

**August 4, 2020**

## **COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Procedures at IDEA Public Schools**

As we plan for returning to school at IDEA Public Schools, we recognize that this will be an unusual school year, but we remain committed to supporting your scholar's learning, as well as his or her safety.

Below, we have outlined the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified. We hope this transparency helps you to make a decision about your student's on-campus attendance when in-person options are available at your school.

### **Prevention**

To prevent COVID-positive individuals from entering our campuses, your student's school will have the following COVID-19 symptom screening procedures in place:

- All students and staff will be required to self-screen daily before they leave their homes.
  - If students or staff are showing any signs of illness, they should stay home and seek direction from their medical provider.
  - If students or staff have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case, they should stay home, notify the school (families should notify the campus Health Aide, staff should notify their manager and Regional HR Director) and seek direction from their medical provider.
- All students, staff and visitors will be required to undergo a health screen upon arrival. The screening procedure will be as follows:
  - All students will be screened daily before exiting their vehicle or entering the bus (for bus riders)
    - Families will be asked a series of yes/no health questions (below)
    - The temperature of each student in the vehicle (or bus stop) will be taken
  - All staff and visitors will be screened daily before entering the building
    - Staff and visitors will be asked a series of yes/no health questions (below)
    - The temperature of each staff and visitor will be taken

### *Screening Questions:*

- Please answer YES or NO. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms that 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.
- Please answer YES or NO. Have you had close contact with any individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or awaiting test results in the last 14 days?  
*Close contact is defined as:*
  - Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
  - Being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes;

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the individual who tested positive was infectious.

Information collected in these screens will not be retained if the screening is passed. If a parent indicates that a student is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms, the school will retain that information until the student meets the criteria for return to school.

### **Mitigation**

Our district will be taking the following steps across each of our campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- All students, staff and visitors will complete a health screening before being admitted to the school or bus each day. The screening consists of a series of yes/no health questions and a temperature check.
- Student arrival and dismissal will be staggered to limit large group gatherings.
- All students and staff will wear face masks while on campus, only those with a medical exemption are permitted to wear a face shield. Students may remove masks during mealtime and when socially distanced outdoors.
- Social distancing strategies will be maintained at all times.
- Classrooms will be arranged to maintain social distancing during instruction.
- Students and staff will remain in cohorts for instruction and transitions. Teachers for older grades may rotate, but students will not.
- Handwashing time will be built into the daily schedule and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.
- All meals will be consumed in the classroom to minimize transitions and potential exposure.
- Students and staff who are showing signs of illness will be tracked and excluded from in-person attendance. Students showing symptoms on campus will wait in a containment room until picked up by a parent. The room will have a chaperone stationed outside to provide supervision.
- Campus visitors will be limited to essential personnel only. Parents shall schedule visits to the campus in advance.

### **Response**

In the event of a COVID-positive case on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- All areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until disinfected.
- All teachers, staff, and families of all students in that school will be notified.
- The local health department will be notified, and the school will follow any additional guidance provided by the health department.

### **Criteria for Return to School**

In the event of a COVID-positive case (or an individual showing COVID-19 symptom that does not get tested or an asymptomatic individual who had close exposure to a confirmed case), the individual will have to meet a set of criteria before being cleared to return to campus.

*Conditions for return to school after an individual gets a positive test result:*

*Either:*

- 24 hours with no fever; **and**
- Symptoms improved; **and**
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

*Or:*

- An acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19

*Or:*

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

*Conditions for return to school after an individual is sent home for showing symptoms yet had no known exposure to a COVID-positive case:*

- 24 hours symptom-free without the use of fever or symptom-reducing medication

*Or:*

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

*Conditions for return to school after an individual had close contact with a COVID-positive individual:*

- Complete 14-day quarantine
- Monitor symptoms daily
- Symptom-free during the last 24 hours of quarantine

We hope that this information gives you confidence in our systems and our ability to stop the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [covidresponse@ideapublicschools.org](mailto:covidresponse@ideapublicschools.org).

While this will be a challenging year, we believe it can also be a great one, and we look forward to supporting your scholar in his or her learning journey.