

EXCELSIOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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EISD MITIGATION PLAN

Excelsior ISD is providing the following Notice of Mitigation of COVID-19 per the State of Texas and TEA Public Health Guidance for parents/guardians and the general public. This guidance addresses the following: on campus and virtual instruction; administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses or virtually; all non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities; any other activities that teachers, staff, or students must complete that cannot be accomplished virtually; and visits by parents/guardians and the general public, including all after-school providers and other programs that operate in conjunction with EISD.

PROVIDE NOTICE

- The COVID-19 Mitigation Plan will be posted in written form, on the EISD website and mailed to parents
- EISD provides to parents/guardians and the general public the following notice of public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities
- This plan is subject to change dependent upon state and TEA recommendations and guidelines

Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
- Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction. If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but school systems are permitted to limit these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period, if it will be beneficial to the student's instructional quality.
- School systems must provide on-campus attendance as an option for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.

- In order to facilitate a safe, effective back-to-school transition process, during a period up to the first four weeks of school, which can be extended by an additional four weeks by vote of the school board, school systems may temporarily limit access to on-campus instruction. As a result, some parents opting for their student(s) to attend on campus may be required to start with remote instruction temporarily, although any family who does not have Internet access and/or devices for distance learning at home is still entitled to have their student receive on-campus instruction each day during this transition period, as they are during the rest of the year. School systems must clearly describe this transition process in their posted summary of their plans to operate campuses safely, as required above.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

EISD will provide in-person instruction for the 20-21 school year. Parents and/or guardians desiring their student(s) to participate in instruction through a virtual means will be accommodated as long as they can provide adequate Internet access. Transitions to a different mode of instruction may only be made at the end of grading periods.

PREVENT

Screening

- All EISD employees will self-screen daily, including temperature.
- Parents/guardians will need to ensure pre-screening of students daily. An acknowledgment of this process will be acquired through a signed form returned to the school. This information will also be covered in the student handbook.

Illness

- All EISD employees will report having a positive COVID-19 test, having COVID-19 symptoms without an evaluation, and/or having close contact with a positive COVID 19 individual.
- A parent/guardian must also ensure that their child(ren) with COVID-19, or symptoms of COVID-19, remains at home and participates in instruction through virtual instruction.
- A parent/guardian must ensure that their child(ren) that has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will stay home with virtual instruction for a 14 day incubation period.

Return

- Students, faculty, staff, and all other district employees, upon returning to the district following illness and/or isolation, must be screened by the district/campus nurse to ensure the following criteria are 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:
 - at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - 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 same three-step set of criteria listed above through screening by the district/campus nurse.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to campus before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either
 - obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
 - obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Health and Hygiene Practices

- All building entrances will have hand sanitizer dispensers and use will be encouraged upon entering
- All students will have their temperature checked before entering the school building
- All students will be provided instruction on good handwashing techniques, covering of coughs and sneezes, and disposal of contaminated items.
- Frequent hygiene opportunities will be provided
- There will be no sharing of school supplies, devices, food or items that can be cross contaminated
- Classrooms and hallways will be setup and monitored for appropriate social distancing

Visitor/Visits

- No unscheduled/unplanned district visits, except for emergencies
- No outside food or drink delivered during school hours
- All visitors must be screened, including temperature checks, for

- Close contact
- Symptoms
- Confirmed diagnosis

RESPOND

- All suspected and confirmed cases on campus will immediately be separated from the general population into an Isolation Room
- The Local Health Department will be notified in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations
- Areas heavily used by the individual will be closed off, unless more than 7 days have already passed since the individual was present, for immediate disinfecting
- All individuals exposed will be notified, including the students' parents/guardians, of exposure
- The Isolation Room will be thoroughly cleaned after each use of all surfaces. Virus killing foggers will be set at the end of each day of use
- A student who is feeling feverish will be sent to the nurse for an immediate temperature check

MITIGATE

Instruction

- On the students first day as a EISD student, for returning students during the first week of school, and periodically through the first 6 weeks all students will receive instruction in regards to:
 - proper handwashing
 - proper social distancing
 - wearing of face coverings

Cleaning and Sanitization

- EISD cleaning procedures for transportation:
 - Virus killing foggers will be used after each route/use
 - Increased cleaning of Heating/AC filters
 - Families will be seated together on school transportation
 - Face coverings will be required for grades **three (3) and up**. **It is strongly recommended that all students and adults wear face coverings while on school transportation**
- On campus, the district will institute more frequent cleaning practices such as
 - Items that are touched in common areas, such as door handles, will be cleaned between class changes
 - Night spraying of all buildings with germicide

- In self-contained classrooms, paraprofessionals and teachers will clean between rotation

Face Covering/Protection

- The district will comply with the governor's order regarding the wearing of face coverings which will include all EISD employees and students in grade three (3) and up
- Students in grades with desk shields will be allowed to remove their mask while in their partitioned area.
- Wearing a mask or face coverings may be impractical while performing activities that require exertion.
- Mask and face coverings will be required however while entering or exiting any and all areas and when not actively engaged in activities that require exertion.
- The district will provide every employee and student with a face covering
- The district will provide self-contained classes with student desk shields

Arrival/Dismissal/Assemblies

- Parents and guardians are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up their student(s) when at all possible to increase social distance opportunities.
- New exit/entrance, including drop-off/pick-up, procedures will be implemented in all buildings that include
- All students will report directly to the gym, unless eating breakfast, then to the cafeteria
- There will be no assemblies conducted in the district during at this time
- All visitors will follow entrance/exit procedures that may include screening and face coverings

Groupings and use of non-classroom spaces

- Hallway lockers will not be utilized during this time
- Lunch procedures to ensure social distancing
- Cafeteria seating – plexiglass will separate students.
- Assigned seats that include alternating tables and sides of the table will be utilized at the elementary level
- Families will be seated together on school transportation

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this plan, the district will use the following information/definitions from TEA and the CDC

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:
 - Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
 - 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 document 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:
 - being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
 - being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;
- 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.