



EPISD 2021-22 *Safe Return to In-Person*

INSTRUCTION *Plan*

Public Safety Protocols to safely reopen schools for in-person learning

Revised 10-05-21

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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*



Letter from the Interim Superintendent

Welcome back to EPISD! First and foremost, thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through unprecedented and extraordinary times in our District and nation's history!

The Texas State Legislature ended its session without approval of House Bill 1468, which would have allowed school districts to offer virtual learning options to students this fall. EPISD was awarded authorization and planned to offer virtual instruction in the upcoming school year. However, our virtual learning was contingent upon the House Bill's passage, which would have provided funding for the program.

As a result, the District will return to 100 percent face-to-face instruction, and other activities, for the new school year, which begins Aug. 2. Although remote learning will not be an option, rest assured that we will continue to update our technology and infrastructure to ensure that all students are equipped with devices and proper connectivity.

All students will need to report to their respective campuses in accordance with the District's adopted instructional calendar and will be subject to regular attendance requirements. Safety will remain a top priority.

Thank you for your support and commitment to ensuring that our students continue to learn and grow. We will continue to monitor state and local guidance as we prepare for the upcoming school year. We are looking forward to having all our students back with us this fall!

Sincerely,

Vince Sheffield
Interim Superintendent

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Virtual & Hybrid School Accelerator (Virtual Remote Learning)



House Bill 1468, which would have authorized local school districts the option to offer remote and hybrid learning programs for the 2021-2022 school year, did not pass at the end of the Texas legislative session.

Without the passage of HB 1468, remote/hybrid learning is not authorized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for full funding within the existing legal framework for school year 2021-2022, with a few exceptions (for example, existing Texas Virtual School Network members).

Since the governor ordered schools closed in March of 2020 and subsequently ordered TEA to issue operations guidance for the 2020-2021 school year, TEA was able to authorize remote learning through disaster-based waiver authority and conditions. However, that authority will no longer apply in the 2021-2022 school year.

While it is possible that remote/hybrid learning may be authorized in the future, it is unclear when that authorization may happen. The Texas Education Agency has stated before that the Virtual & Hybrid School Accelerator's launch is dependent on the passage of legislation, and given current status, are not launching or approving the Virtual & Hybrid School Accelerator as previously planned.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

City of El Paso Mask Mandate



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

Return to Play Protocol and Guidance for Young Athletes (High School Students and Younger) in El Paso, Texas (August 3, 2021)

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Peter Svarzbein

This guidance replaces the document issued September 23, 2020. The updates contained hereby in this document reflect changes in isolation and quarantine as more evidence becomes available in this ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic.

District 2
Alexandra Annelo

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Cassandra Hernandez

This guidance provides a return to play protocol for all young athletes within El Paso County in an effort to prevent morbidity and mortality associated to complications from COVID-19 when returning to sports competitions. It will also provide uniform evidence-based protocol to be used by all athletic trainers, coaches and other personnel involved in youth sports and those responsible for the health and well-being of those children.

District 4
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District 5
Isabel Salcido

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Claudia L. Rodriguez

While many young children infected with the COVID-19 virus have mild symptoms or remain asymptomatic, some develop moderate or severe disease that will impact the respiratory and cardiovascular systems by direct injury or initiation of the inflammatory response. Cardiopulmonary concerns from COVID-19 arise from the limited data available in the pediatric population and from data in severely ill adult patients, where approximately 1 in 5 hospitalized patients suffers from cardiac, pulmonary, or thromboembolic (clotting) complications and long-term effects.

District 7
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Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

Evidence on the prevalence and risks of these and other complications in children and adolescents who have had a milder form of the illness remains limited. While the incidence of myocarditis is lower in the pediatric population compared to the adult population, myocarditis is a well-known cause of sudden death during exercise in the young athlete.

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

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City of El Paso Mask Mandate (Continued)



Department of Public Health

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Definitions:

Asymptomatic Disease: Patient Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 positive without exhibiting any symptoms for the duration of the isolation period (10 days).

Mild Disease: Patient Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 positive who exhibits fewer than 4 days of fever above 100.4oF, short duration of symptoms (<7 days) such as myalgia, chills and lethargy.

Moderate Disease: Patient Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 positive who exhibits ≥ 4 days fever $>100.4oF$, ≥ 7 days of myalgia, chills, or lethargy, or a non-ICU hospital stay and no evidence of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

Severe Symptoms: Patient Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 positive who had ICU admission and/or intubation or MIS-C.

Guidance for Healthcare Providers:

All children diagnosed with COVID-19 should be evaluated by a healthcare provider and cleared to start return to play progression. Healthcare providers evaluating children for return to play after COVID-19 infection should abide by the following recommendations depending on the severity of the disease, this is based on current available evidence.

Asymptomatic or mild illness in the pediatric population do not require cardiac testing during the acute infection and is not required to clear them to resume sports participation. These young athletes should refrain from physical activity and sports while actively sick or febrile and gradually return to activities as they feel able.

Young athletes who experience moderate COVID-19 disease should have an EKG done before they are cleared to continue sports participation.

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Youth Athlete may initiate **return to play progression*** if any the following situations are met:

- At least 10 days have passed from the date of positive COVID-19 test if asymptomatic, or
- At least 10 days have passed from the date of resolution of symptoms if mild disease, or
- At least 10 days have passed from the date of resolution of symptoms for moderate disease **AND** should have a **NORMAL EKG.**

For young athletes who experience severe COVID-19 disease with evidence of myocarditis or were diagnosed with MIS-C, should **NOT** return to play for 3-6 months and they should be cleared by Primary Care Provider and Pediatric Cardiologist.

Return to play progression is a six-step process that includes a series of exercises that provides structure to guide an athlete who is recovering from COVID-19 in a gradual return to play (RTP) by allowing participation in increasingly difficult physical activities.

It is important for an athlete's parent(s) and coach(es) to watch for cardiac symptoms such as: chest pain, chest tightness, palpitations, lightheadedness, pre-syncope or syncope after each day's return to play progression activity. An athlete should only move to the next step if they do not have any new symptoms at the current step. If any of these symptoms develop, patient will not be allowed to continue the exercises and will be referred to the evaluating provider who signed the form.

Student-Athletes must complete the progression described on Return to Play form attached, monitored by school athletic trainer, without the development of symptoms before they are allowed to fully return to play sports.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH, FAAP
Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

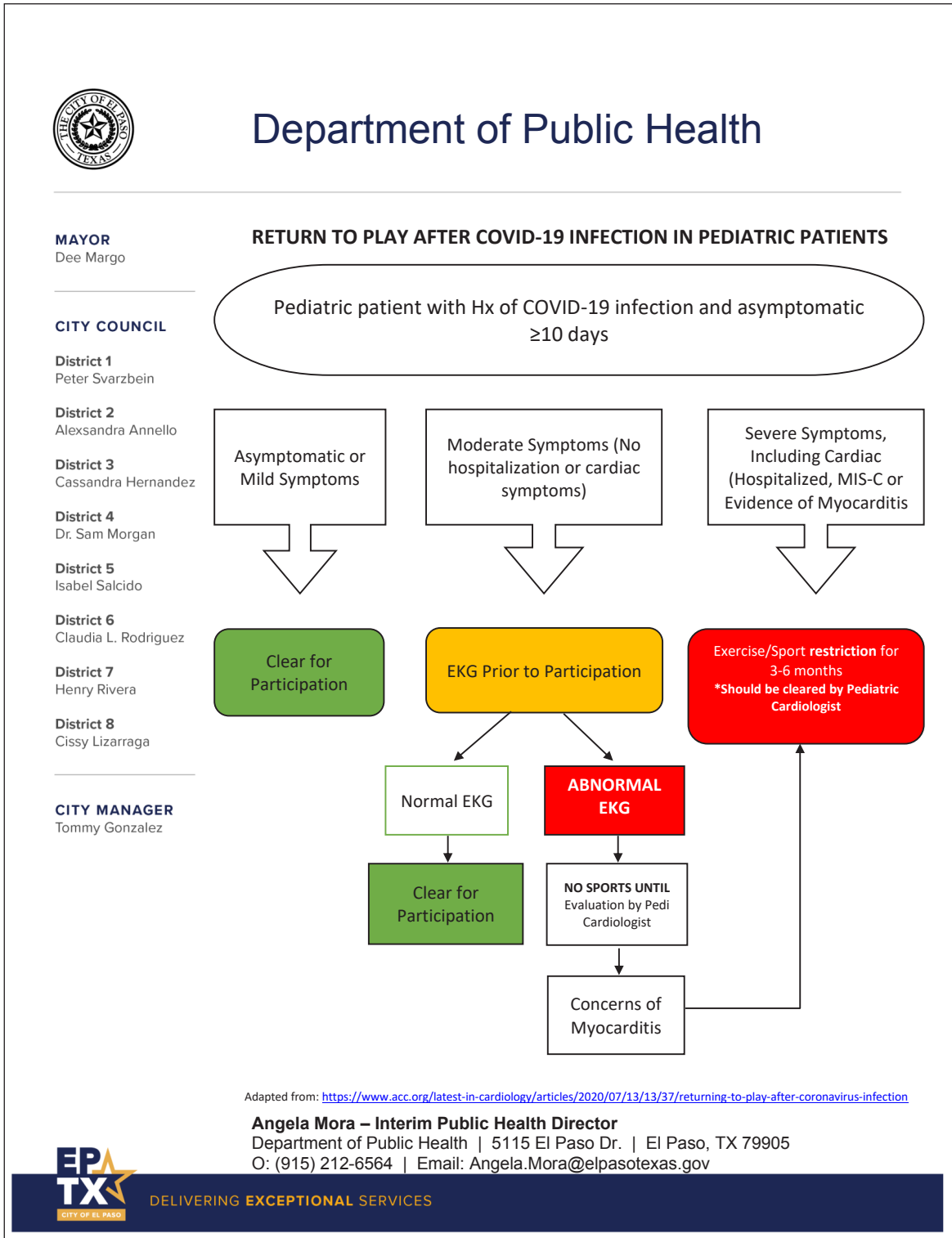
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City of El Paso Mask Mandate (Continued)



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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

City of El Paso Mask Mandate (Continued)

Return to Play (RTP) Procedures After COVID-19 Infection

Athlete's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Student ID#: _____ Sport: _____

Date of Positive COVID-19 Test: _____ Date of Medical Clearance: _____

- Student-Athletes must have Medical Clearance from COVID-19 on File to initiate Return to Play Progression.
- Student-Athletes must complete the progression below without development of chest pain, chest tightness, palpitations, lightheadedness, pre-syncope or syncope. If these symptoms develop, patient should be referred to the evaluating provider who signed the form.

Stage 1: (2 Days Minimum) Light Activity (Walking, Stationary Bike) for 15 minutes or less at intensity no greater than 70% of maximum heart rate. NO resistance training.

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Stage 2: (1 Day Minimum) Add simple movement activities (EG. running drills) for 30 minutes or less at intensity no greater than 80% of maximum heart rate.

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Stage 3: (1 Day Minimum) Progress to more complex training for 45 minutes or less at intensity no greater than 80% maximum heart rate. May add light resistance training.

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Stage 4: (1 Day Minimum) Normal Training Activity for 60 minutes or less at intensity no greater than 80% maximum heart rate

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Stage 5: (1 Day Minimum) Return to Team Activities, S&C, and skill work, non-contact practice

Date: _____ Pass: ___ Fail: ___ AT INITIALS: _____ SA INITIALS: _____

Stage 6: Return to Team Activities, Return to full Team Practice

Cleared for Full Participation by School Athletic Trainer (Minimum 7 days spent on RTP):

Athletic Trainer: _____ Date: _____

RTP Procedure adapted from Elliott N, et al. Infographic. British Journal of Sports Medicine, 2020.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

City of El Paso Mask Mandate (Continued)

COVID-19 Medical Clearance Form

Per the University Interscholastic League, if an athlete has tested positive for COVID-19, he/she must be cleared for progression back to activity by an approved health care provider (MD/DO/APRN/PAC)

Athlete's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Date of Positive Test: _____ Date Onset of Symptoms: _____

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

Date of Evaluation: _____

• **Criteria to return (Please check below as applies)**

- Athlete was not hospitalized due to COVID-19 infection **AND**
- At least 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms **OR**
- If asymptomatic, At least 14 days have passed since date of positive test **OR**
- Cardiac screen questions negative for myocarditis/myocardial ischemia

(Please answer ALL questions below)

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chest pain/tightness with exercise | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexplained Syncope/near syncope | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexplained/excessive dyspnea/fatigue w/exertion | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Palpitations | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Heart Murmur on exam | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NOTE to Approved HCP: If Moderate disease **OR** any cardiac screening question is positive further workup is indicated: EKG (at minimum), Echocardiogram, Cardiology Consult, CXR, Spirometry, Chest CT, Cardiac Magnetic resonance (CMR)

Athletes with severe disease who was hospitalized or was diagnosed with MIS-C, should NOT return to play for 3-6 months and should be cleared by Pediatrics Cardiologist

- Athlete **HAS** satisfied the above criteria and **IS** cleared to start the return to activity progression.
- Athlete **HAS NOT** satisfied the above criteria and **IS NOT** cleared to return to activity

Additional Comments/Recommendations:

Medical Office Information (Please Print/Stamp):

Healthcare Provider's Name/Signature: _____

Office Address: _____ Office Phone: _____

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Return to Face-to-Face Instruction

Based on the tri-county hospitalization rate, EPISD is encouraged by the improved conditions encompassing the COVID-19 pandemic, including the transmission rate within the area. Students will return to campuses for in person learning, five days a week. Extracurricular activities have resumed, to include athletics, fine arts, UIL, clubs and other activities, in preparation for the new school year.

House Bill 4545 Implementation Overview

House Bill 4545 recently passed in the 87th Regular Legislative Session. The new statute is effective as of June 16, 2021, with accelerated instruction practices required during the 2021-2022 school year for all students, based on results from Spring 2021.

HB 4545 establishes new requirements for accelerated instruction for students who do not pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). At a high level, the legislation includes:

- Elimination of grade retention and retesting requirements in grades 5 and 8
- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grade 3, 5, or 8 in math or reading, a new LEA requirement to establish an accelerated learning committee to develop an individual educational plan for the student and monitor progress
- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grades 3–8 or STAAR (EOC) end-of-course assessments, clarification of prior accelerated instruction requirements, specifying that it must include either:
 - Being assigned a classroom teacher who is a certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or
 - Receiving supplemental instruction (tutoring) before or after school, or embedded in the school day

Each of these components of the legislation is described in greater detail below.

Implementation Timeline

HB 4545 is effective immediately starting June 16, 2021, and it applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. LEAs should evaluate spring 2021 STAAR scores to identify students who will require accelerated instruction that complies with these new requirements during the 2021-2022 school year.

For school year 2021-2022

Accelerated instruction: For any student who did not pass STAAR grades 3-8 or EOC assessments, accelerated instruction must be delivered in the 2021-2022 school year (starting in fall 2021) or subsequent summer of 2022. Accelerated instruction entails either 1) assigning a classroom teacher who is a certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher, or 2) delivering supplemental instruction (e.g., tutoring) before or after school, or embedded in the school day and meeting HB 4545 requirements.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Accelerated instruction delivered in summer 2021 will only satisfy the HB 4545 requirements if the criteria for supplemental instruction were met. (See the Supplemental Instruction Requirements section below.)

Accelerated Learning Committees: LEAs are required to establish accelerated learning committees (ALCs) for students who did not pass the STAAR test in grades 3, 5, or 8 math or reading beginning at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, in August. However, LEAs may find it beneficial to start establishing these committees and developing individual student plans in summer 2021 for two reasons:

- Completing this work in the summer will position LEAs to start implementing plans at the start of the school year.
- Under HB 4545, parents have the right to request a different teacher. Establishing the ALC in the summer would provide a window of opportunity to address in advance parent requests for different teachers and manage staffing and scheduling accordingly.

Board policy: LEAs are also required to establish a board policy to manage parent grievances by August 2021 (“as soon as practicable after the effective date” of HB 4545, per Section 11 of the act).

The TEA will release further guidance and resources for ALC and board policy implementation by August.

For school year 2022-2023 and beyond

The above guidance for accelerated instruction continues to apply in subsequent school years.

Accelerated Learning Committees in Future School Years:

Starting summer 2022, LEAs must establish ALCs and develop individual student plans after scores are received, which may take place before the end of that school year or during the summer and prior to the start of the school year, based on the latest STAAR results.

Additional Statutory Highlights

Retention and Retesting Requirements

- A student in grade 5 or 8 is no longer required to be retained at the same grade level based on STAAR.
- Grade placement committees have been eliminated, though school systems still have the flexibility to retain students if deemed appropriate locally.
- In grades 5 and 8, there is now only one mathematics and reading testing opportunity. Prior law incorporated two retesting opportunities for students if the students did not perform satisfactorily on the initial assessment.
- The optional STAAR EOC assessments for Algebra II and English III will no longer be offered.

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Accelerated Learning Committees

- The accelerated learning committee must be comprised of:
 - The principal or the principal's designee
 - The student's parent or guardian, and
 - The teacher of the subject of an assessment on which the student failed to pass.
- No later than the start of the subsequent school year, an accelerated learning committee must develop an educational plan for a student that provides the necessary accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the school year.
- The plan should detail the areas of accelerated instruction needed by the student, the plan for progress monitoring, assessment data, and the actions and tools that will be provided for the student.
- The plan must be documented in writing with a copy provided to the student's parent or guardian.
- If a student fails an assessment in the same subject in the subsequent school year, the superintendent or a designee must meet with the student's accelerated learning committee.

Supplemental Instruction Requirements

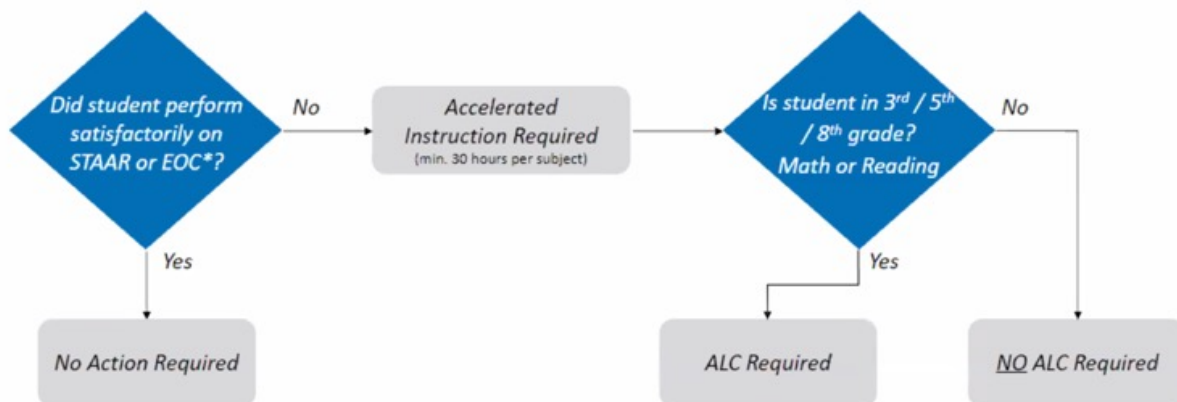
- Deliver targeted Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-aligned instruction for the applicable grade level and subject areas.
- Be provided in addition to instruction normally provided to students in the grade level in which the student is enrolled.
- Be designed to assist the student in achieving satisfactory performance in the applicable grade level and subject area
- Not be scheduled such that a student is removed from any of the following:
 - Instruction in grade-level content for the foundation curriculum
 - Instruction in enrichment curriculum for the grade level in which the student is enrolled
 - Recess or physical activity that is available to other students enrolled in the same grade level.
- Be provided for no less than 30 hours total during the summer or subsequent school year. If provided during the subsequent school year, it should include instruction no less than once per week.
- If a student does not pass both math and reading STAAR tests, they will need to meet the 30-hour requirement for each of the two subject areas.
- Utilize effective instructional materials designed for supplemental instruction.
- Be delivered in a 1-on-1 or small group environment, with no more than 3 students in a small group.
- Be provided by an individual with training in aligned instructional materials and under the LEA's oversight. Ideally, the same individual provides tutoring continuously for the student's entire supplemental instruction period.

****This requirement will set up a significant need to rethink master schedules, develop high-impact tutoring programs, and set up data systems for tracking student process.***

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Decision Matrix

For students in grades 3 – 12, LEAs must evaluate the following decision points.



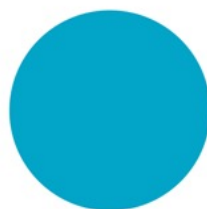
*If the student did not test, Accelerated Instruction is required (i.e., follow "No" path from decision point #1, see FAQs and local decision)



ALC = Accelerated Learning Committee

9

Accelerated Learning versus Remediation



Remediation often focuses on drilling students on isolated skills that bear little resemblance to current curriculum. Activities connect to standards from years ago and aim to have students master content from years past.



Accelerated Learning strategically prepares students for success in current grade-level content. Acceleration readies students for new learning. Past concepts and skills are addressed, but always in the purposeful context of current learning.

Accelerated Learning with Just-in-Time Intervention



Accelerated Learning strategically prepares students for success in current grade-level content. Acceleration readies students for new learning. Past concepts and skills are addressed, but always in the purposeful context of current learning.

- **Analyze:** Identify priority standards, skills, and content
- **Diagnose:** Unfinished learning on prerequisite and priority content
- **Plan:** Adapt instructional plans for just-in-time interventions.

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Keys to Accelerated Learning through Just-in-Time Intervention

Prioritize the most critical prerequisite skills and knowledge students will need to access that grade level content in upcoming units.

Diagnose students' unfinished learning on prerequisite content. Scope and deploy pre-unit assessments, preferably utilizing curriculum-based resources.

Integrate just-in-time lessons and supports in the scope and sequence to address unfinished learning on prerequisite content.

Adapt schedule to ensure ample time to support Tier 1 scope and sequence and to provide high-leverage Tier 2 & 3 intervention blocks for additional student support.

Train teachers and leaders to plan and execute just-in-time supports on critical content.

Monitor your students' progress.

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Social Well-Being

EPISD will be requiring counselors to conduct daily classroom student wellness check-ins. Counselors will be provided a standard electronic template; their responses will be submitted to campus principals weekly. The goal is to assess student concerns/needs and identify next steps to address them.

EPISD will continue to focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set, and achieve positive goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish, and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions (CASEL.org). As of 2020-21, all EPISD campuses are participating in the school-wide implementation of SEL.

Our intent is to provide students with predictability, flexibility, and opportunities for connection and empowerment so that students feel emotionally secure in our schools. We will continue to build upon the practice of having common, clear, and positively framed schoolwide values and expectations.

Students will be supported with a daily well-being check-in that will facilitate the ability of school staff to provide timely support to students that may be struggling with emotional issues as they transition back to face-to-face instruction. Additionally, all students will be supported with weekly lessons to build social-emotional competency in the areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Intentionally and proactively building these social-emotional competencies will enhance the ability of our students to make the most of the academic and social supports that are being provided to them.

The SEL Department will provide professional learning on social-emotional learning topics such as trauma-informed practices in the classroom, sustaining positive learning environments, and elevating student voice. Lastly, SEL Parent Academies will be held in the fall and spring semesters and are open to all parents seeking opportunities to partner with our schools to support the social and emotional well-being of our students in the home environment.

SEL Competencies Wheel



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidance for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Individuals



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

John Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner

GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

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The following is guidance for all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Over the course of the pandemic, the Texas Department of State Health Services is regularly monitoring new data as it comes in and reviewing the science to inform our guidance and decision making. Based on the latest science, we can say that anyone who is fully vaccinated can resume activities. The science is clear: if you are fully vaccinated, you are protected.

- Cases have continued falling dramatically, and a growing number of studies have shown three big things:
 - Vaccines are working in the real world. Studies show them to be more than 90% effective in the real-world settings in preventing mild and severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
 - Vaccines have proven to be effective against the SARS-CoV-2 variants currently circulating in the country.
 - If you're vaccinated, you're less likely to spread the virus. A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and to be able to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others.
- Since May 12, 2021, anyone 12 years and older has been eligible for vaccination.
- We have a strong supply of vaccine. Anyone who wants to get a vaccine can get it.
 - Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is faster and more convenient than ever.
 - About nine out of 10 Americans live within 5 miles of a COVID-19 vaccination site and many forms of private and public assistance are available to ensure access.
 - To find the site closest to you, visit our website at dshs.texas.gov; or call 833-832-7067 if you don't have internet service or need help signing up. Spanish language and other translators are available to help callers.
- **Why now? What changed?**
CDC guidance is based on the available science. Cases have continued falling dramatically, and a growing number of studies have shown three big things:
 1. Vaccines are working in the real world. Studies show them to be more than 90% effective in the real-world settings in preventing mild and severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
 2. Vaccines have proven to be effective against the SARS-CoV-2 variants currently circulating in the country.
 3. If you're vaccinated, you're less likely to spread the virus. A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and to be able to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others.

Taken together, this science is encouraging and shows that vaccinated people are protected and less likely to carry the virus to others. So, with all this evidence in mind, we are recommending that vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask.

Effective 5/12/21

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidance for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Individuals (Continued)



TEXAS
Health and Human
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Texas Department of State Health Services

John Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner

GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

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- **How will people know if someone is vaccinated?**
You may not know if someone around you is vaccinated, which is why we are encouraging everyone to get vaccinated – because we know the benefits: it protects you, it protects others, and it lets us return to normal. So, we hope everyone takes advantage of this important tool to stay safe and end the pandemic. Vaccination is safe, available, and free.

Vaccination data coverage by county is available on our website under the [Vaccine Data](#) tab.

- **What does it mean to be “fully vaccinated”?**
In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:
 - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

If you don’t meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all [precautions](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all [precautions](#).

- **Does everyone who wants a vaccine really have access to a vaccine?**
As of May 12, 2021, anyone age 12 years of age older are eligible for vaccination.

About nine out of 10 Americans live within 5 miles of a COVID-19 vaccination site. Two popular ride-sharing services will offer free rides to vaccination appointments until July 4, 2021. To find a vaccination site closest to you, visit [dshs.texas.gov](#) or [vaccines.gov](#); text your ZIP code to 438829 (GETVAX); or call 800-232-0233.

- **But shouldn’t we keep masks to protect against variants?**
The vaccines we have available are effective against the variants that are circulating in the US.
- **What if there is a surge or if other variants emerge? Will we need masks then?**
The past year has shown us that this virus can be unpredictable, so if things get worse, there is always a chance we may need to make changes to the recommendations. But we know that the more people are vaccinated, the less cases we will have and the less chance of a new spike or additional variants emerging.
- **Are there any people who are fully vaccinated who should still wear a mask?**
If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, increasing data suggest you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all [precautions](#).

Effective 5/12/21

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidance for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Individuals *(Continued)*



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

John Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner

GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

Page 3 of 3

- **Does this guidance apply to all settings?**
This guidance does not apply to healthcare settings (e.g., hospitals, long-term care, doctors' offices). Guidance for residents and staff of healthcare settings can be found in the [Infection Control after Vaccination](#) section of the CDC website. CDC is updating guidance for other settings.
- **What can you do if you have been fully vaccinated?**
You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart from others.
- **Everyone 12 years old and older became eligible on May 12, 2021. Not everyone has had a chance to become vaccinated yet, including in vulnerable communities.**
If you're not fully vaccinated, you may choose to continue to wear a face covering to protect yourself and others who have not yet been vaccinated. But the science shows us that fully vaccinated people are protected. So, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccines are available.
- **Why don't people need to distance?**
The science shows that, if you're fully vaccinated, you are protected and are far less likely to spread the virus to others, so we are lifting recommendations for distancing at this time for fully vaccinated people.
- **Since there is no way to prove vaccination status, do you think this will lead to unvaccinated people ditching their masks and returning to public places, too?**
We encourage everyone to get vaccinated – it is the best way to protect yourself and others and allow you to return safely to normal. If you are vaccinated, you are protected from those who may not be. But if you're unvaccinated and choose not to wear a mask, you are putting yourself at risk. At this time, we encourage anyone who is unvaccinated to continue masking to protect themselves and others who may not have had a chance to be vaccinated yet.

07.22.21

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Return to School Protocols – City County Health Authority

UPDATED 7/8/2021

- Temperature checks are optional, recommended that kiosk is moved to nurse's office
- Recommended that student and employee self-checks are still done each day before work/school, if ill they should stay at home (these checks should be done at home only, not at school)
- Contact tracing is still active
 - High risk identified at more than 15 minutes at less than 6 feet
 - This may affect more students, due to personal distancing as all students are back on campus.
 - The ONLY time we ask for vaccination status is when conducting a public health contact tracing investigation. Routine vaccination status should not be done in EPISD.
 - Same city form with results attached and emailed
 - If students are non-symptomatic or are vaccinated, they need not quarantine for the 10 days. If positive and non-vaccinated it is 10 days, if vaccinated and positive but non-symptomatic there is no quarantine, just watch for symptoms.
 - EPISD protocol is still in place
 - Principal or AP sends immediate email to COVID-19 team
- Water fountains should be cleaned and disinfected as high touch areas, students/staff encouraged to fill bottles and avoid direct contact with waterspout.
- All previous cleaning guidelines should still be in practice.
- Encourage vaccination for anyone 12 and older
- The EP STRONG website has the most current information for testing/vaccination/data regarding COVID-19
- Encourage hand washing at every level/use of hand sanitizer
- Rapid Testing
 - Encouraged for EPISD athletes
 - Supplies must be purchased by the campus
 - Anyone testing must receive training and be certified. Excel spread sheet must be sent to Alana Bejarano, director of health services, by the end of the day.
- ATHLETICS
 - Rank One health screening continues to be encouraged
 - Rapid testing participating athletes with parent permission is highly encouraged
 - Trainers/coaches may ask for vaccination status for contact tracing purposes
 - If symptomatic, players should not report to practice/games
 - Games/practices will still be subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 contact tracing
 - Players should drink from their own water bottles
 - Practice sanitation protocols where applicable
- Isolation room needs to be available on every campus near the nurse's office.
- Discourage perfect attendance awards to prevent COVID-19 spread.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools from Centers for Disease Control

As the 2021-2022 school year approaches, we want to share the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) updated Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools. The updated guidance focuses on helping administrators in K-12 schools, along with state and local health officials, safely support in-person learning as well as sports and other extracurricular activities.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting COVID-19 vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports. However, as many children are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, the updated guidance emphasizes the prevention strategies most important for in-person learning, regardless of whether schools can implement all the prevention strategies.

CDC continues to recommend that students, teachers, and staff who are not fully vaccinated wear masks indoors, consistent with its overall recommendations for fully vaccinated people. Since many children are not yet eligible for vaccination, the updated guidance emphasizes the COVID-19 prevention strategies most important for in-person learning, such as mask-wearing in schools for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.

CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing. However, if school administrators are considering whether and how to remove prevention strategies, they should remove one prevention strategy at a time and students, teachers, and staff should be closely monitored (with adequate testing through the school or community) for any outbreaks or increases in COVID-19 cases.

Outbreaks can and have occurred in K-12 schools. While fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, can get sick from COVID-19, can spread the virus to others, and can have severe outcomes. This guidance gives schools a flexible, science-based approach to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep students, teachers, and staff healthy and in the classroom.

The updates are based on the latest science in Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs – Updated. We hope you will find this updated guidance useful in your work, and we will continue to share new information and resources as they become available.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 Response
Community Interventions and Critical Populations Task Force (CICP TF)
Policy & Partnerships Team
CICPTF Policy Email: eocevent357@cdc.gov

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools from Centers for Disease Control

Takeaways


- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Screening, testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination currently. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Summary of Recent Changes

Updates as of July 9, 2021

- Added information on offering and promoting COVID-19 vaccination.
- Updated to emphasize the need for localities to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.
- Revised to emphasize the COVID-19 prevention strategies most important for in-person learning for K-12 schools.
 - Added language on the importance of offering in-person learning, regardless of whether all the prevention strategies can be implemented at the school.
 - For example, because of the importance of in-person learning, schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures (in addition to masking and other prevention strategies) but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.
- Updated to align with guidance for fully vaccinated people.
- Updated to align with current mask guidance.
- Added language on safety and health protections for workers in K-12 schools.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*



EPISD COVID-19

Pre-Screening PROTOCOLS

For more info go to [EPISD.org/COVID19](https://www.episd.org/COVID19)

For Returning to School or Work

To help El Paso stop the dangerous spread of COVID-19 infections, it's important to learn the symptoms of the virus and know what steps to take when the symptoms begin to show in any member of the family.

If you have any of these symptoms, please **do not** report to work or school:

- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ✓ Chills
- ✓ Fever of 100 degrees or more
- ✓ Muscle pain
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Loss of taste and smell

In some cases, symptoms also may include:

- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea



Anyone exhibiting these symptoms should see their family doctor and be tested for the COVID-19 virus.


If you have had direct contact with a person who has tested positive (less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes) **DO NOT** come to work or school and notify their school or immediate supervisor. People with contact with positive people should quarantine immediately and get tested 4 to 5 days after the initial date of exposure to prevent a false negative test.

Important *If you have been tested for COVID-19, you may not return until you receive your results. If you are positive, you must quarantine.*

If you test positive for COVID 19, follow these steps:

- ✓ Call your family doctor
- ✓ Stay home until cleared by medical officials
- ✓ Isolate yourself from other family members
- ✓ Do not leave your house except for medical treatment
- ✓ Do not attend work or school
- ✓ Rest and stay hydrated
- ✓ Monitor your symptoms
- ✓ Seek emergency medical care if an emergency warning sign emerges, including trouble breathing

 |  Download our app to receive alerts and news from EPISD to your mobile phone!

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Guidelines for Students or Staff with Covid-19 Symptoms, Confirmed COVID-19 Symptoms, or Family Members with Covid-19 Symptoms

COVID-19 Symptoms

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons through respiratory droplets from those who have few symptoms, no symptoms or are mildly ill. Due to the contagious nature of the virus, all staff should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and good judgment.

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

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

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Close Contact

This plan refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Staff Who Report to Work ill or Who Become ill during the Workday

Refer to guidelines under the EPISD Reopening Plan for Staff.

Students who display COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival on campus or who become ill during the day

If a student displays any of the following symptoms upon arrival at the campus or becomes ill during the day, they should report to the nurse’s office for a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.

Students who report feeling feverish should be sent immediately to the nurse’s office and given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

If a student has fever of 100.0° F or higher and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately separated from their peers, placed in a designated area and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

The Attendance Clerk at the campus should be notified to track attendance and sign the student out of the campus.

Conditions for Re-entry to School

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the District screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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 campus until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the 10-day 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 or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

An individual living with someone who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, whether they have a positive COVID-19 test or not, may not return to school until the above conditions have been met. If they do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they can return. If they experience symptoms, they must self-isolate until the conditions outlined above have been met.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 on Campus

- Schools 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.
- Each campus will have a designated area where students can be isolated from others and still preserve the student's confidentiality and privacy.
- It is recommended that a parent or authorized person pick up the student within 30 minutes and no later than one hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.
- Schools shall follow the cleaning protocol in those areas identified that were used by the individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Schools shall follow the communication guidelines regarding COVID-19 situations.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Response to COVID-19 Situation

Due to the contagious nature of the virus, the following general guidelines will be followed to limit the risk of exposure to others:

- Students in the affected classroom will be removed from that classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus so that the classroom can be disinfected/cleaned by custodial staff.
- Campus will assess the exposure area and determine the best course of action in line with their respective School Pandemic Response plan, in consultation with the School Leadership Department.
- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 shall follow the Conditions for Re-entry to School in this handbook.
- It is recommended that students who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. If the student is asymptomatic, the student may only continue attending school if: they are asymptomatic; are administered a COVID-19 test at the campus (or a facility of the parent's choice) on the fifth day of exposure and receive a negative COVID-19 result on such test. If the student/parent does not agree to testing or providing a negative test result dated between the fifth and seventh day after exposure, the student will be treated in the same manner as a positive case for the purposes of quarantining.
- If students are non-symptomatic or are vaccinated, they need not quarantine for the 10 days. If positive and non-vaccinated it is 10 days, if vaccinated and positive but non-symptomatic there is no quarantine, just watch for symptoms.
- The following departments will be advised to ensure all District protocols are followed in their respective areas:
 - Community Engagement
 - School Leadership and Academics
 - Human Resources
 - Health Services
 - Custodial Operations

COVID-19 Campus Response

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on-campus activities. Chief Communications Officer will oversee notification procedures to parents and staff.

Once the assessment of the exposure is conducted, schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than three days have already passed since that person was on campus. See the Custodial Response below.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Response to COVID-19 Situation *(Continued)*

COVID-19 Health Services Response

These protocols will be used by the Health Services Department when a confirmed case of COVID-19 is reported to the District. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify the Health Services Department as soon as they receive the information. The Health Services Director will notify the City/County Public 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).

COVID-19 Custodial Response

These protocols will be used when a confirmed case of COVID-19 is reported to the District. They will be followed by all custodial staff throughout EPISD. It is vitally important to be in communication with the Custodial Inspector and/or Director of Custodial Services during the cleaning and disinfecting of the affected area.

When the District is informed of a positive COVID-19 case, the room/areas will be identified (all areas to which the infected individual had access). A thorough cleaning of all surfaces (walls, desks, floors) will be conducted. After the cleaning is completed, the Head Custodian will use the EMIST system with the EPA registered disinfectant (Rejuvna - #16). The Head Custodian will apply the disinfectant throughout the affected area as previously trained. No one should re-enter the area for at least 10 minutes after the disinfectant has been applied.

If the entire school is closed/shut down, Custodial Services shall wait until the school is about to re-open for a cleaning to be completed. If the shut-down is at least seven days, a regular cleaning and disinfecting will be completed as required.

All used PPE will be bagged and thrown away. Custodial staff shall wash their hands with soap and water after removing the PPE.

Upon completion, the Head Custodian will notify the Principal/Administrator and the assigned Custodial Inspector to advise of status. Only upon clearance from the assigned Custodial Inspector will the building be cleared for use.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

Stop the Spread of Germs

In order to promote good respiratory hygiene in the workplace, the District will display posters promoting respiratory hygiene, instructing students and employees to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and issue regular communication encouraging individuals to dispose of tissue immediately after one use. Everyone can do his/her part to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases by following these guidelines:

In addition, hand sanitizer will be available for all at the front entrance of every building, in classrooms, and other common areas throughout the campus.

Doors in shared areas may need to remain open to avoid multiple persons touching the handles. Teachers will provide periodic reminders to students to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer. Students should practice good hygiene by washing hands after recess, before eating and following restroom breaks. Teachers should ensure that students wash their hands for at least 20 seconds at least twice per day in addition to after using the restroom and before eating.

Campus shall provide staff with access to disinfectant wipes, spray cleaners, and disposable towels to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible. Protocols for toys, books and supplies should be followed by staff in order to reduce exposure.

Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.



Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing *(Continued)*

Enhanced Cleaning

Custodial Operations has a high standard for cleanliness and safety and are committed to upholding those standards with our intensive cleaning process. Enhanced cleaning protocols have been put in place as a result of COVID-19 and are based on current local, state and federal health and government guidelines.

Protocols include the use of EPA registered chemical for disinfection, focus on proper dwell time (contact time) of 10 minutes for proper disinfection of chemicals and increased frequency of disinfecting high touch surfaces such as the following:

- Doorknobs
- Elevator buttons
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Restroom fixtures
- Desks
- Keyboards and mouse
- Phones

Following are areas of enhanced focus:

- Restrooms
- Offices
- Elevators
- Kitchen and/or break areas
- Vending machines
- Copier/printers
- Front desk and lobby areas
- Equipment
- Water Fountains

Employees will assist in the following areas:

- Desks
- Computer keyboards and mouse
- Phone
- Remote control
- Chair arms
- File cabinet drawer handles
- Personal microwaves, refrigerators and appliances including coffee machines

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Transportation

General Guidelines

Transporting kids to school is a vital function for EPISD. When feasible, the District encourages families to drop off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses. The following general guidelines apply to transportation:

- Only yellow school buses can be used to transport students to and from school
- No modifications can be made to a school bus
- Activity buses do not meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) to transport students to and from school

School Bus Operational Guidelines

- Hand sanitizer will be provided for all school buses
- All bus drivers and monitors may choose to wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (face mask or shield, gloves for school bus monitors)
- Bus drivers and monitors will disinfect high traffic areas (bus seats, handrails etc.) after each run off with EPA registered hospital grade disinfectant
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each route
- Designated transportation employee will e-mist every school bus once a day.

Boarding

- While waiting at bus stop students should practice social distancing
- Students may choose to wear their mask while on the school bus
- Student must board the school bus one at a time and should practice social distancing when able
- Elementary students 2nd grade and younger must have a parent present at the stop until student is allowed to board school bus
- Students must sit on first available seat towards the rear of the school bus

Unloading Guidelines

- Students must follow bus driver instructions while unloading
- Students will unload from front to rear (back) of the school bus only
- Students must unload one by one following social distancing guidelines
- Students must ensure to gather all personal belongings before exiting the school bus
- Students will not be allowed back onto the bus after exiting

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Student and Parent Support

Student Handbook

The Student Handbook describes various procedures, programs, etc. for students and parents. It can be found at episd.org under the parent and student tabs.

Transcripts, scholarship application requests and driver's license verification

Transcripts, scholarship application requests and the driver's license verification of enrollment form may be requested at episd.scriborder.com. Please be sure to include the correct information. Official transcripts will not be sent to individuals. If the student is younger than 18 years of age, the parent will need to initial the request.

Enrollment and Withdrawals

All enrollment and withdrawal questions may be directed to the campus registrar or you may contact Student and Parent Services at Let's Talk or sps@episd.org.

Discipline Questions

Discipline questions may be answered by any campus administrator by contacting the campus through the Let's Talk Application. If there is a discipline issue which occurs during virtual learning, the classroom teacher and/or the campus administrator will reach out to the parent depending on the level of the infraction. The Student Code of Conduct is in force and may be found online at episd.org under the parent or student tab.

Complaint Process

The complaint process for the District is located under the parent's tab on the District's website. Complaints should be handled at the very lowest level possible. We ask you to contact the campus principal to address your concerns immediately. If you wish to discuss your concern with one of the Student and Parent Services administrators, please email us at sps@episd.org and someone will contact you.

Please also visit the website www.episd.org for more information on EPISD activities and announcements.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Appendix A: 2021-2022 EPISD School Calendar



EPISD 2021 - 22 SCHOOL CALENDAR EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

JULY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2022						
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30	31					

AUGUST 2021						
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29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2022						
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27	28					

SEPTEMBER 2021						
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26	27	28	29	30		

MARCH 2022						
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27	28	29	30	31		

OCTOBER 2021						
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31						

APRIL 2022						
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NOVEMBER 2021						
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MAY 2022						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DECEMBER 2021						
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JUNE 2022						
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26	27	28	29	30		

JULY
26-29.....Staff Development Days
30.....Teacher Workday
AUGUST
2.....1st Day for Students
(Beginning of 1st Nine Week grading period)

SEPTEMBER
6.....Labor Day (Holiday)
14.....P/T Conferences (ES) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for ES Students
15.....P/T Conferences (HS) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for HS Students
16.....P/T Conferences (MS) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for MS Students

OCTOBER
1.....End of 1st Nine Week grading period
4-5.....Teacher Staff Development/No School for Students
6-15.....Intercession
18.....Beginning of 2nd Nine Week grading period

NOVEMBER
11.....Veterans Day (Holiday)
22-26.....Fall Break (Holiday)

DECEMBER
7-10.....State Testing Window
17.....End of 2nd Nine Week grading period
*Early Release - Students & Staff
20-31.....Winter Break (Holiday)

JANUARY
3.....Teacher Work Day/No School for Students
4.....Beginning of 3rd Nine Week grading period
17.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Holiday)

FEBRUARY
8.....P/T Conferences (ES) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for ES Students
9.....P/T Conferences (HS) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for HS Students
10.....P/T Conferences (MS) 1 pm - 6 pm
*Early Release for MS Students
21.....President's Day (Holiday)

MARCH
4.....End of 3rd Nine Week grading period
7.....Teacher Staff Development/No School for Students
8-11.....Intercession
14-18.....Spring Break (Holiday)
21.....Beginning of 4th Nine Week grading period

APRIL
5-14.....State Testing Window
15.....Spring Holiday

MAY
3-20.....State Testing Window
30.....Memorial Day (Holiday)

JUNE
2.....End of 4th Nine Week grading period
Early Release for Students Only
3.....Teacher Work 1/2 Day/Last Day for Teachers

- KEY**
- Staff Development
 - Teacher Work Day
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Holiday/District Closed
 - ★ Early Release
 - Intercession
 - State Testing Window
 - Semester Begins
 - Semester Ends
 - ◀ Beginning of Grading Period
 - ▶ End of Grading Period
 - Duty Days for 238 Day Staff
 - ** Inclement Weather/Make Up Day

Approved by the EPISD Board of Trustees January 19, 2021. State Assessment Testing Dates subject to change by TEA. www.tea.state.us

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Checklist for Employee Diagnosis of or High Risk Exposure to COVID-19

Checklist for Employee Diagnosis of or High-Risk Exposure to COVID-19



The City of El Paso Department of Public Health recently updated their recommendations for a safe return to the 2021-2022 school year. Based on those recommendations, the following checklist is used to guide the District's response when notified an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, has high-risk exposure, or falls ill during the day and has COVID-19 related symptoms.

Department/Campus Supervisor will do the following:

- Immediately contact the designated Leadership/Assistant Superintendent if an employee reports a diagnosis of COVID-19 or **high-risk exposure** to COVID-19, or falls ill during the day and has COVID-19 related symptoms. **High-risk exposure** is considered to be less than 6 ft. for more than 15 cumulative minutes.
- If the employee is on site, immediately separate and direct the employee to the designated isolation area.
- Immediately identify and close off areas typically used by the employee.
- Notify HR/ Benefits at jfventur@episd.org and Health Services at acbejara@episd.org and provide name of the identified employee.
(See *Attachment A*).
- Do not make any determination regarding quarantine until corresponding with Health Services in accordance with Attachment A.**
- Instruct employee to immediately contact HR/Employee Benefits by email at jfventur@episd.org

Any individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 10 days.

Vaccinated individuals will **not** need to quarantine or test for COVID-19 following a known high-risk exposure unless they become symptomatic within 14 days after exposure.

Unvaccinated, high-risk exposures are recommended to quarantine for 10 days. The following options apply:

1. Employee may quarantine for the recommended 10-day period. District attendance policies will be followed. The employee may return prior to the completion of the 10-day quarantine if tested for COVID-19 and result is negative. If the employee completes the 10-day quarantine, testing is not required.
2. If the employee is not experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, may opt to continue working. A COVID-19 test is required on the fifth day. If the test is negative, no further action is needed. If the employee tests positive, a 10-day quarantine will be required. Should the employee develop any symptoms during the 10-day incubation period, the employee will be sent home. If the employee chooses not to test for COVID-19, the employee must quarantine for the 10 days.

- Contact tracing procedures will continue. Provide names of the identified employee(s) to Employee Benefits at jfventur@episd.org and Health Services at acbejara@episd.org.
- Provide written notification (template) to employees who were identified as having (high-risk exposure) close contact.
- Work with designated Leadership/Assistant Superintendent to determine course of action.
- Work with Community Engagement and designated Assistant Superintendent to provide a letter (in English and Spanish template) to inform parents of affected students in the classroom or cohort of confirmed case on campus.
- Follow sanitizing procedures.

Leadership/Assistant Superintendent will do the following upon notification of COVID-19 related case:

- Ensure that all steps assigned to the department/campus supervisor have been done and determine course of action.
- Work with the campus administrator and employee to determine the last date the employee was physically present in any other district facility besides assigned campus.
- Contact each administrator that may have had the employee in their work area and follow the sanitizing procedure. (e.g., principal, athletics, fine arts, technology, custodial, maintenance, food service, transportation).
- Notify Community Engagement of employee report of a diagnosis of or high exposure to COVID-19 and any affected areas.
- Monitor the situation closely and keep the superintendent updated.

Health Services will do the following upon notification of COVID-19 related case:

- Contact City Health Department personnel, if applicable.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

Checklist for Student Diagnosis of or High Risk Exposure to COVID-19



CHECKLIST FOR STUDENT DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health and the Texas Education Agency recently updated its recommendations for a safe return to the 2021-2022 school year. Based on those recommendations, the following checklist is used to guide the District's response when notified of a COVID-19 diagnosis, high-risk exposure, or illness with COVID-19 related symptoms.

Department/Campus Supervisor will do the following:

- Immediately contact the designated Leadership/Assistant Superintendent if a student reports a diagnosis of COVID-19 or **high-risk exposure** to COVID-19 or falls ill during the day and has COVID-19 related symptoms. **High-risk exposure (close contact)** is considered to be 6 feet or less for 15 or more cumulative minutes.
- If the student is on campus, immediately separate and direct the student to the designated isolation area.
- Immediately identify and close off areas typically used by the student.
- Notify Health Services at acbejara@episd.org and provide name of the identified student. (See **Attachment A**).
- Do not make any determination regarding quarantine until corresponding with Health Services in accordance with Attachment A.**

Any individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 10 days.

Vaccinated individuals will **not** need to quarantine or test for COVID-19 following a known high-risk exposure unless they become symptomatic within 14 days after exposure.

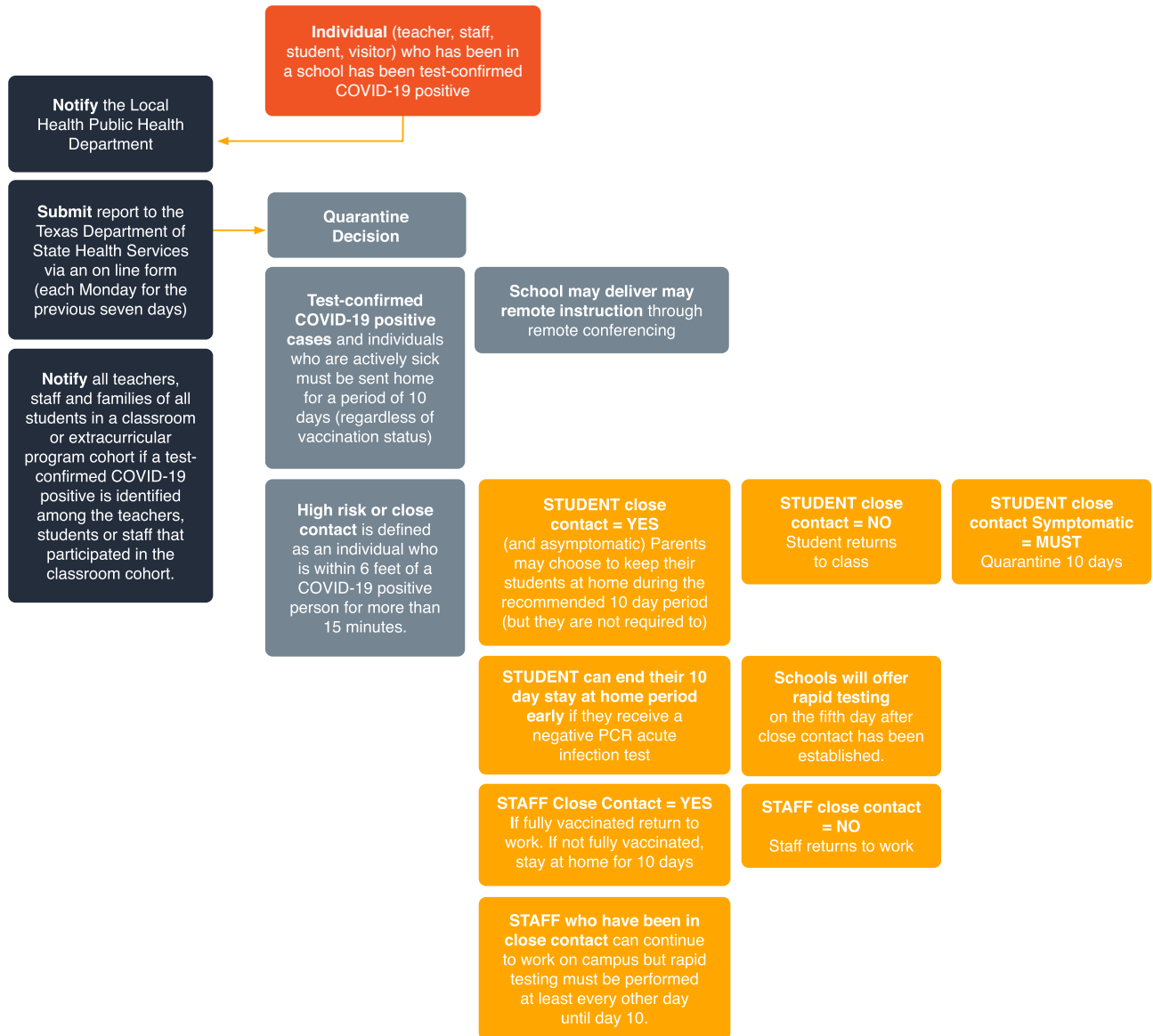
Unvaccinated, high-risk exposures are recommended to quarantine for 10 days. Parents have the following options:

1. Parents may quarantine for the recommended 10-day period. District attendance policies will be followed. Parents may request instruction via remote conferencing during this time. The student may return prior to the completion of the 10-day quarantine if tested for COVID-19 and result is negative. If student completes the 10-day quarantine, testing is not required.
 2. If child is not experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, parents may opt for the child to continue attending school. A COVID-19 test is required on the fifth day. If the test is negative, no further action is needed. If the child tests positive, a 10-day quarantine will be required. Should the child develop any symptoms during the 10-day incubation period, the child will be sent home. If parent does not want the child to be tested for COVID-19, the child must quarantine for the 10 days.
- Contact tracing procedures will continue. Provide names of the identified students to Health Services at acbejara@episd.org.
 - Work with designated Leadership/Assistant Superintendent to determine course of action.
 - Work with Community Engagement and designated Assistant Superintendent to provide a letter (in English and Spanish template) to inform parents of affected students in the classroom or cohort of confirmed case on campus.
 - Follow sanitizing procedures.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*



COVID-19 *Flowchart*



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

COVID-19 FAQs

The following FAQs are included in the COVID-19 District Response Plan released to the community.

To ensure we are prepared for all situations, we have emergency procedures in place, including for infectious diseases. Per these procedures, we are working in partnership with the Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, and Texas Education Agency (TEA) as the lead agencies in our COVID-19 response. We will continue to follow the guidance of public health experts to ensure we are implementing the highest level of precaution and prevention.

Prevention

Prevention measures include providing resources, supplies, and time for all students to wash their hands when they arrive at school, before lunch, and after using the restroom. Additionally, custodial staff have been directed to prioritize cleaning common and high traffic areas multiple times a day. In a normal situation, these areas would be cleaned once a day. Prioritized cleaning includes bathrooms, the lunchroom, common spaces, door handles, emergency bar on doors, etc.

COVID-19 EPISD Response Scenarios

Scenario 1: Department of Public Health, City of El Paso follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations regarding a student or staff member who is not ill and does not have symptoms but has had close contact with a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19.

Scenario 2: In the event of a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in an EPISD staff member or student who has attended a school site, current district policies and procedures for school closings are already in place. We will consult with outside agencies such as CDC, Texas Education Agency (TEA) and local health department on school-closure recommendations or mandates. In the event of a closure, communication will be sent to impacted families and staff via our mass notification system. We will work with Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, and other entities to determine the length of the school closure based on the unique circumstances of the case.

How will EPISD be keeping families, staff, and students informed regarding COVID-19?

EPISD has a dedicated webpage at episd.org with all the pertinent and updated information. Information on prevention has been distributed to all staff via email and website. Information also has been shared publicly through our social media channels and weekly digital newsletter. EPISD will continue to send emails to families and staff to provide the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. The District website and campus sites are updated regularly. This is an evolving situation. The District continues to follow the guidance of the CDC, Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, and the TEA in our response to COVID-19, including decisions to close schools and whether students or staff should be quarantined. Updated information will be provided as it becomes available.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

COVID-19 FAQs *(Continued)*

What are the procedures and instructions for students to wash their hands?

Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective way to contain the spread of illness and disease, including COVID-19. We have posted videos from the CDC on proper handwashing techniques at episd.org and on our social media channels. We are asking schools to prioritize student hand washing when students arrive at school, anytime they have used the restroom, and prior to lunch. These are always good habits and critical to the containment of the disease. Our school-based staff will be prioritizing hand washing, and custodial staff will keep soap fully stocked in bathrooms and classrooms to support these efforts. Staff will also reinforce good hygiene and remind students to not touch their face, nose, or mouth, sneeze into a tissue or elbow, and reduce physical hand contact (high fives, fist bumps, etc.). The District will work with individual school leaders in implementation of district standards for hand washing.

How will EPISD be cleaning and disinfecting schools?

Custodial staff have been directed to prioritize cleaning common and high traffic areas multiple times a day. In a normal situation, these areas would be cleaned once a day. Prioritized cleaning includes bathrooms, the lunchroom, common spaces, door handles, emergency bar on doors, etc. All efforts will be made to keep students healthy and safe. Disinfecting systems will be utilized as well as the use of EPA registered, hospital-grade disinfectant on surfaces. All campuses will get a deeper cleaning during the spring break holiday March 16-20.

How is EPISD working to ensure buses are clean?

EPISD buses are disinfected daily, as is our regular practice. We are prioritizing additional cleanings as an enhanced precaution to provide safe travel to and from school. Disinfecting systems will be utilized as well as the use of EPA registered, hospital-grade disinfectant on bus surfaces.

When should a student or staff member stay home?

If students or staff experience fever of 100°F or higher, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, they should stay home from school and contact their health care provider immediately. If a student demonstrates these symptoms while at school, they will be immediately quarantined to another space in the school while continuing to be monitored by an adult, and a family member or emergency contact will be called to pick them up. We know this may cause anxiety and fear for our students and we will do our best to address any concerns. We are committed to ensuring students are supported with compassion and care. If a staff person exhibits symptoms, they will be asked to leave school and call their healthcare provider immediately. We will monitor the staff person's health conditions as appropriate. Students or staff presenting symptoms will need a doctor's release to return to work or school. For more information, please contact your healthcare provider.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

COVID-19 FAQs *(Continued)*

What are quarantine recommendations?

Following CDC recommendations, if a staff person or student who is not ill but may have been exposed and has been to a school site, the District will do the following:

- Remove the individual from the school location
- Contact the school community – staff, families, and partners
- Cancel all school events at the campus on day of EPISD notice
- Activate specialized and extensive cleaning of the school.

If a student does need to stay home, how can they receive assignments?

The District will return to our normal attendance procedures. Please remember to call in your student's absence or email the attendance clerk each day if your student is unable to attend.

Teachers are being asked to prepare supplemental instructional materials for students who need to be out of the classroom and pre-plan weekly lessons in the event of a sudden prolonged absence. If an educator regularly uses Schoology, the EPISD learning management system, or other digital platform, lessons will be posted to that site for students in grades 6-12. If a student is unable to access Schoology from home, the school will work with the student and family to provide printed materials upon parent request.

Will high schools go back to open campuses for lunch?

Yes. High schools are returning to open campuses for lunch (certain grade levels). Many high schools will return to one lunch as well.

Will there be disinfecting procedures for high traffic areas?

There will be disinfecting procedures for high traffic areas. We encourage students to bring personal water bottles to fill instead of directly drinking from water fountains.

What are the options for high-risk children?

Please contact your campus about 504 accommodations or homebound options (if eligible). Homebound services are available but are highly restrictive environments and will have special requirements.

Will there be any guidance for teachers and the use of technology during classroom time?

We will continue to use devices with all students. Blended learning, Schoology and other technology resources will continue at all levels.

Can we purchase a face shield for our child?

Yes, you may purchase a face shield. We have desk shields at a parent's request. Please contact your campus.

When will we start seeing our students schedule?

Please continue to check parent portal. All campuses will be uploading schedules soon.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction *Plan*

COVID-19 FAQs *(Continued)*

Will students and teachers be required to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination?

No. Students and teachers will not be required to show proof of the COVID-19 vaccination. Students will be required to show proof of the normal vaccinations before starting school. Parents will be encouraged to show proof of vaccinations for contact tracing purposes only. This is not a requirement.

Will teachers be required to be vaccinated?

No. Vaccinations are a choice.

Will shields be available at student desks and at cafeteria tables during lunch for students that are considered high risk?

Yes. Desk shields will be provided for any student with a parent's request. Please contact your campus about accommodations for lunch.

Will there be special protocols for high-risk students if exposed to COVID19?

Contact tracing will establish is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of direct contact with the confirmed positive person. Those students deemed high-risk students will be required to quarantine 10 days.