

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Coronavirus Prevention Update: FAQs for Texas Parents

March 19, 2020

We know the recent spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is raising a lot of questions from our parents. We have compiled a list of questions we've received at our schools and what's being shared by leading health officials. If you're the parent of an IDEA scholar or expecting, here's what to know.

***NEW: IMPORTANT UPDATE**

It is becoming increasingly clear from public health officials' tracking of COVID-19 that keeping schools closed beyond March 27 will be an important strategy to combating the virus. So, IDEA Public Schools campuses in Texas will remain closed until further notice. Student instruction will continue via distance learning starting Monday, March 30.

***NEW: Distance Learning**

How do we get started with Distance Learning?

Starting March 23, all IDEA scholars can expect a phone call from their teacher to say hello and outline what they can expect starting March 30. If you have not updated your contact information lately or something has changed since re-registration, please reply to this email with the correct phone number.

Starting March 30, IDEA's Parent Portal will be LIVE on our website with access to grade-level based instruction. To access:

1. Visit www.ideapublicschools.org
2. Click on the button that says "IDEA Texas Parents: Access Distance Learning Here"
3. Access Instructional Materials digitally based on instructions from your teacher.

What is the learning plan for students while their school is closed?

IDEA remains fully committed to its core purpose – providing every child with a quality education. Instruction will continue in the event of a school closing through a Distance Learning Program. The Distance Learning Program will entail a variety of ways for teaching remotely to reach all families, including those with special needs or with limited access to technology. Printed materials, virtual classrooms, and individualized learning programs are involved.

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What if I don't have internet or a technology learning device (iPad, laptop, computer or cell phone)?

If you do not have Internet access, please contact Spectrum at 1-844-488-8395. They are offering 60 days of free service to IDEA families.

We are also working on making devices (computer, tablets) available to scholars who need them. Please contact your campus to request a device.

What if my child needs help with the assignments?

Teachers will be working with students virtually in beginning March 30. Please connect with your child's teacher for academic support.

Will online assignments be graded?

Yes, we anticipate that assignments will be graded. Further details will be provided at a later date.

*NEW: Childcare

What childcare services are being offered?

We are offering childcare services to IDEA parents whose work is critical to preventing the continued spread of the Coronavirus or supporting the community during this pandemic. We understand this may seem counterproductive, but one of IDEA's core values is Team and Family and we want to support those who our community needs most.

From Monday, March 23rd to Friday, March 27th, we will provide free weekday childcare for IDEA parents working in jobs essential to community health and safety, including health care workers and first responders and other essential personnel.

How will IDEA keep the students protected from illness?

We will also abide by CDC guidelines for public health, including temperature checks upon entry and gatherings of no more than 10 people per childcare area. Childcare will be available for up to 50 students per site on a first-come, first-served basis.

What are the hours of childcare?

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday until further notice.

Which campuses are offering this service?

Only the following campuses will provide childcare service:

Austin

- IDEA Montopolis, 1701 Vargas Rd, Austin, TX 78741
- IDEA Rundberg, 9504 N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd, Austin, TX 78753

El Paso

- IDEA Mesa Hills, 405 Wallenberg Dr, El Paso, TX 79912
- IDEA Edgemere, 15101 Edgemere Blvd, El Paso, TX 79938

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Rio Grande Valley

- IDEA Toros, 3300 Texas Rd, Edinburg, TX 78542
- IDEA Los Encinos, 5400 S Ware Rd, McAllen, TX 78503
- IDEA Robindale, 3802 Ruben M Torres Blvd, Brownsville, TX 78521

San Antonio

- IDEA Burke, 10434 Marbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78245
- IDEA Eastside, 2519 Martin Luther King Dr, San Antonio, TX 78203
- IDEA Judson, 13427 Judson Rd, San Antonio, TX 78233

Tarrant County

- IDEA Achieve, 1900 Thomas Rd, Haltom City, TX 76117

Are students required to wear their IDEA uniforms?

No, students are not required to wear their uniforms.

Will students complete Distance Learning while in childcare? Will teachers be there to help them?

Yes, students will be academically supported by teachers while completing their distance learning in on-campus childcare.

Will students be provided breakfast and lunch while on campus?

Yes.

How do I apply for the childcare service?

To sign up for childcare, please complete this survey: <https://bit.ly/2TZeh3q> A staff member will be in touch with you.

***NEW: Curbside Meals**

When and where are curbside meals being offered?

We know many of our students rely on us for needs beyond academics. To help support students during this school closure, curbside meal service will be provided at every IDEA campus. Meals

will be available for pick up from 7:00 am to 10:00 am via drive thru.

Who is eligible to receive the curbside meals?

All IDEA students are eligible.

Precautions

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Should my family wear masks?

No. The CDC does not recommend wearing facemasks to protect yourself from COVID-19. Only infected patients and their health care providers are recommended to wear masks. Instead, follow everyday prevention practices such as frequent handwashing, covering your cough and sneeze, staying home when sick, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

What can I do to prevent myself and my family from getting sick?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. [The CDC recommends](#) everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Should I see a doctor if I feel sick?

Call your healthcare professional if you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Your health care provider is best suited to determine what level of care is needed.

I don't have a primary care physician. Where can I take my family?

We have posted Community Resources on our IDEA Health Services page, which includes the names and locations of local clinics. Find more at <https://ideapublicschools.org/parents/health-services/> or contact your campus Health Aide.

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Travel

Are schools canceling field lessons and field trips?

Yes. Effective March 13, 2020, IDEA Public Schools is suspending all College Field Lessons and any student field trips until further notice. You can expect follow-up communication from your school if your child was scheduled to participate in an upcoming field lesson.

Should my family change our travel plans?

- We ask families not travel to level 3 areas such as China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea or the European Union.
- We ask that you cancel or postpone any cruise ship travel.

School Closures and Events

Will Schools Continue Offering Meals During School Closure?

Yes. From Monday, March 23rd to Friday, March 27th, every IDEA campus will be serving grab and go meals for breakfast and lunch. Parents can drive through the school parking lot and pick up meals for their students from 7:30 to 9:00am (breakfast) and 11:30am to 1:00pm (lunch).

Does IDEA plan to cancel College Signing Day and other events?

Every event is being evaluated based on the circumstances in each region. We will make weekly decisions on the cancellation of Spring events as appropriate. At this time, we are rescheduling the following events:

Region	Event		Action
Austin	College Signing Day	Rescheduling	Postponing to May
Austin	College Case Studies	Canceling	TBD
San Antonio	College Signing Day	Rescheduling	Postponing to May
San Antonio	College Case Studies	Canceling	TBD
RGV	College Case Studies	Canceling	Postponing to May
Network	State Science Fair	Rescheduling	TBD
Network	Texas Special Olympics	Rescheduling	TBD

COVID-19 Facts

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What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

Is there a difference between coronavirus and COVID-19?

Yes. There are multiple strains of coronavirus. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. This is the strain of coronavirus that is currently being monitored by the CDC.

How is it different from the flu?

Coronaviruses are a type of respiratory illness, so it shows in symptoms similar to the flu or common cold. This new coronavirus, COVID-19, is most often showing the following symptoms: fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. In milder cases, doctors are reporting symptoms like runny nose, cough, sore throat, fatigue and fever. Since symptoms are so similar, the best way to tell if you or a family has COVID-19 is by going to your doctor, who can determine if testing is necessary.

Who is at risk for contracting COVID-19?

Coronavirus is most dangerous to people ages 65 and older or have chronic illnesses or a weak immune system. Very few children have been reported with confirmed cases. Those children who were infected showed mild or no symptoms.

Current risk assessment:

- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been increasing within communities in the United States.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring are also at elevated risk of exposure.

How is COVID-19 spread?

Person-to-person spread

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

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- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Who should be quarantined for COVID-19?

The CDC makes the necessary assessment of who should be quarantined. Quarantine means separating a person or group of people who have been exposed to a contagious disease but have not developed illness (symptoms) from others who have not been exposed, in order to prevent the possible spread of that disease. Quarantine is usually established for the incubation period of the communicable disease, which is the span of time during which people have developed illness after exposure.

Are children more susceptible to COVID-19?

To date, children with confirmed cases of COVID-19 have shown no to mild symptoms. Older adults, and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease, are at higher risk.