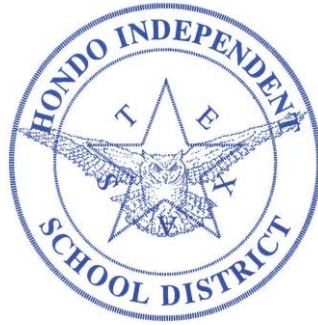


A'Lann Truelock, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Rose Mary Mares
Assistant Superintendent



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January 17, 2022

To our HISD Family:

I realize that these times are difficult for parents who fear the possibility of their student(s) contracting COVID-19, but it is the opinion of state policy makers at all levels that kids learn best in schools. To that end, there is currently no remote learning that solely benefits those wanting to remain in seclusion because of COVID. In addition, the Texas Education Code Sec. 25.085 describes the parameters of compulsory school attendance, and TEA has not offered any relief to either parents or school districts in the adherence to this statute. Because of these circumstances, in-person attendance here at school is the only option for learning currently available for students enrolled in HISD. **As the law currently stands, a student must be present for 90% of all possible school days in order to eligible for semester/year credit. This state policy includes excused absences in the 90% calculation.**

The school district wants to remind Hondo ISD parents of what measures we will continue to take to make your children as safe as possible. We have implemented protocols on our campuses based on the best science for preventing the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Providing COVID-19 Rapid Testing for all staff and students
- Isolating individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19
- Quarantining students with a qualified in-household close contact to an infected individual
- Asking all individuals to be mindful of distance from others when possible
- Encouraging everyone to wash their hands with soap frequently for at least 20 seconds
- Working with our custodial staff to ensure that we are thoroughly disinfecting all buses and building surfaces on a continual basis.

HISD protocols require all students within a household to stay at home if there is a COVID-19 positive individual residing in the home unless they themselves have fully recovered from COVID-19 within a three-month period or are fully vaccinated based on CDC guidance.

HISD will continue to rapid test, with parent permission, students who are symptomatic for COVID-19 or those that have a qualified close contact with an infected individual. Students who do not wish to test but are symptomatic will be sent home, as per our non-COVID health protocols.

I reiterate these protocols to inform parents that we will do our best to keep your children healthy while they are at school, but we will also strive to give our students the fullest academic experience that we can. I continue to urge that we take personal precautions to avoid crowded events, wear masks if possible, test when you are symptomatic, and stay at home if you or someone in your home is COVID-19 positive. Please communicate with us if you should have any questions or need to report on your or your child's status.

I want to thank all of you for your understanding, patience, and support as we work through these difficult times. HISD will make announcements and provide direction to all concerned individuals as policies and guidance from governing entities continue to change.

Sincerely,

A'Lann Truelock, Ed. D.