

## FISD Parents/Guardians & Students COVID-19 FAQ

### 1. Will FISD employees wear a face mask?

*Per TEA Guidance SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance: page 6*

“Schools are required to comply with the governor’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.” Schools (students and staff) are required to comply with Governor Greg Abbott’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Executive Order No.GA-29 relating to the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 disaster. Staff, students and visitors will be required to wear masks when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaged in activities.

### 2. Will my child have to wear a face mask?

*Per TEA Guidance SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance: page 6*

“Schools are required to comply with the governor’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.” Schools (students and staff) are required to comply with Governor Greg Abbott’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Executive Order No.GA-29 relating to the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 disaster. Staff, students and visitors will be required to wear masks when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaged in activities. Masks will be worn by all students in SES, FES, FMS, FHS, GCHS and staff throughout campus as long as the Governor’s orders are in place. (For students who do not bring a mask from home, a disposable mask will be provided to the students and teachers by FISD).

### 3. What is close contact?

*Per TEA Guidance SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance: page 8*

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:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. 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.

### 4. A member of our household has tested positive for COVID-19 can my child come to school?

Your child will need to stay at home to complete a 14-day quarantine. Please contact your child’s principal. Your child will be switched to remote instruction for the 14 days of quarantine.

### 5. How will I be informed of a positive case of COVID-19?

All staff, parents/guardians and students will be notified of a positive COVID-19 case via Blackboard messenger system. The district is required to keep the name of the positive case confidential unless the person gives permission for their name to go out.

### 6. What is FISD’s response to positive COVID-19 cases on campus?

(Determined prior to Guidance from TEA and subject to change)

- If more than 2% of students at an elementary campus are active positive Covid-19 cases the campus will be closed for a period of up to 5 days and students will temporarily transition to remote learning during that closure.
- If more than 2% of students in grades 6-8 are active positive Covid-19 cases the campus will close for a period of up to 5 days and students will temporarily transition remote learning during that closure.
- If more than 2% of Fredericksburg High School students are active positive Covid-19 cases the campus will be closed for a period of up to 5 days and all students will temporarily transition to remote learning.

- If more than one campus must close due to active positive Covid-19 cases the entire district may be closed for a period of up to 5 days and all students will transition to remote learning.
- Fisd may make the decision to temporarily close an individual classroom based on a concentration of positive Covid-19 cases.
- Classroom and campus closures of in-person instruction could be impacted by staff availability.

#### **7. Why am I completing a daily COVID-19 Screening form for my child?**

*Per TEA Guidance SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance: page 3*

“Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the 10-day quarantine period has been met. Also if your child has had close contact with an individual lab confirmed to have COVID-19 your child needs to complete remote instruction until the 14-day incubation period has passed.” Screening is accomplished by asking electronic questions found on the Fisd website

<https://www.fisd.org/site/default.aspx?DomainID=871>

#### **8. What are the isolation protocols?**

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms:

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Campus nurses have temporal thermometers that will be utilized on campus, as needed.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers 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.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus so the classroom can be disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the parents of students who came in contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols, including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students or staff with possible symptoms of COVID-19 but a negative test will require a physician letter of an alternate diagnosis to return.
- Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and may not return to campus during that time.
- All employee and students shall follow the quarantine guidelines set forth by the CDC.
- Principals will be in contact with employees before school starts to address any concerns.

#### **9. What happens if a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19?**

Isolation protocol & example scenarios note: These TEA protocols are the same as those issued by Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for all employers.

- Ex. #1: If a student shows symptoms at school, immediately separate the student until picked up by parent/guardian.
- Ex. #2: If teacher, staff or student experiences any COVID-19 symptom, he/she self-isolates until the CDC required criteria have been met.
- Ex. #3: If the individual was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to campus when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - 1) At least one day (24 hours) has 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 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- Ex. #4: If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19, but does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to campus until all three criteria are met:

- 1) At least one day (24 hours) has 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 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- Ex. #5: 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) Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

- Ex.: #6: If an employee/student lives with someone who is exposed to a lab-confirmed positive case (symptomatic/asymptomatic), that employee/student should self-monitor symptoms.

## **10. What happens when someone gets a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis?**

### Step 1. Notification

- District administration will send notification to all campus participants if a positive COVID-19 case is identified among participants (employees or students). For students, such written notification is to be provided to the parents or guardians of the students.

- District administration must also notify the local health department.

### Step 2. Contact Trace

- The District must identify any individuals who had regular or close contact with the affected participant. The student's and/or the employee's confidentiality will be maintained whenever possible, and all involved will remind others of the need to keep personal and medical information confidential.

- Student Health Services and Risk Management will work with the employee and/or student to determine the last date the employee and/or student was physically present in any district facility.

- Core group: ➤ Will include the entire class (students, teachers and staff) ➤ May include other teachers and staff (if multiple teachers work regularly with the student or staff member)

- Extended group: ➤ Anyone who interacted with individuals in core group on a regular basis or came in close contact with core individuals ➤ Extended group should be considered potentially exposed as well and should be screened for symptoms and tested for COVID-19 before returning to school.

### Step 3. Follow Isolation Protocols (See Confirmed/Positive Test Results Protocols – Employee/Student Above)

### Step 4: Area Sanitation: District administration will contact the facility's staff to sanitize all areas the student/employee was in within 72 hours from the time of the known exposure.

## **11. A member of our family household tested positive for COVID-19 what do we need to do?**

Report of a student's/employee's member of a household having a confirmed diagnosis should be made to campus or department administrator.

- 14-day quarantine (at home)

- Closure of classroom, hallway, or building to allow for sanitization.

- Return to school or work will require the student or employee to not have had symptoms for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and be symptom-free prior to his/her return or with a release from his/her treating physician.

## **12. My child had primary exposure to COVID-19 what do we need to do?**

A primary exposure would include proximity (within 6 feet) to a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 for a period of more than 15 minutes without a face mask.

- Report of a student/employee having a primary exposure should be made to campus or department administrator.

- 14-day quarantine according to the CDC

- Return to school or work will require the student or employee to not have had symptoms for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and be symptom-free prior to his/her return or with a release from his/her treating physician.
- Even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home 14 days (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

**13. My child had secondary exposure to COVID-19 what do we need to do?**

A secondary exposure would include a person in the employee's household was in proximity (within 6 feet) of a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 for a period of more than 15 minutes without a face mask.

- Student/employee may come to school or work.
- Monitor for symptoms.

**14. If someone travels internationally what are the procedures? 8/13/20**

Individuals (students or staff) who travel internationally will need to complete a 14-day quarantine from the date they return from travel.