



North East Independent School District

8961 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78217

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North East Independent School District will be held on April 5, 2021. The Board will convene in Open Session at 5:30 PM, then move into Executive Session and resume the public portion of the meeting no earlier than 6:15 PM. The Board will meet on the first floor of the Richard A. Middleton Education Center, 8961 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78217. Such meeting is a regular meeting.

This meeting will be held in-person. In an effort to preserve public safety and in accordance with federal and local guidance, attendees at the meeting who are not from the same household will be required to maintain 6 feet of social distance between them and are required to wear face coverings when in the building. Should it be needed, the District will provide additional access to the meeting in another room in the building so that social distancing and safety measures can be maintained. We ask for everyone's understanding and cooperation in this regard.

The open session portion of the meeting is livestreamed, and members of the public may view the meeting by going to the North East Independent School District's YouTube channel. Click the link below, or type it into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NEISDtv>

Items will not necessarily be discussed or considered in the order they are printed. Anyone wishing exhibit information in accordance with Local Board Policy GBA, must contact the Public Information Officer.

MISSION STATEMENT

We challenge and encourage each student to achieve and demonstrate academic excellence, technical skills, and responsible citizenship.

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

II. PRESENTATION

A. COVID-19 Protocols and Safety Plan

3

Presenter: Sean Maika, Superintendent of Schools

III. ADJOURNMENT

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in an Executive or Closed Session, the Board will convene in such Executive or Closed Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

CERTIFICATE AS TO POSTING OR GIVING OF NOTICE

On this 1st day of April, no later than 5:30 PM, this notice was posted on a bulletin board located at a place readily¹accessible and convenient to the public

at the Richard A. Middleton Education Center, 8961 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio,
Texas.

The North East Independent School District does not discriminate
on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability

NEISD Safety Measures and COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

3

NEISD Health Services
Emma Kelly MSN, RN

Review of NEISD School Phase-In Plan

6 metrics evaluated to determine movement through phases

- **3 community health metrics**

- Positivity rate
- Doubling time
- 2-week continuous decline in COVID-19 cases

- **3 district metrics**

- Active cases in District (% of employees and students currently COVID-19 positive)
- In-person student health-related absence rate
- Employee health-related absence rate

4

**Our focus: Keep children and staff healthy.
Our goal: Keep schools safe and open.**

Planning to Succeed

- Trained all school nurses on contact tracing and responding to COVID-19 situations, before students returned to campus
- Hired a team of dedicated contact tracers
- Prevented spread on campus by rapidly identifying anyone who had been in close contact and instructing them to quarantine

5

Success of Phase-In Plan

- Allowed us to respond to trends or changes with a smaller number of students on campus
- Identified challenges and created solutions quickly
- Responded before any COVID-19 situations resulted in school closure

Results of NEISD Safety Protocols

NEISD never closed
related to COVID-19
cases

No NEISD school closed
related to COVID-19
cases

Lessons Learned

Multiple mitigation strategies have allowed us to slow the spread of COVID-19. Strategies combine to create an overall level of safety. Some examples include:

Hygiene and cleaning measures

Social distancing

Use of face masks

Use of plexiglass dividers

Stickers and signage as reminders of these practices

Modified student drop-off and pick-up procedures

Lessons teaching respiratory etiquette

When teachers and students wear face masks consistently and correctly, we typically do not see evidence of spread, even when 6 feet of distance is difficult to maintain.

There has been evidence of spread in some cases when someone is not wearing a face mask and is around a person who tests positive for COVID-19.

Lessons Learned

Able to identify activities which may show trends of spread

No mask use or inconsistent/incorrect mask use, especially if indoors

Close proximity to others

Activities that include or result in increased exhalation (shouting, heavy breathing, etc.)

Able to determine how to maximize the safety of a particular environment or activity

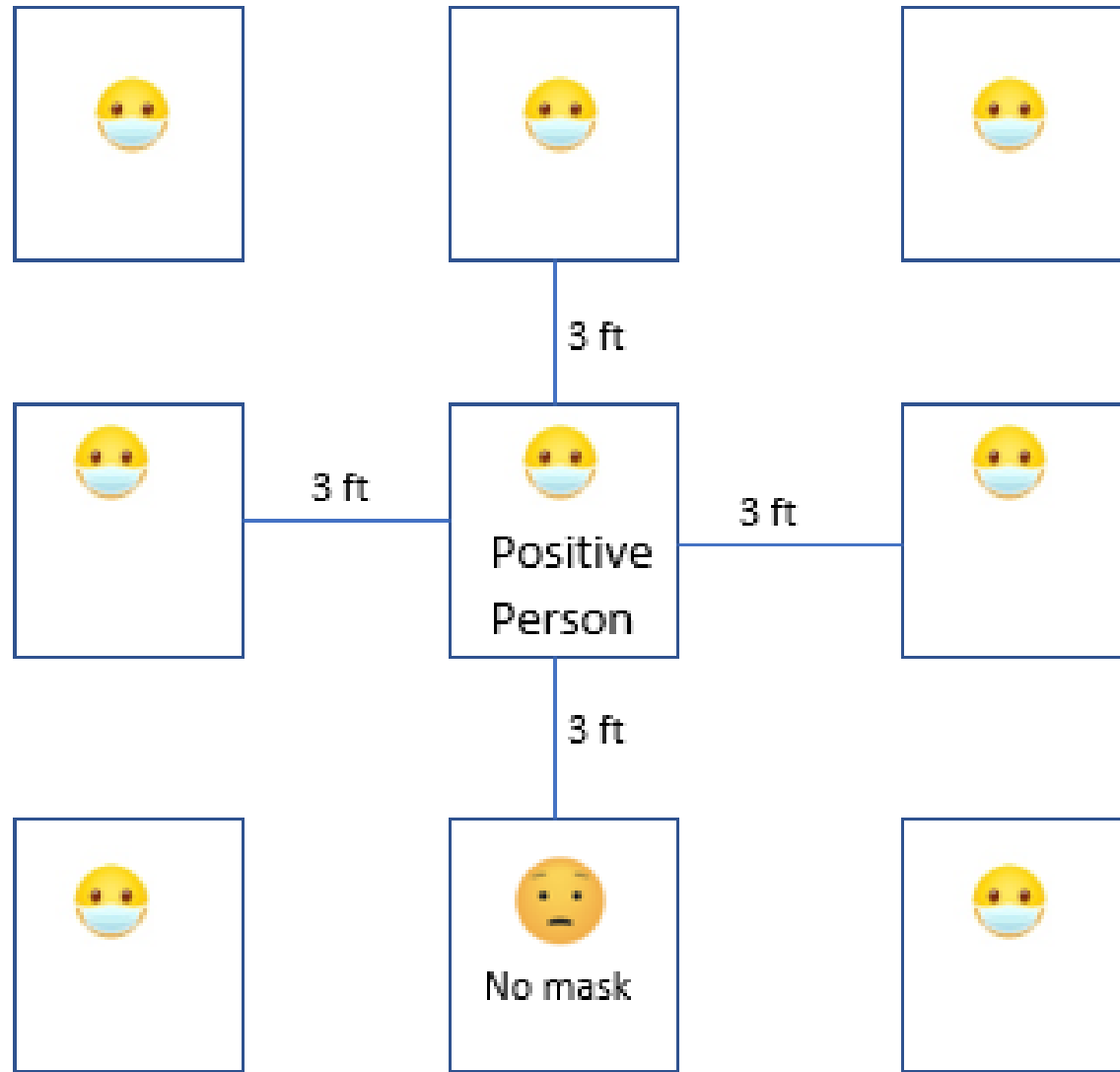
Lessons Learned

Close Contact

15 minutes or more spent within 6 feet of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, while one or both people were not wearing a mask correctly **OR** direct physical contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 (or direct contact with fluids from the nose or mouth of the individual).

Quarantining anyone who has been exposed to a person who has COVID-19 is a precautionary measure, so that if the exposed person does go on to test positive, they are already isolated when they become contagious. They won't be in contact with others and the virus won't be able to spread. Minimizing the number of close contacts is ideal.

Mask Use Impacts Close Contacts

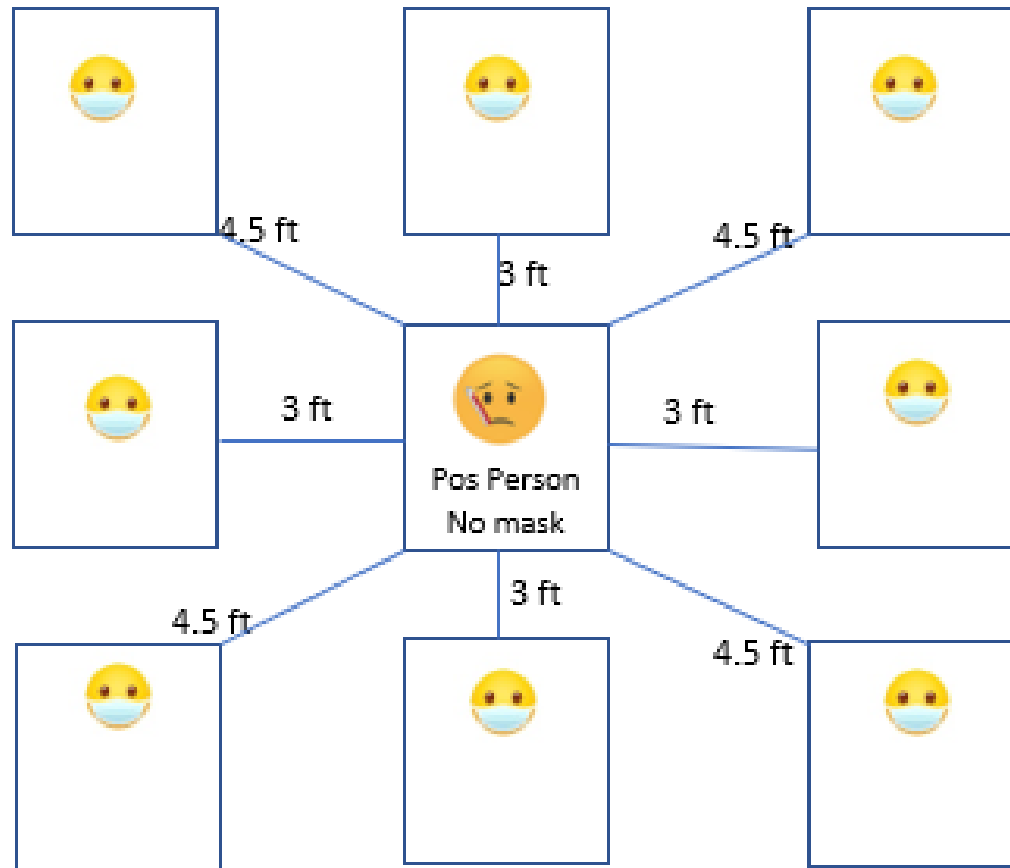


Situation 1: 9 people in a classroom for 7 hours, all wore masks except one person. The next day we find out one of the people has tested positive, that person wore a mask in the classroom.

Outcome – Only the unmasked person would be considered a close contact and be required to quarantine.

The masked people had interactions with the positive person in which both individuals were masked.

Lack of Mask Use Impacts Close Contacts



Situation 2: 9 people in a classroom for 7 hours, all wore masks except one person. The next day we find out one of the people has tested positive, that person did not wear a mask in the classroom.

Outcome – All 8 of the other people in the classroom have been exposed to the positive person and would be required to quarantine as close contacts.

The masked people had interactions with the positive person. In those interactions one of the individuals was without a mask, resulting in close contact.

Classroom Closures

NEISD has not closed any schools. There have been instances when every student in a classroom is identified as having had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and have had to close the classroom.

In the example given on the previous slide, 8 students would quarantine for 14 days from the date they had contact with the positive person. Although necessary, quarantine results in:

Loss of in-person instruction for the students

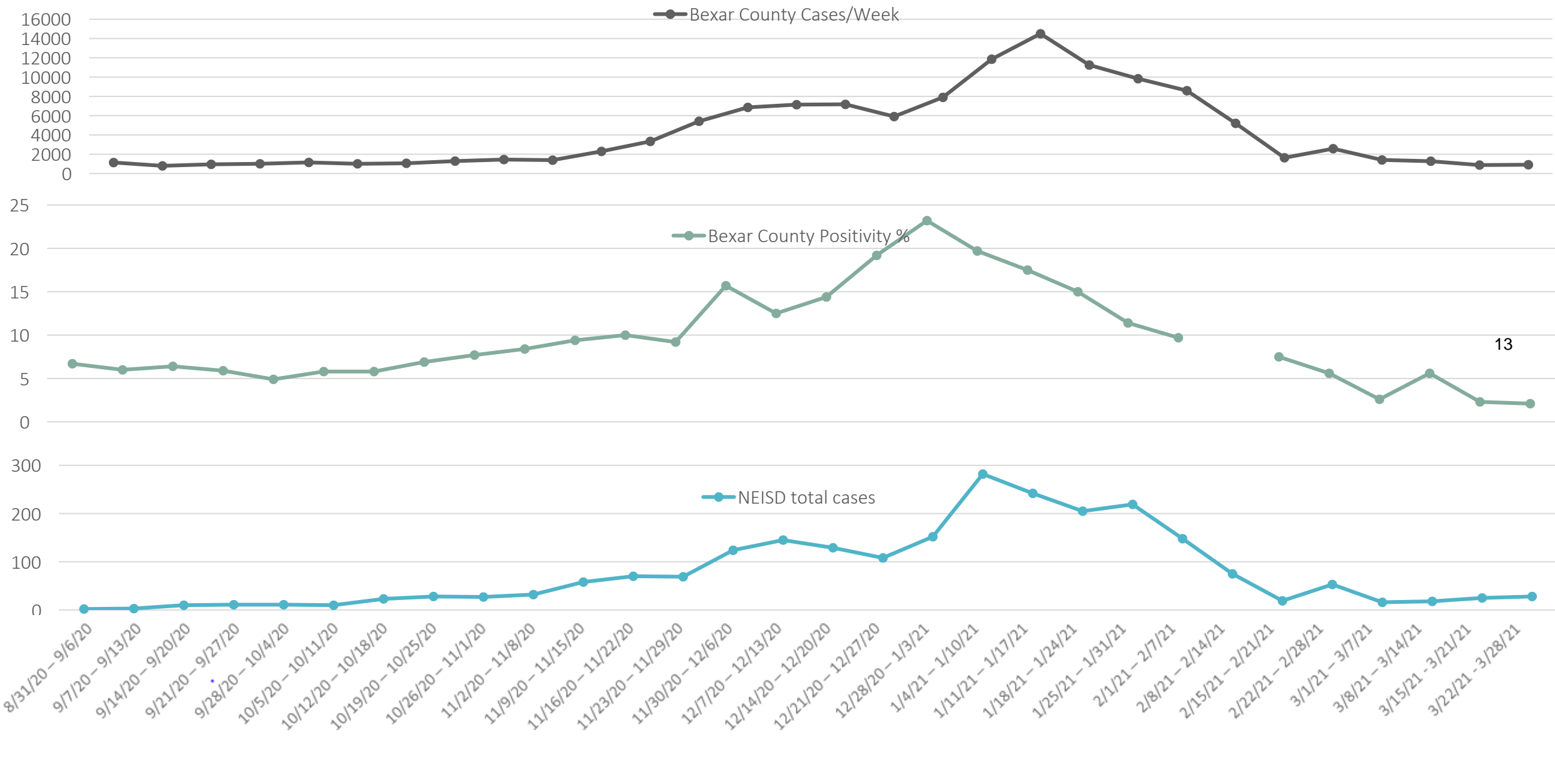
Impact on parents' ability to go to work

Complications with access to on-campus services, such as Speech Therapy

Loss of other benefits that going to school provides students (social interaction, progress monitoring, access to school nutrition, positive personal interactions, etc.)

Use of face masks by students and employees minimizes the number of close contacts identified, reduces the chance of virus spread, and reduces the likelihood of a classroom closure.

Comparing Bexar County and NEISD Trends



13

Updated Recommendations

March 8, 2021 – American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) continues to recommend the consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks by children 2 years of age and older to help reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for the safe return of children to school, childcare, and other group settings must include the universal use of face masks by children 2 years of age and older and the adults with whom they interact,” the guidance states.

March 19, 2021 - CDC released updated guidance, stating that 3 feet of physical distancing is safe for children in schools, when everyone is wearing a face mask, and cleaning and hygiene measures are in place.

14

Adults should continue to maintain 6 feet of distance from children and other adults when possible.

Previous guidance recommended 6 feet of physical distance for children, when possible.

Fully vaccinated people no longer required to quarantine after close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Recommended Changes

Classroom Supplies

Objects which may be cleaned can be shared in a well-supervised environment in which masks are worn
Hand hygiene required before and after use of shared objects
Objects cleaned between users

Recess

15

Masks optional for students at outdoor recess if students are not playing right next to each other or having direct physical contact
Teachers may remove masks briefly during outdoor recess only if they are more than 6 feet away from others
Consider designating different play areas for different classes to reduce interactions

Recommended Changes

Volunteers and visitors on campus

During the school day, allow limited number of visitors on campus (up to 50% capacity of room)

Use of face masks required

All visitors to campus must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and recent history of close contact

Volunteers should schedule in advance to manage the total number of visitors on campus at one time

Visitors will sign in upon arrival and will sign out prior to leaving

Eating with students is not permitted

16

PTA Meetings

Allow up to 50% capacity of meeting room

All attendees must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and recent history of close contact

Use of face masks required

Hand sanitization stations at all entrances

No food or drinks served

Continue to allow virtual attendance

Encourage social distancing

Recommended Changes

End of Year Parties

Held outdoors if feasible

Masks required

Food and drink allowed outdoors

Food and drink should be packaged in single servings, no buffet-style service

Students may remove masks outdoors when eating, if social distancing is maintained

Allow small number of parent volunteers to set up and/or attend

Total number in attendance must allow for social distancing

Recommended Changes

End of Year Ceremonies

Allow up to 50% capacity of room

All attendees must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and recent history of close contact

Use of face masks required

Students may remove mask when being individually recognized

Encourage RSVP prior to event to plan for spacing

Social distance as feasible between students

Encourage social distancing of guests

Food and drink allowed outdoors

Food and drink should be packaged in single servings, no buffet-style service

Students may remove masks outdoors when eating, if social distancing is maintained

Recommended Changes

Indoor spectators

Recommend up to 50% capacity at indoor venues

Masks required

Masks may be removed when eating or drinking, if distancing between household groups is feasible

Hand sanitization stations at entrances

Encourage distancing between household groups

Consider a “No eating area” where masks will be worn at all times, for those spectators who are high-risk or do not want to be around anyone not wearing a mask

19

Outdoor spectators

Recommend up to 50% capacity at outdoor venues

Masks required when unable to social distance and when moving through venue (when entering, going to the restroom, walking to and from seats, etc.)

Masks may be removed when eating and drinking

Hand sanitization stations at entrances

Encourage distancing between household groups

Signage and guides to encourage one-way movement through venue

Consider a “No eating area” where masks will be worn at all times, for those spectators who are high-risk or do not want to be around anyone not wearing a mask

What to Expect

Mitigation strategies will continue to minimize COVID-19 cases in schools until the community is able to reach herd immunity

Dr. Espinoza, Chief Epidemiologist SAMHD - Approximately 80-90% of the community would need to be vaccinated before reaching herd immunity

Dr. Rettig, Chair, NEISD Medical Advisory Committee – The COVID-19 pandemic is improving, but continues, best to not let our guard down yet, so that masks will not be required in the Fall ²⁰

Every NEISD employee (full time, part time, substitute, and temporary) has been provided the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

NEISD is an approved vaccine provider

Next Steps

Remaining cautious will allow response to changing trends and emergence of virus variants, without a spike in COVID-19 cases which could result in closing schools.

TEA continues to recommend mask use by students and school employees.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) show new COVID-19 cases modeling predicting near elimination of the virus by July if mask wearing continues.

Enrollment Implications

Second Semester Hold Harmless

To qualify for hold harmless funding for the second semester, NEISD must maintain at least 52.2% in-person enrollment during the last six weeks of the school year

52.2% was our in-person enrollment rate at the October PEIMS* snapshot date

We are currently at 58.6%

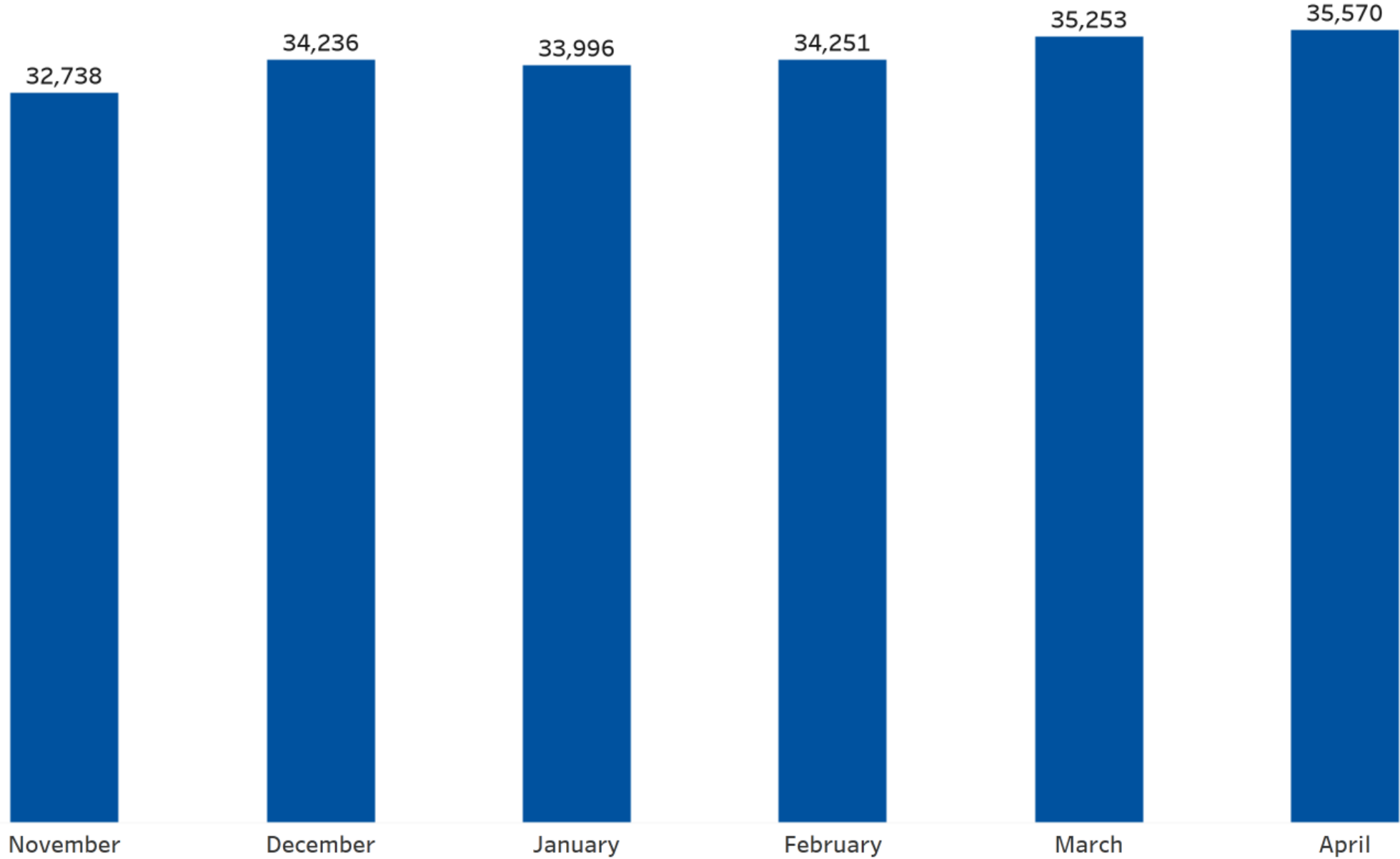
Funding based on actual second semester attendance is approximately \$6.0 million less than hold harmless funding

22

If 3,900 students move to online, we will not meet the 52.2% floor and will lose 6 million dollars in funding.

* Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) – the State’s data reporting system for school districts

In-Person Student Counts



District COVID Leave – Formerly FFCRA

Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) expired December 31, 2020

On January 11, 2021 the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to extend District COVID Leave through March 31, 2021 for employees who were required to quarantine and directed not to report for work

100% of NEISD employees (including substitutes) were provided opportunity to receive the vaccination between March 23 – March 30, 2021

24

Latest administration of second dose for these employees is scheduled by end of April

Per CDC and Metro Health, employees who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine if they are exposed and asymptomatic

Therefore, the District recommends extending the District COVID Leave through April 30, 2021

Resolution will be presented to the Board of Trustees on April 12, 2021