School Safety Protocol Parent Handbook

2022-2023

Version 08/19/2022 (NOTE: Handbook subject to updated information as it becomes available)

10 Things Parents Need to Know to Keep Schools COVID -Safe

These items will be covered in this handbook.

1. Safety is our top priority when schools start Aug. 1, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15. (Check your school's start date at: www.dallasisd.org/schoolcalendars)

2. The district is continuously monitoring the number of positive cases and working with health professionals to assess the need for additional safety measures. The use of masks can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and Dallas ISD is currently recommending staff use masks in large gatherings, especially where responsible distancing is difficult. As always, staff who are immune compromised should discuss protocols for meetings and large gatherings with their supervisors.

3. PPE, including masks and hand sanitizer, will be available at every campus.

4. We will allow for responsible distancing.

5. Handwashing is an important and recommended prevention strategy.

6. Students and staff should self-check temperature each day and stay home when ill; no on-site temperature checks will be done.

7. Enhanced cleaning and ventilation will continue, including weekly disinfecting of campuses.

8. We will continue to follow updated safety guidelines based on the direction of local health professionals.

COMMITMENTS

It is the responsibility of Dallas ISD to understand and make reasonable efforts to respect and protect the emotional and physical safety of every student, teacher, and staff member while continuing to provide a high-quality educational experience focused on student achievement. This handbook was developed around seven commitments that will uphold the Dallas ISD tenets of striving to be a premier urban school district.

Commitment 1

The safety of our students, staff, families and the community is our topmost priority. We are committed to ensuring that all appropriate safety measures are implemented to reduce and/or prevent exposure to COVID 19 through the consistent implementation of:

- Responsible distancing practices
- Cleaning and disinfection practices for all facilities, equipment, buses, etc.
- Campus safety supplies, including student face masks if requested, will be provided by the district
- Implementation of self-screening practices for symptoms of illness and requirements for return to school
- Implementation of protocols to ensure that students who are ill remain at home until fever/symptoms improve without the use of fever-reducing medication and that students who become ill will be sent home if determined by a health professional

Commitment 2

Dallas ISD is committed to supporting the social-emotional needs of the students. Stakeholders will be trained to be aware of and understanding the impacts of trauma caused by COVID-19. Through this training and collaboration model, students' social-emotional needs will be addressed by:

- Collaborating across child-serving systems to coordinate supports for intervention
- Providing students with the tools to practice a healthy lifestyle
- Engaging in professional development so that staff will be able to facilitate a physically and emotionally safe learning environment
- Actively monitoring the progress of students to identify necessary supports for student engagement in learning connected to the school and the broader community

Commitment 3

Dallas ISD maintains the goal of providing a premier urban education to all students through engaging learning models and rigorous instruction while prioritizing student and family safety. Models will value student needs and maintain a focus on increased student achievement through:

- Use of rigorous and engaging face to face instruction and learning tools that allow students to participate in knowledge building experiences
- Balance of instruction that provides academically, emotionally, and socially sound interactions and growth as needed during model implementation
- Progress monitoring of student growth, interaction, completion of content and assessments for feedback and support
- Opportunities to provide intervention, enrichment, and acceleration to ensure that students progress toward both short- and long-term graduation goals
- Continuation of opportunities for extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that meet safety protocols
- Development of support systems for social and emotional well being

Commitment 4

Every family must have appropriate options available to make the best educational decisions for their student(s). Dallas ISD is committed to providing high-quality face-to-face instruction in the safest manner possible upon re-entry into school. If crisis circumstances require intermittent school or district closures, the distance learning model will be implemented for all impacted students and staff.

Commitment 5

The technological needs of students and families required to access Dallas ISD learning platforms must be met. We are committed to providing a 1:1, single device for every student, as well as internet connectivity options for every household in the district. -

DALLAS ISDS APPROACH TO SAFETY

The Dallas Independent School District's approach to safety includes Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting; Health Screening and Preventative Hygiene; Distancing, and Communication, Training, and Coordination.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting	Health Screening and Preventative Hygiene

CLEANING, SANITIZING, AND DISINFECTING

As a reminder, face masks should be work-appropriate, non-offensive, and not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful to team members or visitors. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate as outlined in the district's dress code policy. This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar slogans/designs/graphics, profanity, etc. See policy DH Employee Standards of Conduct. In addition, masks should not be loose material that could get caught in machinery or cause injury.

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizers

To prevent the spread of germs, health officials recommend washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds whenever possible because it reduces the amount of many types of germs and chemicals on hands.

School Nurse Assessment

Our Health Services Department has worked closely with the Dallas County Health Services Team on the latest guidance from federal, state, and local health officials. The following information is to be used as guidance in preparation for a nurse assessment of students who become sick or report a COVID diagnosis while at school. When a student is not feeling well, the student will be sent to the nurse's office. The nurse will perform a nursing assessment.

ISOLATE

- Isolate individual (student/staff) and close clinic if indicated

School Closure

In response to an infectious disease outbreak, the district will determine whether a short-term or long-term closure is necessary. A short-term closure of up to two days allows for the affected area (campus, facility, floor, or department) to be disinfected and for contact tracing to determine if there are linked cases that may warrant a long-term closure

A long-term closure for up to 5 days allows the district to determine if there are multiple linked cases or increasing reports of positive cases that may impact operations.

An assessment for closure may include, but is not limited to, the following criteria:

- Increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases within a campus or department
- Increased percentage of absenteeism among students due to isolation
- Level of community transmission in the county

The district will take into consideration guidance from federal, state, and local health officials and review data points for each situation on a case-by-case basis to determine if a closure is warranted.

For more information regarding closures, see CKC(LOCAL) and DEC(REGULATION).

Youth and Family Centers (School -based Health Clinics)

Mental Health Services is committed to providing access to behavioral, emotional, and physical health care to students and families through our Youth and family Centers. Services include individual and family therapy, assessment and screening, psychiatry, and physical health services.

Facility Safety

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures will be implemented by clinic staff at all sites.
- Clinic staff and clients will maintain physical distancing when possible.

Student Safety

- Students/Clients will be seen by appointment only. Clients/family members will be asked to remain outside/in the car until it is their designated appointment time. No more than one (1) additional person will be allowed into the clinic for each student/client that is being served.
- The Department will use various outlets (website, text reminders, and building signage) to communicate clinic protocols with clients/families.
- Any student/client who exhibits symptoms/has been exposed to COVID will be referred for assessment via Parkland (if available) or another health care provider.

DISTANCING

School -wide Requirements

While the vaccination rate against COVID-19 among returning Dallas ISD staff is about 85%, the recommendation is to continue to responsibly distance in common areas, including conference rooms, break rooms, and elevators. When planning training and other large gatherings of staff, students and parents, allow for responsible distancing and make personal protective equipment and sanitizing available for use.

Campus Leaders

- Any individuals permitted to proceed beyond the reception area must follow all safety and campus protocols.

Meetings

The district encourages the use of electronic meeting platforms to conduct meetings as appropriate.

The following guidelines may be considered when hosting in-person meetings: Capacity of the meeting space coupled with distancing guidelines should determine the in-person meeting capacity. The meeting shall comply with guidelines as determined by the district and health officials. Tables and surfaces should be wiped down with sanitizing products at the start and end of each meeting. Staff should plan for a five-minute window between meetings for cleaning as needed.

Lobby/Common Areas

Barriers/safe zones will be established around the front desk/receiving areas. Spaces will be established

Lunch

Food and Child Nutrition Services (FCNS) staff meet with administration at each school to set up safety protocols for students to eat lunch. Lunch service is provided primarily via serving lines and via kiosks. Cafeteria cashiers use scanners to read student barcodes on student's ID's when possible, while 10-key pads serve as a back-up/additional means. Lunch is availab28 re f* i663.24 470.24 470.88 1dLiL [(uL [(9 EMC BT -)-8 (BT

COMMUNICATION, TRAINING, AND COORDINATION

Multiple strategies will be employed to communicate our guidelines and expectations aimed at reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

Let's Talk

Let's Talk! is the district's online customer service and communication tool. Parents can submit a question, comment, concern, suggestion, or compliment 24 hours a day, seven days a week from a computer, tablet, or smartphone and receive a timely response. Please select a topic of interest by accessing the system at https://www.dallasisd.org/letstalk.

Please visit our We're Ready! web page for additional information on safety, calendars, and other resources available.

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Additional Resou rces

Resources	Telephone	Website and/or Email
COVID-19 Testing		x Texas Health and Human Services x CVS x Dallas County
COVID-19 Vaccine	Dallas County Health and Human Services: (855) 466-8639	x Dallas County Health and Human Services x CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	(800) 322-4636	https://www.cdc.gov/
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Dial 2-1-1, then choose Option 6	https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/ mailto:coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov

The Dallas Independent School District, as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by law in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment decisions. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section
504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, as well as board policy not to discriminate in such a manner. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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