



New Diana ISD
Return to School Plan
2021 - 2022

Changes to the public health situation over the course of the school year may necessitate changes to this guidance. Check your student's campus website for more detailed information.

INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to school. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Regular updates will be made to this plan as warranted.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued wellbeing of our employees the following guiding principles have been put in place:



EXPOSURE DEFINED

Close contact of less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes cumulative to a person who has COVID-19 symptoms or a person who has tested positive.



Section I
Safety of Students,
Staff
and Visitors

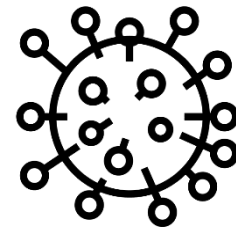
VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Visitors will be self-screened, virtual meetings will be available when possible, visitors and staff will maintain physical distance for ARD in meetings such as for an ARD, Dismissal, and Review (ARD) meeting.

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees and students, we will be requiring employees and students to self-screen which includes the following:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Congestion



Staff may report to their supervisor if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, staff should report if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, unless they have been vaccinated. Persons who are vaccinated for COVID are not considered close contacts. New Diana ISD encourages those who qualify to be vaccinated, to do so.

SELF-SCREENING PROTOCOL

Parents must ensure they do not send their student to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Students may be kept out of school by their parents/guardians if they have had close contact, (as defined by the CDC) with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed or 10 days have passed without experiencing any symptoms. A person who has been vaccinated is not considered a close contact. Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

TRANSPORTATION SANITATION CHECKLIST

1. Hand sanitizer will be at the entry of all buses.
2. When possible, windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate throughout the bus.
3. Buses will be sanitized regularly.

HEALTH PROTOCOL

If an employee becomes ill at work or if another person is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at work, they may be asked to leave work and go home or to the nearest health center.

Employees returning to work from an approved medical leave should contact their supervisor. You may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note before returning to work.

TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 or SUSPECTED WITH COVID-19

Any individuals who 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 it can be verified the individual has met criteria for re-entry.

- 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:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. 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.
- 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/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE COVID-19 CASES ON CAMPUS

NDISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by the parent or guardian.

NDISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

Students who report feeling feverish will be given a temperature check.

PRACTICES TO RESPOND TO A LAB CONFIRMED CASE IN THE SCHOOL

<p>Local Health Department Notified</p> <p>If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements and FERPA.</p>	<p>Areas Closed for Cleaning</p> <p>NDISD 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 24 hours have already passed since that person was on campus.</p>	<p>Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.</p>
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GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and those around you. Healthcare providers will have the most up-to-date information from the CDC.

Please do the following:

1. Quarantine yourself in a specific room away from others in your home.
2. Contact the following (in order of priority), let them know you have been exposed to COVID-19, then follow their instructions.
 - Your teacher/supervisor
 - Your healthcare provider
3. Your supervisor will work with HR to determine appropriate next steps.
4. In case of an emergency, call 911 and let them know you have been exposed to COVID-19, then follow their instructions.
5. NDISD requests that the student, teacher, staff, or visitor should stay at home through the 14-day incubation period and will not be allowed on campus. If the individual experiences symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined below have been met.
 - At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
 - You have improved in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc); and
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred.
 - After 10 days without symptoms, without re-exposure; and have not been tested.
 - After 7 days without symptoms, without re-exposure; and provided tests "negative" within the last 48 hours.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. NDISD employees, students, parents, and visitors who have not been vaccinated should practice staying approximately 6 feet away from others.

CLOSE CONTACT (DEFINED)

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 while not wearing face covering); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes.

If either occurred at any time in the last 10 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.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE may be needed to prevent certain exposures. PPE can include:

Face Coverings: Face coverings are encouraged for those who are not vaccinated. Employee and student protection, as well as personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts are all recommended to protect a person from the COVID virus transmission.

Students and staff will need to provide their own personal face coverings if they desire to do so. Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order on May 18, 2021 which prohibits Government Entities from mandating masks.

For students in PK-5, the determination of whether wearing a face covering is developmentally appropriate is up to the student's parent or guardian. According to TEA's guidance, it is not developmentally appropriate for students in kindergarten and below to wear face coverings.

It may not be developmentally appropriate for some other students, including some students with disabilities, to wear face coverings.

Gloves: Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection. Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands. Please remember to wash your hands properly as it is the number-one defense against any virus. Additionally, the proper removal of gloves reduces the risk of being exposed to contamination.

Please note that social distancing should still be practiced even with the use of gloves and face coverings.

In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

PERSONAL WORKSPACE/CLASSROOM

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace (teacher desk, phone, etc) throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.

SHARED WORKSPACE

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own workspace multiple times throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. NDISD has alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The NDISD Custodial Team will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time.

Please note that proper equipment such as acceptable disinfectant and PPE should be used when cleaning individual workspaces.

There will be limited access to certain workspaces to reduce exposure to risks and ensure employee safety as an example school offices.

FACILITIES CLEANING

The safety of our employees and students is our first priority. Our schools have been cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep cleaning of offices and classrooms before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined will be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on frequency of use.

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

Category	Area	Frequency
WORKSPACES	Classrooms, Offices	Daily
APPLIANCES	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	Daily
GENERAL USED OBJECTS	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	Daily
BUSES	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	Regularly
COMMON AREAS	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	Daily

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES PROTOCOL

General measures will be followed regularly. NDISD will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

DEEP CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOL

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID-19 based on testing. Deep cleaning will be performed as soon as the confirmation of a positive test, as practical. While the scope of deep cleaning is presumed to be the full site, sites may reduce the footprint to be deep cleaned if there is sufficient rationale to do so, and they gain consensus of the Superintendent and the COVID-19 Crisis Team.

1. NDISD will clean areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) unless more than 24 hours have already passed since that person was on campus.

STUDENT AND TEACHER GROUPINGS

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, NDISD will encourage students to practice social distancing.

1. In classroom spaces that allow it, we will consider placing student desks a minimum of three feet apart when possible.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, NDISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and will consider whether increased airflow from the outdoors is possible.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

The safety of our staff and students remains the district's primary concern. To help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and students, we will ask you if you are symptomatic for COVID -19.

CAFETERIA AND MEAL PERIODS

The cafeteria is serving our regular menus. Students may bring their own meals. Parents may bring meals for their child, so please contact your child's campus office for specific guidance for that campus. Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria each period.



Section II
Extracurricular
and
District-Wide
Planning

Participation in extracurricular activities on campus must align with UIL and non-UIL activities. NDISD will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings. Parents are encouraged to remain outside during drop-off and pick-up.

BAND, ATHLETICS, MUSIC, CHEER, AG, and MORE

When feasible and appropriate, it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors. NDISD will continue to offer extracurricular activities at our discretion and consistent with TEA's guidance and with the guidance of UIL.

NDISD will consider safety in planning assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together. Consideration is based on local conditions and health advice.

1. **NDISD extracurricular activities, Sports, Band, etc.** - Students and staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols. All participants, coaches, and directors will follow rules established by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
2. **Elementary Physical Education** - Physical education is required every day. We will exercise hand sanitizing hygiene before and after participating. We will use outdoor activities as the weather permits and facilities allow.