

PTISD COVID-19 Protocols for Face-to-Face Instruction

Preventative Safety Protocols

1. Parents and students should pre-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, every day, before leaving for the bus stop or the campus. Before coming to school or boarding the school bus, ensure that your child does not have any of the following:

- Fever, without medication
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fast breathing
- Chills
- Shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell



2. Once the bus arrives or students arrive on campus, they should be wearing a mask. Masks must be worn anytime students are in close contact with others. Once controlled social distancing is established, such as seated in the cafeteria or spaced out seating in a classroom, students wearing the mask will become voluntary. Students working in small groups, closer than 6 feet, will be required to wear masks. In classrooms with multiple students masks may be required the entire class.



3. Teaching staff will wear a mask or face shield when social distancing cannot be controlled or while instructing a seated class. All staff will wear masks anytime students are within 6 feet.

4. Students will wear masks when changing classes or walking through a commons area, or anytime they are within 6 feet of other people.

5. Students and staff will utilize the available hand sanitizer upon entering the school building and when entering or leaving a classroom.
6. Students at recess or PE will be expected to wear masks until physical play begins. Physical play will be designed and monitored to provide proper social distancing.
7. Students will be trained and reminded daily about proper handwashing, wearing face coverings, social distancing, and avoiding the unnecessary touching of surfaces and their face.
8. Water fountains have been temporarily closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students are encouraged to bring their own bottled water.



In the event of an exposure

Any student or staff member who has an exposure to COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14 calendar days. An exposure is defined by the CDC as six feet or less, without masks, for more than 15 minutes. If students and staff are following proper protocols, an exposure should not happen on campus.

9. Any student who or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 themselves either:
 - (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
 - (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system 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 to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

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1. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the three-step criteria listed above. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

- (a) Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; or
- (b) Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location

Cleaning Protocols

Teachers will wipe desks and chairs down in-between all class changes.

10. Custodial staff will disinfect hallways, high touch areas, and bathrooms multiple times a day and thoroughly clean and fog the building nightly.
11. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 the following actions will be taken:
 - A. The school will notify its local 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)
 - B. The school will 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.
 - C. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the school will 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 in any on campus activities.



Be advised...

There will almost certainly be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Parents should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.

Please understand that these guidelines are based on the current status of the pandemic. As conditions on the ground, guidelines from the County Health Department, or requirements from TEA and the Governor's office change these requirements will be adjusted accordingly. Our goal is to provide as close to a normal in-person educational experience as possible, while ensuring the safety of our students and staff.