered a medium risk will be directed to stay home for 14 days after possible exposure, with those patients in daily contact with the Department of Health.

**Communication:** Daily updates to faculty and community as needed.

**School Events/Field Trips:** Field trips and other out of district travel may be suspended after consultation with local public health officials. At the discretion of the Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Price, other school events may be cancelled or postponed, as warranted.

**Personnel:** District staff shall stay home if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more, until they are 24 hours fever free, without the aid of fever reducing medications.

**Transportation:** Normal Operation.

**School Operations/Child Nutrition Services:** Frequent hand washing and disinfection throughout the day.

**Attendance/Nursing:** The Attendance representative will report attendance levels that drop 10% or more below average for that campus to the Central Office. The BISD nurses will report flu-like illnesses to the Texas Department of Health Services and Dr. Thomas Price as necessary.

### **LEVEL FOUR**

**Precautionary measures outlined at Level Three continue with addition of the following:**

**Campus Access:** Campus access restrictions are placed on non-campus personnel as necessary. The Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Price, may close schools as necessary.

**School Operations/Child Nutrition Services:** BISD will consider using Web-based instructions, email, social media, etc., if school is temporarily dismissed. In the event of school closure, the school food authority will implement their emergency plan to provide meals for students.

**Personnel:** In the event schools are closed, campus and central office administrators are expected to report to work for at least the first closure day to prepare for the security of their school/area and ensure that no children are brought to the school.

All employees are expected to remain in contact with their supervisors throughout any closure period. Employees must be available to return to work as directed.

### **RECOVERY**

Schools will reopen at the direction of Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Price.