

# **Everman Independent School District**

## **Safe Return to In-person Instruction Plan August, 2021**

### **Introduction**

Students benefit from in-person learning. Safely returning to in-person instruction, as well as student and employee safety and well being are Everman ISD priorities. For the 2021-2022 school year, Everman ISD **will not** offer remote instruction; all students will be welcomed back and required to attend school in person, and many of the safety protocols EISD implemented in the 2020-2021 school year will continue.

We will follow CDC guidelines and recommendations of our local health department, as well as enforce the Governor's mandatory orders.

The following information is based on current conditions. These practices and recommendations will be reviewed on a regular basis and/or if there is a sudden change in conditions such as a marked increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. EISD will rely on the Texas Department of Health to determine the COVID-19 activity level and the appropriate protective measures for wearing masks and face shields.

### **Procedures and Recommendations:**

#### **Health and Safety Training for Staff and Students**

District employees will continue to receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. Students will receive instructions on health protocols which minimize the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Masks**

As of this writing, wearing of protective face coverings such as masks is not mandatory, but encouraged for students and staff, especially when social distancing is not possible.

#### **Social distancing**

To the extent possible students will maintain three feet apart in indoor settings. Classrooms and cafeteria seating will be arranged to allow for appropriate spacing between seating areas whenever possible.

### **Temperature Checks/Screening**

Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending students to school.

- Students will have their temperatures checked every day upon arrival to campus. Students with elevated temperatures or other COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated in the campus nurse's office for additional screening.
- Covid-19 testing may be administered by the campus nurse to any student with a temperature and/or additional symptoms after receiving parent permission.
- Teachers and staff will continue to complete temperature and symptom screening upon arrival each day.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have recently the following symptoms:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

### **Handwashing/Sanitizing**

- All students and staff will be reminded to wash their hands, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, throughout the school day. Handwashing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer will be available in some classrooms.
- Surfaces which students or staff frequently come in contact with (i.e., doorknobs) will be cleaned with disinfectants throughout the school day.

### **Cafeteria Procedures**

- Cafeteria staff will wear face coverings and gloves and will follow all health & safety protocols.
- In an effort to limit the number of individuals on campus, we are not allowing parents/visitors to eat meals with students at school.
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink.
- Lunch tables will be spread out across cafeterias to maximize space between groups.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches,

## **Transportation**

- Ridership will remain at typical district capacity.
- Students' temperature will be checked by the bus driver or bus monitor before entering the bus.
- Face coverings for bus riders are highly encouraged, but not mandatory.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading.
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily.

## **Campus Visitors**

- All visitors who enter the building are encouraged to wear masks/face coverings.
- Any visitor who needs to go beyond the front office will be subject to a temperature check and health screening.
- Anyone who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or has come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences can be held in person or as virtual meetings. When scheduling conferences teachers/administrators will ask parents which format they prefer. Parents participating in on-site conferences will follow the same safety protocols as campus visitors.

## **Classrooms**

- Whenever possible, students' desks and tables will be arranged to facilitate social distancing.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Students (K-12) will be issued an individual technology device to reduce sharing of devices.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be encouraged when possible.

## **Athletics, Fine Arts, and Extracurricular Activities**

Practices and contests will follow CDC, UIL, TEA, and Everman ISD protocols. In-season and off-season activities will follow the most current guidelines available.

## **Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19**

- Students or staff who present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present the student will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until the parent arrives.
- Students will be escorted to vehicles upon parent arrival.
- The Nurse will provide parents/staff with Return to School Criteria.
- The nurse will notify the campus administrator to temporarily move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected.

## **Contact tracing**

- Current school notification legal requirements for other communicable diseases will be used with COVID-19 cases. Schools must notify teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff.
- Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine who came into close contact with individuals identified with lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Close contact is defined as:
  - being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield)
  - being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.

## **Returning to School After a Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis**

Students or staff who either have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 or experience symptoms of COVID-19 must remain at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if re-entry criteria has been 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 three days (72 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 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 obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

## **Social/Emotional Learning and Services**

EISD is committed to students' physical safety but also their emotional well-being. We will continue to provide social/emotional learning opportunities for students at every level of instruction with the following programs and services:

### **Programs**

- K Conscious Discipline and Frog Street
- 1st-5th Empowering Minds
- 6th-12 Edgenuity
- 1st-12th Restorative Discipline

### **Services**

- Campus Guidance Counselors will provide in-classroom social/emotional instruction and be available for students to meet and talk with students as needed.
- Communities in School - Social workers located at JCB High School, Hommel Elementary and Townley Elementary