



# Dickinson ISD

## 2020-2021 COVID Handbook

Updated February 9, 2021



Dear Parents and Employees,

The COVID-19 health pandemic continues to challenge our community, state, and nation, and Dickinson ISD remains committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. Although this school year looks different compared to previous years, we will continue to work together to ensure our students have a high-quality educational experience where they learn and grow.

Originally developed and released in August as the DISD Reopening Plan, this document has been updated to include the most current information. The contents are from the Centers for Disease Control, Texas Department of State Health Services, Galveston County Health District, medical experts from UTMB, and Texas Education Agency. This document is now the DISD COVID Handbook, and it is a valuable resource for staying informed about our district's COVID-19 procedures and expectations. The four sections in this handbook include Instruction and Learning, Health and Safety Measures, Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health Support.

As COVID-19 information continues to evolve, Dickinson ISD will ensure staff, parents, and community are kept well informed. We will do this by updating this handbook, district email, posting updates on social media and our district website, and sending school-to-home communications via Skyward and School Messenger. COVID-19 positivity rates and quarantine will continue to be closely monitored, and our data will be updated regularly on the DISD COVID Dashboard located on the district website. Strategies outlined in this handbook may need to be scaled up or scaled down as the situation in our district and community changes.

Although this global pandemic has changed how we live our lives and educate our children, it has not changed the steadfast commitment of the Board of Trustees and myself to our staff, students, and families. As we continue to navigate uncharted waters, we must use this crisis as an opportunity to work together, to learn, and to transform. Together, we will make it through, and together, we will move forward and be stronger.

With gratitude,

*Carla Voelkel*

Carla Voelkel  
Superintendent  
Dickinson ISD



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***Information in this document may change based on additional guidance from the CDC, Galveston County Health District, Texas Education Agency, and Governor Abbott.***

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Updated – February 9, 2021



# **Instruction and Learning**

## Instruction and Learning

Learning is the primary purpose of our schools, and good first instruction from a classroom teacher combined with interactive experiences with peers cannot be replaced. While we would all like to return to the normal school environment that existed prior to COVID-19, we realize that our families need options for 2020-2021. Provided below are the instruction and learning delivery systems available to Gator Nation students. Rest assured that regardless of the delivery system we will provide your child with a high-quality educational experience.

- **Traditional Face-to-Face Instruction and Learning in the classroom (PreK-grade 12)**
  - Daily, face-to-face instruction with DISD classroom teachers following a traditional schedule
  - All core and elective courses
  - Students who require support and interventions will receive them in person.
  - Google Classroom will be used for daily plans, assignments, and links to online resources.
  - Health and safety precautions will be required to help prevent and mitigate the spread of the virus during the school day and on buses. (Section 2)
  - Students who receive special education services will have a commensurate schedule as those in general education, unless otherwise noted in the student's ARD committee meeting based upon the individual student's needs.
  - Depending upon the number of positive COVID cases, intermittent closure may be necessary at an individual campus or across the district. If this occurs, teachers will immediately begin providing remote instruction to students.
  
- **Remote Instruction at Home (PreK-grade 12)**
  - Asynchronous learning – instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time and includes forms of digital and online learning will be provided. Asynchronous learning requires:
    - students to be engaged in learning each school day,
    - instructional materials aligned to TEKS,
    - progress monitoring, and
    - teacher support.
  - Addresses the required curriculum, per TEC §28.002
  - Students must have internet access and a laptop, desktop computer, iPad, or Chromebook.
  - Teachers will provide daily lessons and feedback.
  - Students must be engaged each day as defined by the teacher's daily plan in Google Classroom and commensurate with the grade level or course load during normal school hours.
  - Zoom will be used by teachers for audio conferencing, instruction, live chats, and screen sharing.
  - Students in PreK – 4<sup>th</sup> grade must have a parent or adult who can help with learning each day.
  - Students will be expected to participate in all tutorial sessions and/or video conferencing required by teachers.
  - A Parent/Student Commitment Form will be required.
  - For advanced courses and many CTE courses, remote students must report to campus on assigned days and times to complete assessments or performance-based assignments. Parents will be responsible for transportation.
  - Students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in Remote Instruction at home may participate in after-school UIL Athletics, Fine Arts, and CTE. The parent must provide transportation to after-school activities. Remote Instruction students who do not meet daily instruction requirements will not be able to participate in after-school activities. Students must also meet all attendance/eligibility requirements outlined by the UIL to participate in after-school Athletics and Fine Arts activities.

## **Attendance**

The minimum attendance for class credit rule of TEC §25.092 will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement.

In Remote Instruction, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. Students who do not complete the daily measure of engagement will be counted absent for the day.

## **Grading**

Grading procedures, PreK-grade 12, will be the same for students in Face-to-Face Instruction and Remote Instruction. For grades 9-12, Face-to-Face Instruction and Remote Instruction grades will count toward GPA, class rank and UIL eligibility.

## **Assessments**

A variety of assessments will be used, and all students will participate in district/state assessments as required to document learning and growth. Assessments include: CIRCLE Progress Monitoring (PreK), Beginning of Year/Middle of Year/End of Year – NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), unit tests, CBAs (curriculum-based assessments), writing diagnostics, benchmark tests, STAAR, TELPAS, TSI, SAT, ACT, ASVAB, Advanced Placement exams, certification tests, and performance-based assessments.

Remote students will be required to report to campus on assigned days and times to complete assessments or performance-based assignments. Parents will be responsible for transportation.

Courses and co-curricular/extra-curricular activities that require performance-based assessments include: Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, AFJROTC, STEM courses, all Pre-AP courses, all Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Collegiate High School courses, UT OnRamps courses, athletics, athletic trainers, robotics, and fine arts.

## **Special Programs**

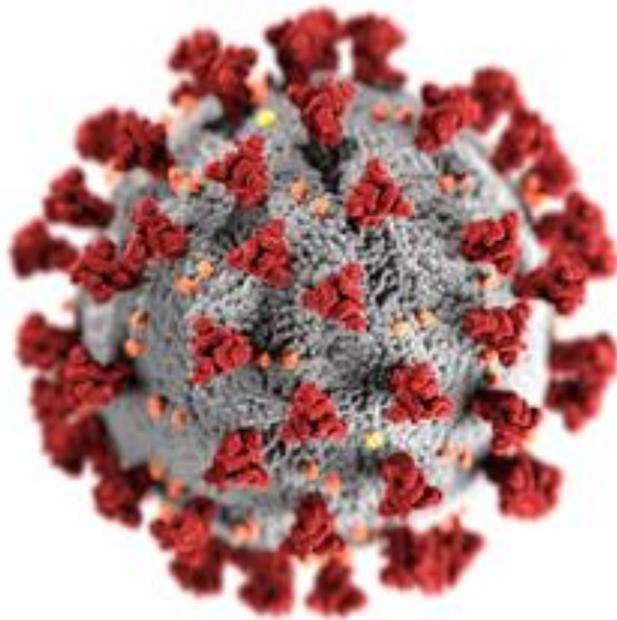
Parents of students in Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, Bilingual Education, English Learners, Gifted and Talented, STEM, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Dual Credit, will receive specific program information ongoing throughout the school year.

## **Special Education:**

Individual Education Plans, accommodations and modifications will be followed for Face-to-Face Instruction and Remote Instruction.

- Progress will be carefully monitored to ensure continued growth on individual goals and objectives.
- Parents who have concerns about compensatory education needs as a result of the COVID-19 crisis may contact [Maggie Burk](mailto:mburk@isd.texas.gov) (281.229.6094) or [Kim Davidson](mailto:kim.davidson@isd.texas.gov) (281.229.6087) for assistance. Students who receive special education services in the following classes (ECSE, SAILS, ABCD, TIDES, WAVE, SEALS 18+ ILS), whose parents have chosen remote learning, must have a parent or adult who can assist with learning each day.
- Attendance and participation are required components of remote learning.

# Health and Safety



## Health and Safety Measures

COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and DISD will do everything feasible to keep our students and staff safe. Using recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, Galveston County Health District, University of Texas Medical Branch, and Texas Education Agency, the following prevention and mitigation strategies will be implemented at Dickinson ISD facilities.

### Practices to Prevent COVID-19 from Entering Facilities (*TEA updated 12/10/20*)

1. All employees are required to take their own temperature and self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before entering a district facility each day. Employees must report to their campus/department administrator and Human Resources if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. A temperature check of employees may occur upon arrival to a school campus. Additionally, they must report if they have had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined in this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 10-day incubation period has passed.
2. Prior to entering a school bus, parents must check the temperature of their children. No child with a temperature of 100° or higher should be put on a school bus. All students riding a school bus must wear a facemask.
3. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Students who have been in close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed and are required to quarantine will automatically receive remote instruction until the 10-day incubation period has passed. All students must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to beginning the school day. Screening will be accomplished by completing questions using directions provided by the campus. A forehead temperature check of students attending face-to-face instruction at school may occur at the beginning of the school day and during the school day.
4. Parents will not be able to exit their cars during drop-off or pick-up.
5. Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, schools must screen all visitors to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are test-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted in this document. Additionally, schools must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 10-day incubation period has passed. A temperature check of adults may also occur during the screening process.

### *Individuals Confirmed, Suspected or Exposed to COVID-19*

1. Any individuals including employees, students, parents, or other visitors who themselves either:
  - a. are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
  - b. experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed in this document) must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of 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 (no medical release required):
      1. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
      2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
      3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared (no longer in the infectious period).
    - o *As per CDC and GCHD, individuals are no longer infectious after ten days have passed since the*

*symptom onset. It is normal for individuals to continue to experience symptoms. These symptoms are typical and can linger for many weeks post-COVID or individuals may continue to test positive for up to 90 days. Re-testing is not required. Employees will need a doctor's release if they cannot return to work due to their symptoms not improving. If symptoms have improved, employees can return to work after the ten days of isolation as you do not have to be symptom free. However, employees who do not return after the ten days of isolation will need to be placed on medical leave and must provide additional medical certification and/or a release to return to work.*

- In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.
  - 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.
  - 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.
  - If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.
2. Individuals including students, employees, or other campus visitors who have close contact with someone who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19 as determined by the public health agency, should stay at home through the 10-day incubation period. They will not be allowed on campus.
- a. If close contact with the case continues for the duration of the illness (e.g., living in the same household and unable to isolate), the individual must be quarantined for 10 days from the date of exposure.
  - b. Campuses will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual will be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above (1b) have been met.

### *Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus (Isolation)*

- Campuses must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Parents who are contacted to pick up an ill child are requested to do so within 30 minutes of notification.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- Campuses will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student or employee) as soon as feasible.

### **Practices to Respond to a Test-Confirmed Case in a School**

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

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify the Galveston County 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. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student or employee) 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, schools must notify all campus employees and families of all students in a school if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students or campus employees who participate in any on-campus activities.
4. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

### **COVID-19 Symptoms** (TEA update 8/4/20)

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the following will be considered:

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

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100° F.
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

### **Close Contact** (TEA update 12/10/20)

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of the day; 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 test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming test.

## COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

Dickinson ISD is now offering voluntary testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic staff members and students. District employees and students may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with the Gator Hope Clinic at a time when the test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and Galveston County Health District.

### Symptomatic Staff/Students

1. Sick at Home: If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call the Gator Hope Clinic at 281/229-6257 and schedule the rapid test. Prior to arrival for the test, staff will need to register online at <https://register.txrapidtest.org/>. A QR code will be created that contains the information necessary to register. They may print out the QR code, or take a picture on their phone to bring to the Gator Hope Clinic. The rapid test may be performed outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others. The test administrator will use PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.
2. Sick at School: If a staff member gets sick while at school, they will be asked to immediately go to the isolation room and may volunteer to receive a test. If they choose not to test or wish to go home, they may do so immediately. This must be done quickly to reduce the spread of the virus.
3. Prior to arrival for the test, staff will need to register online at <https://register.txrapidtest.org/>. A QR code will be created that contains the information necessary to register. They may print out the QR code, or take a picture on their phone to bring to the Gator Hope Clinic. The rapid test may be performed outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others. The test administrator will use PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.
4. Once the test administrator puts the test results in the system, a text message and email will be autogenerated to notify the individual of the results.
  - If the test is negative, the staff member should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
  - If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days once symptoms begin to improve. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

### Asymptomatic Staff/Students

- If results come back negative, the staff member is not symptomatic and has no history of exposure they can return to work.
- If the results come back negative, the staff member is asymptomatic but has a history of exposure/close contact then that staff member must still remain on quarantine. A negative test does not allow the individual to be removed from quarantine.
- If the results come back positive, the employee must follow quarantine protocols. The employee will be asked to follow-up with their physician and stay home for 10 days.



## COVID Dashboard

Each week the DISD COVID Dashboard, located under the Quicklinks on the DISD website, is updated with district positivity and quarantine data. It also provides a link to the Galveston County COVID Dashboard and COVID-19 data for Texas public schools.

## Travel (CDC Update 2/5/2021)

### New Travel Requirements:

All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board a flight to the United States. See the Frequently Asked Questions on the CDC website for more information.

Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

### After You Travel

- [Get tested](#) 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel.
  - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
  - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, it's safest to stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

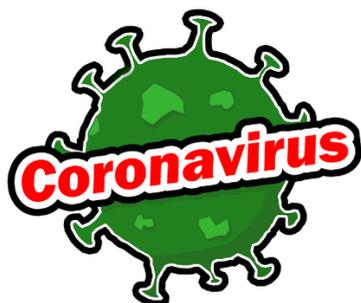
Always follow [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements related to travel.

Use the link below to access CDC travel information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

## COVID-19 – Steps to Take

Individual reports having <u>close contact</u> with a person who has test-confirmed COVID-19	Individual reports someone in their home was exposed to a person with test-confirmed COVID-19	Individual is test-confirmed with COVID-19	Individual has symptoms of COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a doctor	Individual reports experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day
<p>Individual does not report to school or school activities. They should seek guidance from a physician and remain home to monitor symptoms for 10 days.</p> <p><i>If close contact with the case continues for the duration of the illness, close contacts may need to remain at home longer than the initial case.</i></p>	<p>Individual may report to school. This is not considered prolonged close contact.</p> <p>*If the individual in the home becomes symptomatic or test-confirmed to have COVID-19, they no longer fall under this category, but would be considered having close contact with a confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 case.</p>	<p>Individual must stay home and cannot return to school until screened by the school nurse. One day (24 hours) must have passed since recovery, symptoms must have improved, and at least 10 days passed since symptoms began.</p> <p>Upon notification of a test-confirmed COVID-19 case, GCHD will be contacted, and campus employees and parents of students who were possibly exposed, will be notified.</p> <p>A medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return will not be required.</p>	<p>Individual must stay home and cannot return to school until screened by the school nurse. One day (24 hours) must have passed since recovery, symptoms must have improved, and at least 10 days passed since symptoms began.</p> <p>To return to school before the stay home period ends, the individual must provide a note from a doctor with an alternative diagnosis and clearing him to return to school or obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.</p>	<p>The individual will be isolated. Parents will be contacted to pick up the student. Employees will be sent home.</p> <p>Individual should seek immediate attention from a medical provider.</p>



To be considered exposed to COVID-19, an individual must have close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact can be family members, friends, and co-workers, and it includes living in the same household, caring for a sick person infected with the virus, being within 6 feet of a person with the virus for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of the day, or being directly exposed to infectious secretions.

# Dickinson ISD COVID-19 Action Levels

Level 1	Level 2 (Moderate Transmission)	Level 3 (Significant Transmission)	Level 4 (Substantial Transmission)
<p>Students and employees who are ill must stay home.</p> <p>Daily self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms required of all students and employees prior to arrival.</p> <p>Facemasks required of students, employees, and visitors.</p> <p>Face masks required on school buses.</p> <p>Teach healthy hygiene practices.</p> <p>Hand-sanitizer available and increased opportunities for hand washing.</p> <p>No outside visitors without an appointment and no deliveries.</p> <p>Frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces and thorough cleaning of facilities and buses at the end of each school day.</p> <p>Extracurricular activities permitted following required health and safety protocols.</p> <p>Monitor virus in the community via GCHD.</p>	<p>All health and safety protocols in Level 1 remain in place.</p> <p>Individual class or group at a campus required to quarantine because of exposure.</p> <p>Students who are required to quarantine will receive Remote Instruction.</p> <p>Affected area closed for deep cleaning.</p> <p>Notification sent to parents and staff who were possibly exposed.</p> <p>Possible cancellation of after-school/extra-curricular activities.</p>	<p>All health and safety protocols in Level 1 remain in place.</p> <p>Campus temporarily closed if there are high concentrations (10% or more of occupancy) with reported COVID-19 symptoms or known test-confirmed cases.</p> <p>All students at closed campus will receive Remote Instruction.</p> <p>District-wide notification sent to parents and staff.</p> <p>Disinfection of campus.</p> <p>All events at closed campus are canceled.</p>	<p>All campuses in DISD closed if multiple campuses have 10% or more of occupancy with suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>All students in DISD receive Remote Instruction.</p> <p>District-wide notification to parents and staff on the extent and length of the closure.</p> <p>Disinfection of all facilities and buses.</p> <p>All school events and outside use of facilities are canceled, including outside use of facilities.</p> <p>Communicate to staff, which staff members are to report to duty to maintain services to students and district operations.</p> <p>No travel outside of the district by employees or students for conferences, meetings, competitions, or special events.</p>

## Health and Hygiene Practices to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 Inside Schools

### General

1. Campuses will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices consistent with the mitigation practices used in DISD.
2. Printed resources from the CDC that promote protective measures will be displayed throughout campuses as reminders.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and in multiple areas throughout each facility.
4. Anti-bacterial soap will be available at all hand-washing stations.
5. Students, employees, and campus visitors must sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
  - Campuses will teach students good handwashing techniques.
  - Students will be encouraged to engage in handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
  - Students, employees, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and handwashing/hand sanitizer should be used immediately.
6. Staff will be required to complete education on proper environmental disinfection and adhere to CDC guidelines for disinfecting school environments. Campuses will provide each classroom with a bottle of pre-diluted disinfectant spray and paper towels. Students will be provided an opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
7. Maintenance staff will follow CDC cleaning guidelines and provide additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day, and all classrooms will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each school day.
  - Cleaning – removes germs, dirt, food, body fluids and other material. Cleaning increases the benefit of sanitizing or disinfecting.
  - Sanitizing – reduces germs on surfaces to levels that are safe.
  - Disinfecting – kills germs on surfaces of a clean object.
8. Students must have their own basic school supplies. The use of shared materials will be limited.
9. Drinking fountains remain closed. Campuses are in the process of having drinking fountains retrofitted for bottle fillers. Students are permitted to bring their own water bottle from home.
10. Restrooms will be monitored to ensure students stay spaced six feet apart and are not lingering.
11. When possible, doors to common spaces will remain open to avoid multiple people touching handles.
12. No outside deliveries (food, gifts, food delivery services, etc.) for students or employees will be accepted during the school day. (If a student forgets to bring a lunch from home, a meal will be provided by the cafeteria staff.)
13. Personal touching, high fives, hugs, handshakes, etc., will not be permitted.
14. Parents may not drop off students at campuses before the doors open to receive students (7:15 a.m. – junior high and middle school campuses; 8:00 a.m. – elementary campuses).



## Bus Transportation

1. If possible, parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up their child each day.
2. While waiting for the bus at the bus stop, while loading and unloading the bus, bus riders should social distance themselves 6 feet from each other.
3. No student should enter a bus with a fever that is 100° F or higher.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses, and students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
5. All drivers will complete a self-screener upon arrival to the Transportation Department, and they will wear face coverings on the buses.
6. Facemasks must be worn by students while riding a bus.
7. Riders will be kept as far apart as possible while riding the bus.
8. Disinfectant supplies will be on each bus.
9. Buses will be cleaned after morning routes, and they will be misted with a disinfectant spray each evening.
10. Contact tracing on a school bus will include the students on each side and in front and back of the test-confirmed case.



## Face Masks

Respiratory droplets from infected individuals, even from those who show no symptoms or have yet to show symptoms, are the main route the COVID-19 virus is transmitted between people. Droplets can come from coughing, sneezing, talking or just breathing. Masks are a first line of defense, and they can help prevent these droplets from dispersing and lingering in the air. It only takes one person in a classroom to infect others, and the use of a facemask can help prevent the spread of the virus to our students, staff, and families.

1. Masks include non-medical grade disposable facemasks or cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). (Messages on face masks/coverings must align to dress code standards.)
2. All students, employees, and visitors are required to wear facemasks/coverings unless:
  - they are alone in a classroom/office,
  - they have a documented medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering,
  - they are consuming food or drink, or
  - they are exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors and maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household.
3. Students, employees and visitors are required to wear facemasks/coverings (inside the building, outside the building and on school buses) when they are in close proximity for an extended period and when physical distancing cannot be accomplished.
4. The CDC does not recommend using masks that have an exhalation valve or vent. (CDC update 8/7/20)

## Face Shields

Full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face. (TEA 8/4/20)

A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, the CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. (CDC 8/7/20)

Here are some considerations for individuals who must wear a face shield instead of a mask:

- Although evidence on face shields is limited, the available data suggest that the following face shields may provide better source control than others:
  - face shields that wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin or
  - hooded face shields.
- Face shield wearers should wash their hands before and after removing the face shield and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth when removing it.
- Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use and disposed of according to manufacturer instructions.
- Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to manufacturer instructions or by following CDC face shield cleaning instructions.



## Food Service and Cafeterias

1. Plexiglas protective barriers are installed at serving lines.
2. Free breakfast will be available to all students.
3. Students may bring a lunch from home or they may access food available in the cafeteria. Disposable lunch sacks are preferred for food brought from home instead of plastic lunch bags or lunch boxes.
4. Meal times will be staggered.
5. Students will eat at assigned tables and/or with assigned groups each day. Other areas may be used during lunches to help with physical distancing.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available to students at the start of serving lines.
7. Floor markings/signage will be used for social distancing in serving lines.
8. To provide for social distancing, visitors will not be permitted in the cafeteria during meal times.
9. Students will be prohibited from sharing food with each other.
10. Tables will be cleaned and sanitized after each group eats.

Curbside meals remain available on Monday (2 breakfasts/2 lunches) and Wednesday (3 breakfasts/3 lunches) at Dunbar Middle School 11:00-12:00. Information pertaining to curbside meals can be found on the DISD website and social media pages.

## **Social Distancing**

1. Students and employees will maintain distance from each other.
2. In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks/chairs will be placed a minimum of six feet apart.
3. In areas where students are regularly within six feet of one another, more frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing will be encouraged.
4. When feasible and appropriate (such as physical education) classes will be conducted outside. Recess and outdoor learning will be encouraged.
5. Campuses will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large groups of students in close proximity. Each campus will notify parents of their procedures.
6. Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will not be planned until school returns to normal operating standards.
7. Congregating will not be permitted in hallways, common areas, faculty workrooms or breakrooms.

## **Nurses/Clinics**

1. Campuses will implement protocols for students who require additional support from clinic staff (diabetes, asthma, medications, and regular care due to illness or injury, etc.).
2. Visits to the school clinic will be for essential services only.
3. School nurses will provide professional learning for students and employees regarding best practices for health and hygiene.

## **Extracurricular/UII Activities**

1. Participation in extracurricular activities on campus will align with guidance in this document for non-UII extracurricular activities and with guidance from the UII for all UII activities.
2. Facemasks and social distancing are required for extracurricular/UII activities.
3. Hand washing and/or hand sanitizer must be available for any activity.
4. The district will open facilities to the public for school-sponsored activities in accordance to the Governor's executive orders.
5. Recognition banquets will only be scheduled at venues that enforce the Governor's Executive Order for occupancy, seating, and serving of food. All district protocols will be required at these events.

## **Recess**

1. Playground times will be staggered, and groups will be kept separate.
2. Outdoor areas will receive normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.

## **Visitors to Schools**

1. Visitors to schools will be limited to only those essential to school operations.
2. All visitors, unless they are district staff, must have a scheduled appointment. Parents with a scheduled ARD, teacher conference or other meeting should wait in their car until a staff member notifies them that they are ready for the meeting.
3. Visitors will be screened upon arrival, and they must wear a facemask.
4. The number of visitors in the lobby of each facility will be limited.
5. Visitors will not be permitted in the cafeteria during breakfast or lunch.



# Dickinson ISD Career & Technical Education (CTE)

## COVID-19 Action Levels

Level 1 (Face to Face)	Level 2 (Face to Face / Remote)	Level 3 (Remote Only with Lab)	Level 4 (Remote Only with No Lab)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CTE students receive face-to-face instruction</li> <li>✓ All CTE labs are fully operational</li> <li>✓ TEA, CDC, and DISD, health and safety protocols will be followed</li> <li>✓ Certification opportunities available</li> <li>✓ Career &amp; Technical Student Organization (CTSO) travel permitted for community service and competition purposes</li> <li>✓ The DISD Agriculture Science Center (ASC) will be disinfected thoroughly and disinfected prior to opening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CTE students are offered face-to-face or remote instruction</li> <li>✓ Small group lab cohorts may be assigned to accommodate District and State health and safety protocols</li> <li>✓ Certification opportunities available</li> <li>✓ Possible cancellation of Career &amp; Technical Student Organization (CTSO) travel permitted for community service and competition purposes</li> <li>✓ The DISD ASC will implement routine and enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols in regards to personal hygiene, equipment, and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CTE students receive remote instruction only through electronic access to learning materials and platforms</li> <li>✓ Individual lab appointments may be assigned to accommodate District and State health and safety protocols</li> <li>✓ Certification opportunities available</li> <li>✓ Work Based Learning (WBL) opportunities available</li> <li>✓ All Career &amp; Technical Student Organization (CTSO) travel canceled</li> <li>✓ The ASC manager will create a schedule so that no more than 10 exhibitors/family members will have access to the DISD ASC facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CTE students receive remote instruction only through electronic access to learning materials and platforms</li> <li>✓ Lab cohorts and Individual appointments are canceled</li> <li>✓ Certification opportunities limited</li> <li>✓ Work Based Learning (WBL) opportunities limited</li> <li>✓ All Career &amp; Technical Student Organization (CTSO) travel canceled</li> <li>✓ All equipment and facilities disinfected per TEA, CDC, and DISD, health and safety protocols</li> <li>✓ DISD will update ASC exhibitors and parents on any changes in protocol</li> </ul>

# DISD Agriculture Science Center Safety Protocols

## Prevention & Sanitization Strategies

- DISD Agriculture Science Center (ASC) will be routinely cleaned and disinfected.
- Facial masks will be worn at all times at the Agriculture Science Center (ASC).
- All exhibitors and family members will practice social distancing throughout all activities conducted at the Agriculture Science Center to limit risk of exposure.
- Hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer will be used upon entry and exit.
- The Agriculture Science Center, equipment, truck, and trailers will undergo enhanced cleaning after each use.
- In the event DISD enters an Action Level 3, the Agriculture Science Center barn manager will create a schedule so that no more than 10 exhibitors/family members will have access to the DISD ASC facility at a time. Exhibitors will be allowed to bring one parent to assist as needed.

## COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Management (TEA Protocol)

- Immediately notify the Agriculture Science Center (ASC) barn manager and Agriculture teachers if you or someone you have come into contact with tests positive for COVID-19.
- Exhibitors and family members should self-isolate if they experience any symptoms of COVID-19 until the following criteria have been met:
  - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may visit when all three of the following criteria are met: At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the Agriculture Science Facility until they have completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the exhibitor or a family member has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to campus before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must either obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- When an exhibitor or parent is living with someone who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (whether they have a positive COVID-19 test or not), they should self-isolate for ten days. If they do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they may return to the Agriculture Science Center. If they experience symptoms, they must self-isolate until the conditions outlined above have been met.



# UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines

The following guidance related to UIL activities applies to the 2020-2021 school year. The UIL regularly updates information. Please refer to the UIL website for the latest updates.

## Face Coverings

- Face coverings include non-medical grade disposable facemasks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.
- All employees, parents, visitors, and students must wear face coverings upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or playing the contest.

## Stay-at-Home Period for Close Contacts of Individuals Who Tested Positive

- As of December 3, 2020, the CDC amended guidance for the stay-at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms on day 10 after close contact exposure without testing.
- If individuals return to school from this shorter stay-at-home window, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage).

## Required Screening before attending or participating in activities

- The screening protocol outlined on pages 4-5 of this document are required for all staff, students, and visitors.
- Any individual who fails the screening criteria will not be admitted into school facilities or sites where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as described in this document. Any individual for whom screening cannot be confirmed will be presumed symptomatic until confirmed otherwise.

## Performance Areas, Band Halls, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings

- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray will be readily available in these areas.
- All congregate areas will be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.
- Equipment kept in student lockers and/or in these areas will be cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas.
- Staff will monitor locker rooms and other areas where student may congregate to ensure effective use of school protocols.
- Staff and students are required to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls, and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.
- District staff will follow guidelines when disinfecting, cleaning, laundering and redistributing items such as towels, practice clothes, and uniforms.

## Practice and Rehearsal Activities

- All surfaces in practice areas will be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
- Equipment will be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.
- Food, water or other drinks provided to students by schools will be done so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.

## Student Groups not directly involved in the game or contest (marching band, cheerleaders, drill team, AFJROTC, media)

- The number of participants will be limited to those essential to the performance.
- These groups will remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times, and these groups will avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
- All participants in a student group will be required to wear a face covering.
- Fans and spectators will be located at least 10 feet of distance from bands playing wind instruments from the stands.

- Students will maintain appropriate distancing when seated in the stands and from game or contest participants at all times, including when on the sideline.

### **Spectators, Audiences, Fans and Media**

- Spectators will be allowed to attend games, contests, or events within a maximum 50% capacity limitation, provided that appropriate spacing between spectators is maintained.
- Individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 may not enter a district facility.
- Spectators, audiences, fans and media are required to wear face coverings.
- Groups must maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups at all times, including the process of admission and seating. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- Seating in consecutive rows will not be allowed, and seating will be blocked off to maintain a minimum of six feet of distance between groups.
- Pathways for spectator ingress and egress will be unobstructed.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and inside district facilities.
- Seating, handrails, and other common surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected prior to each game or contest.
- Press Box seating will include social distancing of at least six feet between individuals, when possible.
- Access to media providing coverage of the event will be limited to ensure protocols are followed.
- Post-game interviews must be conducted while wearing face coverings and maintaining at least six feet of distance between the interviewer and individual being interviewed.

### **Concession Stands and Food Service**

- Staff, contractors, and volunteers involved in food service are required to wear face coverings.
- Condiments and flatware will only be provided upon request and in single use individually wrapped packets.
- Food service counters and areas will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- Contact between the individuals involved in food service and patrons will be limited as much as possible.
- Screening protocols described in this document will be used to screen staff, contractor, and volunteers who will be involved in food service prior to events.

### **Athletics**

- Students participating in remote learning may participate in UIL activities if they meet all UIL and district eligibility requirements. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation.
- Coaches and student athletes will follow all health and safety measures outlined by the UIL, TEA and Dickinson ISD.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must be cleared by a physician and complete the DISD Cardiac Return to Participation Protocol before they can return to UIL activities.
- Remote learning/coaching due to local school suspension -
  - Students will be provided guidance for working at home or remotely. This may include virtual workouts, emailed or otherwise electronically delivered workout instructions using district procedures for remote instruction.
  - For offseason activities during the school year, remote learning/coaching will be limited to a maximum of sixty minutes per day Monday through Friday.
  - For in-season activities during the school year, remote learning/coaching for UIL activities will be limited to a maximum of eight hours per week per activity, in addition to a maximum of sixty minutes per day Monday through Friday.

### **Music**

- Students participating in remote learning may participate in UIL activities if they meet all UIL and district eligibility requirements. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must be cleared by a physician before they can return to UIL activities.

- Directors and students will follow all health and safety measures outlined by the UIL, TEA and Dickinson ISD.
- Practice or rehearsal on the extracurricular portion of the music activity during a school period may not exceed 60 minutes per day, or 300 minutes per week.
- When planning practices and rehearsals, data from the aerosol study sponsored in part by the National Federation of State High School Associations will be considered. (pages 20-23)

## Junior High Athletics

### Recommendations for Athletics

- Fill out sport specific QR Code (provided by John Harmon-Head Athletic Trainer).
- Athletes will meet in the gym and have an assigned seat, to keep up with contact tracing. Coaches will assign athletes lockers and groups. Each group will rotate to the locker-room based on locker location to maintain that they are 6 feet apart. A coach will be in the locker-room to monitor that social distancing is in place.
- Hand washing stations will be set up.
- Hand sanitizer will be available when entering and exiting.
- Out of season athletes will dress out first to allow enough time for class.
- Athletes will have to bring their own water bottle.
- Athletes will wear masks both during practice, on the bench and during games
- Online athletes are expected to attend all practices in person and follow protocol.

### Recommendations for Coaches

- Temperature check of all athletes, including those that are online when they come to practice.
- Sanitizing the athlete's hands when they enter as well as when they leave.
- Have a seating chart that is 6 feet apart to keep up with contact tracing.
- Have multiple groups for locker-room location to dress out.
- May use PE locker-room to get dressed to help with social distancing.
- Make sure each group's lockers are 6 feet apart.
- Monitor entrance/exits for each class.
- Monitor locker rooms at all times while students are in there.
- Sanitize **ALL** equipment after practice.
- **ONLY** Coaches can refill water bottles.

### Recommendation for Quarantine Situations (Coaches)

- Notify campus Principal immediately if you suspect/know that an athletic is sick.
- Notify your Principal, John Snelson, Eric Anderson, Tina Knight-Gay and John Harmon if you become sick.

### Recommendation for Implementation of Safety Protocols - (Same as DHS)

- All players, coaches, trainers, and officials will wear a mask on/off the court.
- Sanitize each player's hands before each match and between each game.
- The 24-6A safety plan will follow CDC guidelines and the UIL guidelines released in the 2020-2021 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines document.
- The host team will provide guidance to visiting teams for entering/exiting sites and locker rooms in accordance with UIL health and safety protocols.

# Dickinson ISD COVID-19 Cardiac Return to Participation Protocol

In August, Dickinson ISD published its Return to Participation Protocol for athletes returning to sports after testing positive for COVID-19. Depending on the severity of symptoms, athletes will receive an Electrocardiogram to ensure their heart is strong enough to handle sports. They may also participate in a gradually increasing cardiovascular protocol.

Detailed information regarding the protocol may be found on the Dickinson ISD Sports Medicine website at: <http://schools.dickinsonisd.org/page/sportsmed-Home>

## COVID-19 Safety Recommendations for Physical Education

### Recommendation for PE

- Students will meet in the gym and have an assigned seat, to keep up with contact tracing.
- Junior High P.E. students will not dress out because of time limitations.
- Students will be expected to participate each day.
- Students will sanitize hands when entering and exiting gym area.
- Students need to bring their own water bottle.

### Recommendation for Coaches

- Introduce Health related topics, stress importance of handwashing.
- Follow all CDC, TEA, and DISD health and safety measures related to face coverings, social distancing and disinfecting areas and equipment used for physical education and physical activity, including recess.
- Have a seating chart that is 6 feet apart to keep up with contact tracing.
- Get outside as much as possible.
- Get back to basic Physical Education - the old-fashioned way! Be creative!  
Focus on activities, fitness, exercises, and sports that are teacher led but performed individually and focus on lifetime fitness (fitness-based activities, calisthenics, non-equipment exercises and drills, aerobics, yoga, individual sports and specific techniques, strength development, backyard games, power walking, outdoor education, hoop games, track and field, etc.)
- Support social-emotional learning through classroom instruction and utilizing appropriate games and activities.
- If you choose to use equipment, you must sanitize equipment after each class period.
- Make sure students are 6 feet apart and practicing social distancing at all times.
- Monitor entrance/exits for each class.

### Recommendation for Quarantine Situations

- Follow campus and district guidelines for remote instruction.



# COVID-19 Safety Recommendations for Performing Arts

## Instrumental Music

Instrumental Music refers to a curricular or co-curricular small or large ensemble setting with traditional band instruments, orchestral instruments, drumming, marching band and any combination of musical equipment.

### Masking – Mask the Person, Mask the Instrument

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask.
- Place the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.
- Wear a mask correctly for maximum protection.
  - Multi-layer
  - Surgical style mask
  - Washable or disposable
- Bells of instruments should be covered.
  - MERV 13 type material
  - Surgical mask type material
  - Something is better than nothing
  - Non-stretchy material
- Woodwinds and Brass should use a mask while playing which includes a small straight slit in a surgical style mask.
- Do not use the woodwind/brass mask outside of rehearsal.



Masks should be worn by all students and staff prior to entering the band hall and band rooms. Masks should continue to be worn at all times. Teachers should consider using a portable amplifier to keep their voices at a low conversational volume. Students should also ask questions in a low conversational volume with a mask.

Teachers are assumed to talk the most and as a result should wear the most efficient mask possible that is readily available, which are surgical masks.

No talking should occur in the room without a mask being properly worn.

## Distance – It Matters

- CDC Guidance currently is 6-foot distancing
- Indoors
  - 6x6 area
  - 9x6 for trombone
- Outdoors
  - 6x6 area
  - Masks strongly recommended
  - Instrument bell covers should still be used
- Measure classrooms to determine the best setup for each class to practice social distancing. Straight rows may allow for more space between students than the traditional arch shape.
- Prepare for how students enter and exit the classroom, along with how materials such as instruments, sheet music, and stands are used.
- No congregating in groups before and after rehearsals will be permitted on school property.
- It is strongly recommended that individuals of different households not travel in the same vehicle.

## Time

### 30-minute rehearsal times

- Indoor – Allow a minimum of 1 air change prior to next use of the room, 3 would be better.
- Outdoor – Playing should cease for approximately five minutes to allow the aerosol to disperse.

## Air Flow

- Outdoor is best
- Indoor air filtration
  - HEPA – size of room
  - Clear air delivery rate
  - Air change rate per hour (3 ACH)

## Hygiene

- Instruments
  - Instruments should not be shared.
    - If shared, proper and thorough cleaning should occur between each use.
  - Percussion students must not share mallets without properly disinfecting them – or students can wear gloves.
  - If teaching recorder, each student must have their own instrument. Recorders must not be kept in a common storage area in the classroom. (Students should not play recorders in school until the results of the COVID-19 aerosol student are complete.)
- Spit Valves
  - Empty away from others
  - Have an absorbent disposable material to catch the condensation
- Handwashing
  - Hand sanitizer should be readily available
  - Soap and water should be available
  - Hands should be washed after contact with surfaces and others
- Water bottles must not be shared. Students shall bring their own water bottle.
- Common Areas
  - Should be managed to limit the number of students at a time in the room.
  - Anyone who enters the room should bring an alcohol wipe to wipe all surfaces before and after touching.
  - The wipe should be discarded properly upon leaving the area.

## Equipment and Supplies

- Students must not share music stands.
- Students must not share sheet music. Additional sheet music may need to be purchased to ensure all students have their own copies.

## Vocal Music

Vocal Music, like all other fine arts disciplines, is about being a literate student in their art form, in this case, a vocally literate student. The standards students will experience will emphasize conceptual understanding in areas that reflect the actual processes in which musicians engage. The standards cultivate a student's ability to carry out the four artistic processes of Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting. These are the processes that musicians have followed for generations, even as they connect through music to themselves and their societies. Vocal music students will participate in rigorous experiences in creating, to become successful musicians, and to be successful 21st-century citizens.

## Masks

- Properly fitting masks should be worn by all students and staff prior to entering the choir room. Masks must continue to be worn at all times. Face shields without a mask will not be permitted in vocal music classrooms.
- Teachers should consider using a portable amplifier to keep their voices at a low conversational volume. Students should also ask questions in a low conversational volume with a mask.
- Teachers are assumed to talk the most and as a result should wear the most efficient mask possible that is readily available, which are surgical masks. (N95s are not recommended at this time due to supply chain issues.)
- No talking should occur in the room without a mask being properly worn.

## Distance – It Matters

- CDC Guidance currently is 6-foot distancing.
- Measure classrooms to determine the best setup for each class to practice social distancing. Straight rows may allow for more space between students than the traditional arch shape, and risers may need to be removed from the choir room to allow more space between students.
- Prepare for how students enter and exit the classroom, along with how materials such as sheet music and stands are used.
- No congregating in groups before and after rehearsals will be permitted on school property.
- It is strongly recommended that individuals of different households not travel in the same vehicle.

## Time

30-minute rehearsal times and allow a minimum of 1 air change prior to next use of the room.

## Hygiene

- Handwashing
  - Hand sanitizer should be readily available.
  - Soap and water should be available.
  - Hands should be washed after contact with surfaces and others.
- Water bottles must not be shared. Students shall bring their own water bottle.
- Common Areas
  - Should be managed to limit the number of students at a time in the room.
  - Anyone who enters the room should bring an alcohol wipe to wipe all surfaces before and after touching.
  - The wipe should be discarded properly upon leaving the area.

## Equipment and Supplies

- Students must not share music stands.
- Students must not share sheet music. Additional sheet music may need to be purchased to ensure all students have their own copies.

*International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Round 2  
NFHS and NAME Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education*

## Dance

Dance is an art form that uses movement to communicate meaning about the human experience. Education in the art of dance develops the knowledge and skills required to create, perform, and understand movement as a means of artistic communication and serves as a vehicle to support a student's mental and emotional well-being. Comprehensive dance education includes improvisation, technique, choreography, performance, observation, and analysis.

### General Information:

- All components of the dance program will follow CDC, TEA, UIL, TDEA, and DISD guidelines to ensure a safe learning environment.
- All rehearsals will be closed to spectators.
- All dance department performances and events in the fall semester will be live streamed with no audience present unless the performance is outdoors following the mask/distancing expectations.

### Instructional Practices

- Instruction should take place in straight rows with a minimum of 6 feet between each student, with a mask on, when engaged in aerobic activity.
- Instruction should take place with a minimum of 3 feet between each student, with a mask on, when not engaged in aerobic activity.
- When exercising, each student should utilize a different mask after class or rehearsal.
- No more than 30-minutes will be allowed for group activities that involve physical exertion during the allotted classroom time with 20 minutes allotted for clearing the aerosols in the room.
- Alternate dance spaces will be used when possible.
- No movement activities will be allowed if the HVAC system is not working fully.
- When possible, outdoor spaces will be utilized when class enrollment exceeds the square footage allotment.
- Utilizing outdoor spaces must be approved and assigned by administrative staff.

### Expectations:

- The Dance Director will train and communicate to all stakeholders regarding COVID-19 protocols and procedures for the dance program.
- COVID-19 signage provided by DHS will be posted in the dance classroom.
- The Dance Director and students will wear a proper mask at all times while in the dance room, other performance areas, and while entering and exiting the facility.
- Disposable gloves may be utilized for the cleaning of all supplies and equipment.
- All equipment, costume pieces, props, and accessories must be disinfected after use. Items that cannot be disinfected must be isolated for one week.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected after every use by staff and secondary students.
- Student backpacks will be staged in an assigned area.
- No sharing of food and drinks will be permitted.
- Sharing of performance attire, makeup, and props will not be allowed.
- All dance students will be responsible for bringing their own water supply. Sharing of water will not be allowed. All students need to bring enough water to last for the duration of the rehearsal. Each container should be properly labeled and stored. Limited campus water fountains will be available to refill water bottles.

- Shower and wash hair daily to help mitigate the spread. In addition, wear long hair up and cover it up.
- Only one student at a time will be allowed to use the restroom. Students will be required to wash their hands for 20 seconds per restroom visit. Students are encouraged to use a paper towel when opening restroom doors and immediately dispose of it into a trash can located outside the restroom door.
- No congregating in groups before and after rehearsals will be permitted on school property.
- It is strongly recommended that individuals of different households not travel in the same vehicle.
- There will be no in-person group social activities sponsored by the DHS dance department until further notice.
- Off-campus fine arts performances must be approved by the campus and district administration, and will only be approved if specific guidance is provided by an authorizing entity (e.g. TEA, UIL, etc.).

## Theatre Education

**Theatre** is an interdisciplinary art form that satisfies the human need to express thoughts and feelings through written text, dramatic interpretation and multimedia production.

### General Information

- Theatre performance opportunities will continue to be available to students, in person and virtually.
- Teachers will provide high-quality instruction to students so they can learn and grow in their knowledge, understanding, and love of theatre.
- Theatre instruction will be provided using multiple models, and curriculum will include curated teacher-guided virtual or recorded theater performances that are widely available so students can gain a better understanding of play structure, playwright intent, and production elements.
- Coursework will continue to educate students on the elements and importance of intellectual property, copyright, and licensing fees.
- Regular and meaningful opportunities for students to rehearse, produce, and perform theatre is of paramount importance, whether in person or remotely.
- Multiple research studies have detailed profound concerns over the transmission of the virus through respiratory droplets produced through speech, either spoken or sung in close quarter environments.
- Live theatre productions involving the gathering of large crowds or limited groups in confined spaces will be postponed until additional guidance is provided by the state.

### Expectations

- In-person theatre classes must follow all CDC and DISD public health guidelines.
- Facemasks must be worn by all students and teachers while entering and leaving the classroom or other performance areas and during instruction and rehearsals.
- Adhere to social distancing between actors, technicians, and teachers.
- Students must bring their own marked water bottles.
- Sharing of food or beverages will not be permitted.
- Wipe down or spray all surfaces, chairs, set pieces, props, technical hardware, etc. before and after rehearsal, using CDC approved disinfectants.
- Sharing of make-up, costumes and wigs will not be permitted.
- All costumes must be laundered and all wigs sanitized after each rehearsal.
- Hand sanitizer must be readily available in classrooms, dressing rooms, backstage, and all other production areas.
- Dressing rooms and production areas should be sanitized, before and after rehearsals, using CDC approved disinfectants.
- Students may not share any voice amplification equipment, if possible. Students should avoid touching any curtain.
- Sanitize all technical hardware – microphones/headsets, rigging, sound and light boards, lights and rigging before and after each rehearsal per manufacturer instructions.
- Only students who are required to be at rehearsals will be allowed to attend.

- Unnecessary touching, movement, or singing that might increase the transmission of aerosol droplets will be avoided.
- Meet technical needs (set and costume construction, lights, sound, etc.) through the application of standard safe practice procedures and a staggered schedule that ensures social distancing in all workspaces.
- Conduct technical rehearsals with the minimal number of students possible and adhere to social distancing for both performers and technicians throughout.
- Students who do not feel well will be sent home from rehearsals. The campus nurse will be notified and district protocol will be implemented.
- When live performances are permitted, parents, volunteers, and patrons must adhere to all DISD health and safety guidelines.
- Congregating will not be permitted before a production, during intermission, or after the performance.
- Concessions will be limited to pre-packaged beverages and food.
- No congregating in groups before and after rehearsals will be permitted on school property.
- It is strongly recommended that individuals of different households not travel in the same vehicle.
- There will be no in-person group social activities sponsored by the DHS theatre department until further notice.

## **Guidelines for Performing Fine Arts Events**

To provide a creative outlet for our performing arts students, and to meet the performance TEKS of performing arts courses, indoor and/or outdoor performances will be allowed with limited seating capacity. Our focus is to ensure all participants and audience members remain safe before, during, and after a performance. The following guidelines will apply to all campus performances.

### **Audience Preparation**

- Include information on seating arrangements, distancing requirements, COVID-19 Screening, and mask requirements in all communications.
- Prepare a paperless program that can be accessed online.
- Patrons who cannot wear masks due to medical reasons should provide documentation upon entering the facility and may be seated in an alternate location.
- Inform audience members that they are not allowed on stage or backstage.
- Inform audience members where they should wait for students (best outside).
- Arrange for audience members to be dismissed by rows at the conclusion of the event.
- Due to social distancing and ¼ capacity limitations, each participant will be allotted a certain number of tickets per performance.
- Patrons should not loiter in lobby areas, rows, and aisles.

### **Performance Venue Audience Protocol**

- A COVID-19 self-screening will take place prior to entrance into the facility. A DISD employee should monitor the self-screening process. Individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should not enter the facility.
- Audiences are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Seating will be limited due to social distancing. Maximum ¼ capacity seating, social distanced using every other row when in an auditorium. Cafeteria seating should be social distanced (6 ft.) in every direction.
- Every other row should be taped off to help with social distancing.
- Hand sanitizers should be provided at all entrances.
- If multiple groups are performing, give each group a specific start time and clear the hall between performances.
- No food or drink allowed in the performing venue.
- Schedule HVAC for performance well in advance.

## **Performer Preparation**

- It is recommended that band and choir performances be limited to 45 minutes with a 15 minute break to allow for proper air exchange within the performance space.
- It is recommended that events not have an intermission.
- Student performers should self-screen for COVID-19 prior to coming to school. Individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should stay home and notify the teacher.
- Student performers are required to wear face coverings at all times when not performing.
- Student performers should maintain social distance both backstage and when performing as best possible.
- Student performers should be kept separate from audience members.
- Students should utilize hand sanitizing station and/or hand washing stations before and after the performance. Hand sanitizing station should be available backstage and warm up rooms.
- Student equipment, seating, and common touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected between each performance.
- Students will not share wind instruments or percussion mallets or personal tools.
- All general shared tools are encouraged to be cleaned between each user.

## **Theatre/Dance Addendum:**

Black Box Theatres and Drama classrooms may not be utilized as performance venues at this time.

### **Ticket Sales**

- Determine the amount of tickets that can be sold (1/4 capacity with social distancing).
- Each participant (performers, technicians, support staff and directors) will be allotted a certain number of tickets per activity based on the capacity of the performance venue.
- After the participants allotments are sold, the remaining tickets will be sold to the public.
- Tickets should be sold through an approved online ticketing platform.
- Tickets should be scanned at entry. No paper tickets should be collected.

### **Dressing rooms**

- Consider performers arriving to the venue in costume and make up to limit need for dressing rooms.
- If students must dress at school, evaluate dressing rooms for maximum occupancy and use additional classroom spaces for dressing/makeup as needed to maintain appropriate social distancing in these spaces.
- No sharing of makeup or related equipment.
- Assign chairs to individuals to lessen frequent touching by others.

### **Production Specific Guidelines**

- Consoles (both LX and AV) operators should be limited. Masks and gloves required when operating consoles.
- All consoles should be cleaned between new users and at designated cleaning times (follow manufacture's guidelines on proper cleaning).
- Spotlight operators – see console notes above.
- Maintain 6' social distancing whenever possible in setting up prop tables, stage manager stations, and other backstage tech positions.
- Clear-Com or other communication devices should be assigned to one student for the duration of the production and be disinfected daily.
- No mic sharing or swapping. Limit mic use to one individual (assign mics).
- Cleaning of mics are encouraged to be done between each user. (refer to manufacturing guidelines on cleaning).

# COVID-19 Safety Recommendations for Visual Arts

**Visual Art** is a spatial art form that satisfies the human need to respond, construct and expand from life experiences through images, structures and tactile works.

## General Information

- All elementary and secondary art classrooms will follow CDC, TEA, UIL, TAEA, and DISD guidelines to ensure a safe learning environment.
- Campus specific plans will be posted for each elementary explaining the rotation for art instruction.

## Expectations

- All art teachers will communicate COVID-19 protocols and procedures to students for art instruction.
- Facemasks must be worn by teachers and staff at all times (entering/leaving the classroom and during instruction).
- Face shields may also be used as an additional barrier when instructing and monitoring students.
- When possible, students will be issued individual supplies.
- Shared supplies and equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Shared supplies that cannot be disinfected will be isolated for one week after use.
- Sharing of clay will not be permitted between students.
- All personal items must be properly stored and removed daily.
- Students will be responsible for bringing their own water bottle.
- No in person group social activities sponsored by the art department until further notice.
- No congregating before and after class will be permitted on school property.



# **Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Support**



## **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Mental Health Support**

Dickinson ISD is dedicated to social emotional learning, mental health support and awareness, resiliency, trauma informed practices, transition services, and overall wellness. For social emotional learning, the focus will be on the core competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. All staff will be trained in Character Strong and will be expected to support and teach using this character development and social emotional learning program along with Restorative Practices. The Dickinson Gator Wellness Center is our central location for all Mental Health Related Supports and it is located at McAdams Junior High. A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for mental and behavioral health is put in place and will assist our team in supporting our students. Through a collaborative approach, we strive to meet the needs of our students and families. Our team of professional school counselors, licensed professional counselor, social workers, and community mental health partners under the leadership of our social emotional learning specialist will be offering the following support:

### **Professional School Counselors will:**

1. Offer guidance lessons virtually or face-to-face.
2. Support all staff on the implementation of Character Strong and Restorative Practices.
3. Provide individual planning to guide students as they plan, monitor and manage their individual educational, career, personal, and social development.
4. Provide responsive services to support students that have an immediate personal concern or circumstance, including providing individual and group counseling (virtually and face to face following all required guidelines).
5. Communicate with students, staff, and the community available supports and resources.
6. Provide mental health referrals to outside agencies.
7. Promote self-care/wellness for students, staff, and families.

### **Social Workers will:**

1. Link families to community resources, including special education transition services in coordination with the transition specialist.
2. Provide families assistance with medical and prescription needs.
3. Assist families with applying for governmental benefits.
4. Act as a liaison between home and school for social work-related needs.
5. Provide additional supports to our homeless population.
6. Coordinate homebound services.

### **Social Emotional Learning Specialist will:**

1. Coordinate and supervise the Dickinson Gator Wellness Center and its supports.
2. Communicate available resources to staff, parents and community.
3. Serve on district and community committees to ensure continuity of care.

### **Available Supports include:**

- Family & Community Resource Center
  - Books and materials are available for checkout. These resources support social emotional learning and mental health awareness. For more information, please call our Gator Wellness Center at 281-229-6005 or refer to the Dickinson ISD website.
- Mental Health & Wellness Referrals
  - DePelchin (parenting support)
  - UTMB Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT)
  - Family Service Center (Counseling)
  - School Counseling
  - Communities in Schools (CIS)

- Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol (BACODA)
- Basic Needs (food, clothing, & shelter)
- Other referrals are available depending on support needed
- Self-Care & Wellness
  - Offer supports and resources
  - Communicate utilizing the Dickinson Gator Wellness Facebook Page, Dickinson ISD website and through email
  - Care for the Caregiver (by Save the Children)
- Mental Health Calling Center
  - The calling center offers a listen and refer system. If you have questions or need to be linked to resources and/or supports, please call 281-229-6005.
- Professional School Counseling
  - Counseling support
  - Curriculum and resources
- Transition Services for students receiving special education
  - Instruction and related services for students who are 18+
  - Assistance with the Gulf Coast Center and Workforce Solutions referral process

### **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Mental & Behavioral Health**

Dickinson ISD utilizes a tiered approach for supporting our students. Some of the supports that our staff will be implementing include the following:

#### **Tier 1**

- Character Strong
- Restorative Practices
- Emotional Backpack Project (mental health, suicide prevention, trauma informed practices and mindfulness)
- Trauma Informed Practices
- Youthworks Prevention and Positive Action (provided by BACODA)
- Child Safety Program (provided by The Child Advocacy Center of Galveston County)
- 2nd Steps Curriculum (PreK-8th)

#### **Tier 2**

- Journey of Hope (from Save the Children small group)
- Calm Crusaders curriculum for anxiety small groups
- Superhero Social Skills
- Niroga Dynamic Mindfulness
- Bounce Back small group
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)
- Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI)
- Gator Wellness Small Group Toolkits
- Communities in Schools (CIS)

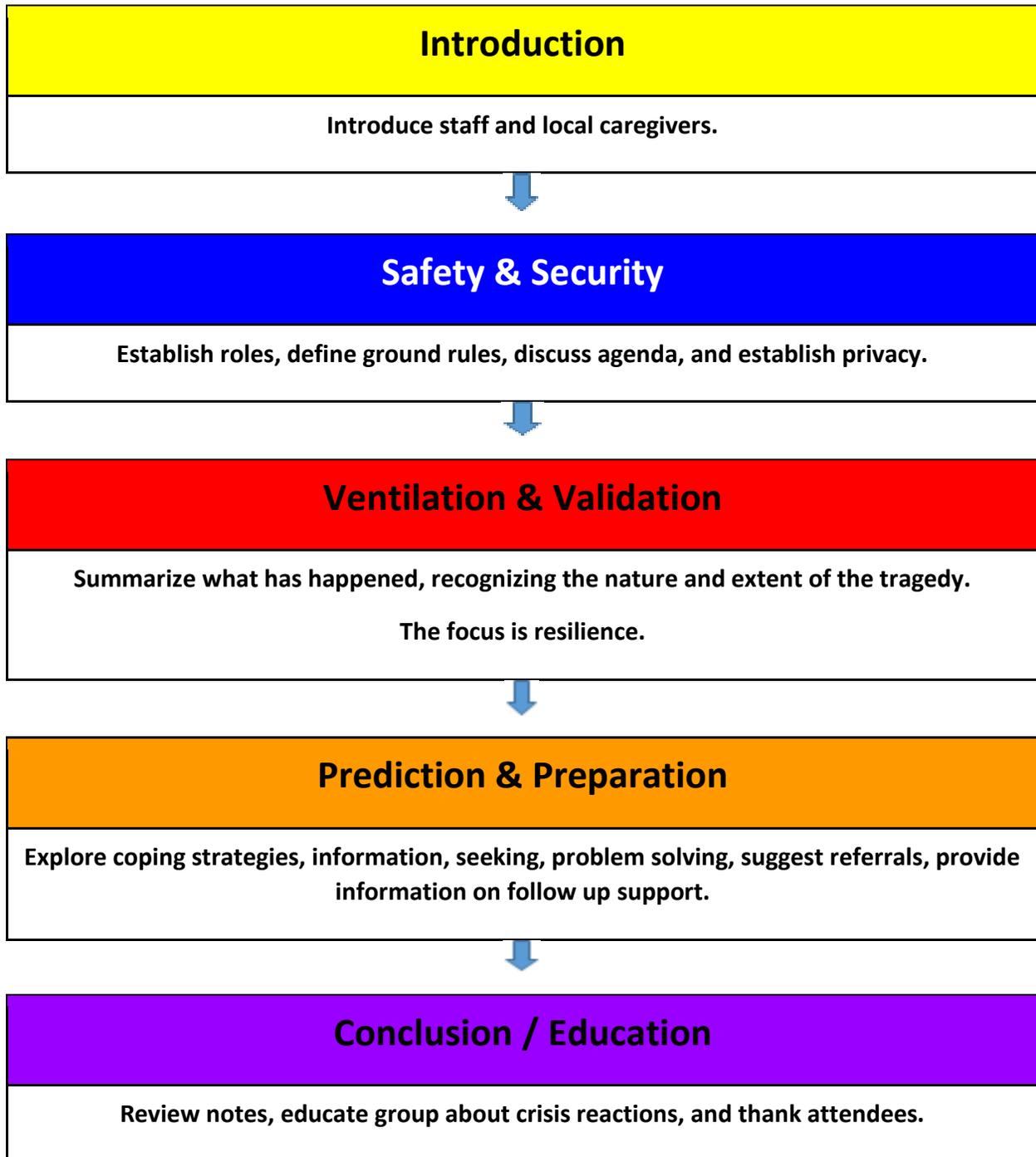
#### **Tier 3**

- Texas Children's Hospital Trauma and Grief Therapy
- Bounce Back
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools
- Mental Health Referral
- Communities in Schools (CIS)



# Dickinson ISD Crisis Response

In the event our Gator community suffers a death to a student or staff member as a result of COVID-19, please know that our counseling and LSSP (Licensed Specialists in School Psychology) staff is prepared to respond, support and provide resources for ongoing care for our students, staff, and community. DISD has several staff members who have been trained in NOVA, CISM, Psychological First Aid, Texas Children's Trauma and Grief Component Therapy, and PREPaRE crisis response. The team has worked closely with Dr. Scott Poland on developing a virtual response in the case that students and staff are not able to meet in person.



# COVID-19

## Key Concept Definitions

(Texas Education Agency)

### Close Contact

The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day; 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 test-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.

**Guidance for Schools:** Close contacts should follow the stay at home protocol as outlined by the CDC. COVID-19 testing for close contacts is not necessary, as negative test results can occur at any time while the virus is incubating. The role of schools in identifying close contacts is to provide relevant information to local health departments, not to determine close contacts in the absence of public health guidance.

### Screening

Screening is an activity that campuses conduct to identify and temporarily exclude from campus those who have been exposed to COVID, in an effort to keep the virus out of campuses.

**Guidance for Schools:** Screening is accomplished by asking questions via electronic methods, by phone, and/or in person to determine that individuals:

- \* Are not test-confirmed with COVID-19
- \* Do not themselves have COVID-19 symptoms
- \* Have not come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19

Schools have the ability to prevent anyone who either does not complete or does not pass screening from entering their campus.

### Case Investigation

Discussions with a COVID-19 positive individual to determine who may have spread and/or been infected and how that spread may have occurred

### Contact Tracing

The identification of individuals who have been exposed as close contacts to COVID-19 and are as a result possibly infected themselves, but pre-symptomatic.

**Guidance for Schools:** Case investigation and contact tracing will be conducted by the local health entity. If an infected individual was on campus during the infectious period, school personnel will need to provide information to inform the case investigation and contact tracing process.

## Staying Home

Staying home allows individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to monitor their symptoms during the period in which they may be infectious. These individuals should **separate themselves from others outside their home, monitor their health, and follow directions from the GCHD.**

**Guidance for Schools:** Because doctors believe a positive person can infect others with COVID-19 for two days prior to experiencing symptoms, and symptoms may take 10 days to appear, if an individual is made aware that they are a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they should immediately begin to stay home and continue to do so during the virus incubation period. It is important for schools to keep track of the individuals who have been directed by local public health entities or asked by the school to stay at home so they can temporarily remain home.

In most cases, local health entities will notify close contacts that they should:

- \* Stay home until 10 days after last close contact with confirmed positive COVID-19 individual
- \* Check temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19
- \* If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

CDC: Stay home if you might have been exposed to COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

## Self-Isolation

Self-isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 (including those who are sick with the virus and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it is safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

CDC: Isolate if you are sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

**Guidance for Schools:** Self-isolation allows individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 to recover while trying not to infect others. Based on medical professionals’ understanding of how long an individual is infectious after fever and other symptoms disappear, self-isolation can end when a symptomatic or test-confirmed individual:

Meets all three of the following conditions for return to school:

- 24 hours with no fever;
- Symptoms improved; and
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19

Or:

A doctor’s note indicating an alternate diagnosis

## STAYING HOME

Purpose of this period is to prevent presymptomatic or asymptomatic individuals from spreading the virus

Asks individuals to stay at home, but no further precaution required

Applies to close contacts of confirmed positive individuals

Individuals do not have symptoms, but they have been identified as having a higher likelihood that they may have the virus

Duration lasts for 10 days from close contact

There is no need to get a test, because the individual could be incubating the virus until the 10-day incubation period ends regardless of result

VS.

## SELF-ISOLATION

Purpose of this period is to prevent symptomatic/ test-confirmed individuals from spreading the virus

Asks individuals to stay at home and stay isolated while at home, encourages others in home to wear masks, disinfect frequently

Applies to individuals who are symptomatic and/or test-confirmed

If the individual has symptoms, but doesn't think it is COVID, the individual can end self-isolation with a medical professional's diagnosis that the symptoms are something other than COVID –or– by obtaining an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Otherwise, it ends when the virus can no longer spread from the individual, with all three of these being true:

24 hours with no fever;

Symptoms improved; and

10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared