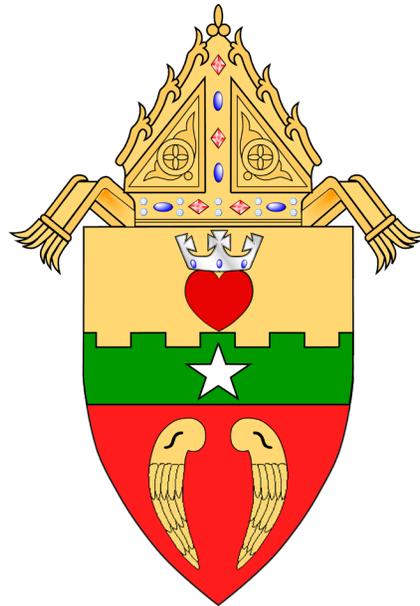


Diocese of San Angelo
Department of Catholic Schools
COVID-19 Return to School Requirements

December 18, 2020 Version 3.0



The Department of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of San Angelo has released “COVID-19 Return to School Requirements” document to provide all schools within the Diocese of San Angelo consistent procedures to return to school for in-person instruction. This document was created based upon the most up-to-date information from various sources including, but not limited to, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department, and the Centers for Disease Control, along with the guidance of educators, medical professionals, and attorneys. **As new information is received from health and government officials, there may be updates to these requirements that will be communicated to the principals and pastors of those schools.**

Schools **are required to follow** the directives marked “Diocesan Requirements.” The “Diocesan Suggestions” are provided as a guide, offering ideas for schools to use depending upon their own unique needs. Each school must ensure that the local level school plans and procedures are in compliance with the Diocesan Requirements.

The policies in this guide may be subject to change, deletion, suspension, or discontinuance in part or in whole at any time without prior notice. Any such action shall apply to all current and future employees and volunteers. Any changes to this document are to be made only by the Bishop of San Angelo.

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Employee Health Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each employee must sign an “Employee COVID 19 Safety Checklist” and turn it in to the school each day upon arrival at work. 	
Student Health Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each parent/guardian signs an “Acknowledgement of Responsibility to Perform Daily Personal Health Assessment” on or before the first day of school. ▪ Each student, with the assistance of a parent or guardian, reviews their health condition and checks their temperature each day. This does not replace the temperature check at school. 	

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Immunizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student must be current with required immunizations to return to school for in-person instruction. 	
Signs and Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering). ▪ Post signs on front doors informing visitors of the screening requirements required before entering (temperatures/symptoms). This includes delivery services and mail. ▪ Facilities must be marked for six-foot distance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include messages (for example, videos) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school social media accounts). ▪ Find free CDC print and digital resources on CDC’s communications resources main page. ▪ Regularly broadcast announcements on the ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. ▪ No physical contact such as shaking hands or hugging. (See Diocese of San Angelo Protocols for Public Liturgies)
Cleaning and Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have cleaning staff disinfect common areas and restrooms throughout the day. All classrooms, restrooms, offices, and other common spaces will be disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant which has been demonstrated to be effective against COVID-19. Disinfectant will be used on all contact surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UV disinfecting lights may be used in classrooms and common areas after students have left for the day. This equipment should be used by trained personnel when classrooms are not occupied. ▪ Each teacher may be supplied with cleaning supplies.
Hand Sanitizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place hand sanitizer stations for students and adults as they enter the buildings. ▪ Provide hand sanitizers throughout the campus. 	

<p>Arrival Plans to School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students wear face coverings during arrival. ▪ Once temperatures are taken, students must proceed directly to the classrooms, or to the supervised before school care area, not congregating informally in the halls or other common areas. Social distancing must be observed at all times. ▪ For late-arriving students, parents must call ahead to the office. They are met at the door for a temperature check, and the parent will sign the student in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stagger arrival times according to class level with the exception of siblings. ▪ Schools may need to lengthen the morning arrival to accommodate the staggered drop-off. ▪ Identify specific windows of time when certain portions of the school population will arrive (ex: divide by alphabet/last name).
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School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temperature checks (non-contact infrared thermometers) conducted for all students and adults at point of school property entry. ▪ Staff sanitize hands before touching the thermometer. ▪ The thermometer is to be disinfected according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. ▪ A health screening station(s) must be established at the facility, near, but not blocking, each entry used for student arrival. This may be outdoors under cover for inclement weather. Floor markings must be visible to maintain a six-foot distance between students. Schools should eliminate large gatherings at these stations that may require multiple entry points or longer, staggered arrival times. ▪ Persons who have a fever of 100°F or above must not be admitted to the facility. ▪ In the event that a student does not meet the health requirements, an isolation area is to be utilized where students can wait for a second temperature check using a different thermometer and to be picked up, if necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools may use temperature entry screening equipment. ▪ Designate a set of staff members or volunteers to administer employee temperature checks at school as early as possible upon arrival. Self-checks are not sufficient. ▪ For some schools, checking temperatures at vehicles can minimize the need for isolated areas and procedures for holding/transporting sick students.
Spacing/Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space between student seating is to be six feet or greater. ▪ If the physical space in the school does not allow for spacing students’ desks six feet apart, create social distancing using other strategies such as decreasing class size or using clear desk shields or partitions. ▪ Place markings on the floor/facility as a reminder of areas that are six feet apart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use self-contained classrooms, if feasible, to limit exposure to a small group of students/staff. ▪ Have breaks/recess outside. ▪ When possible, the circulation of outside air into the room should be increased to foster public health in the facilities. ▪ Disinfect classrooms during the time students are out of the room. Wipe door handles and desktops in between classes, if possible. ▪ Limit the number of students in the restrooms at the

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Spacing/Classroom <i>Continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modify classes/activities that normally require multiple students to engage in an activity, so distance and sanitation needs are met. ▪ Reduce congestion in common areas (school office, guidance, drop off/pick up, etc.). ▪ Create seating charts for students in classes to assist with contact tracing, if needed. 	<p>same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce class sizes to allow for smaller cohorts/pods of students to decrease the potential need for contact tracing. ▪ Clear desk shields or partitions may be used if they do not violate fire code requirements. They should be well secured to prevent student injury and should be disinfected frequently. ▪ Turn desks to face in the same direction.
Sharing of Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When a school shares its classrooms and other facilities with religious education programs, the school and religious education leadership must plan together and communicate about procedures, sanitization, schedules, and sick children and/or teachers. The same is true for other parish organizations and events. 	
Special Area Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When a school has fine arts programs, special precautions should be taken. Unless social distancing and the wearing of face coverings can be strictly adhered to, singing should be discouraged. Students should not be allowed to use shared musical instruments, and the playing of wind instruments in a group setting shall not be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where applicable, teachers for elementary level pull-out classes, such as Spanish, art, and library, should travel to classrooms to continue classes.

<p>Face Coverings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unless medically waived, all present are required to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth (disposable/reusable mask, neck gaiter, or bandana) throughout the day except when eating, drinking, or doing aerobic physical activity, or when outside and at least six feet from others. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the coronavirus is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets. The masks act as a barrier to prevent the droplets from traveling. This is called “source control”. ▪ Messages or images on the face coverings must not be contrary to Catholic faith and morals and must follow the school dress code. ▪ There is not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for “source control”. Therefore, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for face masks. However, full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible. Face masks might not always be feasible with younger children, people with asthma or other breathing difficulties, those with medical or emotional conditions, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or whenever the educational context may benefit from the ability to see an individual’s full face. In those cases, face shields may be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with students and families to identify alternative face coverings based on individual student medical needs and circumstances. Schools should maintain extra face coverings for those individuals that need them. ▪ Face coverings should be labeled with name. ▪ Every student/staff should have multiple face coverings. ▪ Coordinate a pick-up day to distribute face coverings to students so they can practice prior to the first school day. ▪ School administration has the final determination on acceptable face coverings.
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School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Face Coverings <i>Continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teach and reinforce the use of face coverings. ▪ Information should be provided to staff, students, and students’ families on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings. ▪ Face coverings are to be worn when students are moving from place to place in classrooms, school buildings, and other school facilities. ▪ Face coverings must stay in place and be in good condition. ▪ Reusable face coverings should be washed each day after use. 	
Hallway Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students and staff moving through the hallways must wear face coverings. ▪ Facilities are to be marked to show the traffic direction and social distancing (including stairwells). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To limit hallway traffic, students may remain in the classroom while teachers rotate class-to-class. ▪ Designate one-way hallway traffic when possible or staying to the right side. ▪ Designate certain doors for entry and exit. ▪ Identify and reduce areas of congregation by students. ▪ Doors that do not need to be closed may be propped open to limit contact or touching. ▪ Attach hands-free door hardware, such as foot pulls, to doors, preventing contact when moving around the campus.

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Lockers/Cubbies/Coat & Backpack Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limit use. ▪ Avoid congregating. ▪ Face coverings required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible morning, lunch, and afternoon use. ▪ Establish procedures for staggered use.
Shared Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid sharing of items as much as possible. ▪ Keep each child’s belongings separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas. ▪ Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, games, or learning aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student his or her own art supplies, equipment, pens, pencils, calculators) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use. ▪ Teachers using paper worksheets have a turn-in tray that can be isolated for 24 hours. ▪ Identify materials that can be asked to be brought in and used by individual students.
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water fountains can be used only to fill water bottles. People must not drink directly from the water fountains. ▪ Students bring their own water bottles that can be refilled throughout the day. ▪ Water fountains are to be cleaned and sanitized frequently throughout the school day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School provides a limited number of disposable water bottles for backup.

<p>Isolation Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designated area for isolation of sick students with an ability to maintain adult supervision. ▪ Assure student is wearing a face covering if there is no medical reason to prevent this. ▪ Sick students may not be sent on any school transportation. ▪ Health room supplies must include gloves, face coverings, face shields, and hand sanitizer. ▪ The isolation area must be cleaned and sanitized after each use. ▪ Parents must have a back-up contact on their emergency cards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formulate transportation criteria for how a student can get home if the parent has no transportation or is not responding. ▪ Students need to be picked up in a set amount of time - within 60 minutes. ▪ Consider having two separate areas: a first aid and medication station for students who do not show symptoms of COVID-19, and an isolation area for students who do show symptoms.
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School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote social distancing at tables. ▪ If students eat in the cafeteria, surfaces must be cleaned and sanitized between diners. ▪ Students and staff use hand sanitizer or wash hands well before eating lunch or snacks, and after placing their face coverings back on their faces after they eat. ▪ Face coverings may be removed for eating and drinking. ▪ Put labels on the tables to indicate six feet spacing. ▪ Assigned seating will be needed to support contact tracing if the school experiences a positive COVID-19 case. ▪ Siblings may sit next to each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stagger lunch times. ▪ Each school task force, along with the cafeteria manager, must determine if they can meet the serving and cleaning guidelines to serve meals and eat in the cafeteria. ▪ If social distancing is not possible in the cafeteria, eat meals in the classroom. ▪ Eating outside with spacing is also an option. ▪ Cafeterias can serve hot lunches at schools where students will eat in the cafeteria. ▪ Cafeterias can offer box/bag lunches or grab-n-go lunches for those eating outdoors or in classrooms. ▪ Students have the option to bring a lunch under both scenarios. ▪ Disallow the dropping off of lunches in the morning to curtail the number of visitors in the building.
Recess/Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students must practice good hand hygiene by washing/sanitizing their hands before going out to play and immediately upon returning inside the school building after putting on face coverings. ▪ Assign a recess schedule that limits how many classes are on the playground at one time. ▪ Students must engage in no-contact activities. ▪ Equipment must be sanitized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If multiple playground areas are available, utilize them to minimize how many students are mixing. ▪ Provide no-contact recess activities.

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Gymnasiums, P.E. Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have P.E. classes outside whenever possible and reasonable. ▪ Clean and sanitize frequently used equipment between classes or sports teams. ▪ When students are engaged in aerobic physical activity, face coverings may be removed. ▪ Student activities should be no-contact and include six feet or more distance between each student. ▪ When students are outside and six feet from others, face coverings are not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide hand hygiene rules in the gym and advise students not to share personal items. ▪ Provide multiple changing areas, if needed. ▪ Develop activities that omit the sharing of equipment. ▪ Identify as many low-touch physical activities as possible. ▪ Provide disinfectant wipe stations throughout the room for use on equipment.
Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide sufficient time with safe distancing and face coverings for dismissal. ▪ Parents are not to congregate outside of school exits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stagger or extend dismissal times. ▪ Provide additional pickup routes and locations if possible. ▪ Mark outside ground areas for safe distancing.
Extra-Curricular Activities (After school clubs, academic team, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After-school clubs, academic teams, etc., are to social distance at least six feet. ▪ Avoid sharing of items. 	

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
Field Trips, Assemblies, and School Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancel field trips, assemblies, and other large group activities to avoid mixing students in large common areas (first half of school year). Further date TBD. ▪ Limit non-essential visitors and activities with outside groups and organizations. Students requiring outside services – such as mental health, speech, occupational and physical therapies – are allowed, but service providers must follow screening protocol and must wear proper PPE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pursue virtual group events. ▪ Pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and spirit nights, as possible. ▪ Grade level meetings may be held. Students must be spaced six feet apart and wearing face coverings.
School Masses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow Diocese of San Angelo Protocols for Public Liturgies. ▪ Students must sit in designated area. ▪ Designated area for visitors (if space allows for visitors) and follow school dismissal procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Mass options with pastor/chaplain. ▪ Consider class-level Masses. ▪ Examine the possibility of adding more school Mass times to allow all students more frequent in-person attendance.
Before and After School Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limit the number of students attending before and after school programs. ▪ Provide a space with social distancing. ▪ Omit sharing of items. ▪ Establish a limit on the number of students permitted in each area to be used. ▪ Provide sufficient adult supervision according to the diocesan safe environment policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible. ▪ Provide procedures for parents to drop off and pick up students with minimal contact.
Sanitation and Environmental Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize Texas Education Agency Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share plan with school community. ▪ Consult a list of COVID-19 resources and materials from the Diocese of San Angelo (Deacon Marc Mata).

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
<p>Contact Tracing and Close Contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Close Contact” is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or b) Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a face covering. ▪ If either situation described in a) or b) above occurred at any time in the last 14 days (at the same time the infected individual was contagious), an individual is presumed to have been in “Close Contact” with an infected individual; ▪ Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, individuals are presumed infectious two days prior to the date of the confirming lab test. ▪ Individual with Close Contact to someone with COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) People who have had Close Contact with a person diagnosed or suspected with COVID-19 will be required to stay home and be advised to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidelines if symptoms emerge. b) The individual will not be allowed to return to the campus until 14 days from the last day of Close Contact. ▪ Be prepared to cooperate with the contact tracing investigation with manifests of classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare effective paperwork to help with contact tracing. ▪ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/contact-tracing.html

	cohorts/pods, cafeteria seating charts, etc., that will allow quick identification of those at high risk of infection due to Close Contact with the positive COVID-19 student/staff.	
In-School Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students must commit to following safety guidelines to protect themselves, their peers, and faculty and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outside of school, students and families are encouraged to remain healthy at home to the greatest extent possible and avoid large gatherings. ▪ For students, schools should not offer incentives for perfect attendance. Students who are absent will be afforded time to complete classwork.
Remote Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school’s main focus and efforts are to provide in-person instruction. ▪ Students who utilize learning from home, if offered, must commit to the guidelines set forth by the school. ▪ Students are held to the same grading and performance standards as in-school learners. ▪ Students are held to the same attendance standards and may be marked absent if not logged on at the times designated by the school. ▪ A request to return to the in-school learning program must be approved by the administration. ▪ Students who are utilizing remote learning may not participate in in-person school-sponsored extracurricular activities. ▪ The at-home learning option is designed for COVID-19 related concerns, quarantine, or illness. ▪ Videoing of the class must focus only on the teacher unless the parents of every child in the classroom have given permission for their child to be on video. 	

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements	Diocesan Suggestions
<p>Elementary & Middle School Sports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adhere to the CDC Guidelines. (CDC Toolkit for Youth Sports) ▪ Educate players and the staff on the requirement to stay home if they have had close contact with a COVID positive individual or are exhibiting COVID symptoms, and on what is required prior to returning to the activity. ▪ Maintain healthy operations through cleaning, disinfecting, shared objects, physical barriers and guides, and communal spaces. ▪ Players that are dropped off by parents must be supervised and maintain social distancing. ▪ No outside groups to use facilities until further notice. ▪ Develop a policy for spectators' attendance. Spectators must follow social distancing and wear face coverings. ▪ Coaches and trainers should wear face coverings at all times. ▪ Players must wear face coverings upon entry to the facility and when not actively practicing, playing in a game, or catching their breath. Face covering may be removed when students are engaged in aerobic physical activity. ▪ The game may be delayed or ended if proper masking is not being carried out. ▪ Communicate with parents about COVID plans for each sport. ▪ Follow DOSA Gathering Protocols available at www.sanangelodiocese.org. ▪ Prepare to follow diocesan policy if a player or a coaching adult is diagnosed with COVID-19. It is likely that the group will be quarantined and likely that the sport will be suspended. See 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess risks using the CDC Toolkit of Youth Sports. Note physical touching, shared equipment, social distancing, size of team, travel, nonessential visitors and/or volunteers. ▪ Focus as much as possible on sports which involve limited physical contact, such as track, cross-country, golf, tennis, and eSports. ▪ Provide adequate supplies for sanitizing. Train personnel for sanitizing equipment and the facilities. ▪ Instruct players to wait in cars until it is time to begin practice. ▪ Create physical distance between players when explaining drills or rules. ▪ Non-participating players will maintain social distancing. ▪ Discourage unnecessary physical contact such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, etc. ▪ Stagger practice schedules to avoid large groups. ▪ Limit gatherings, spectators, and travel. ▪ Communicate all aspects on how COVID protocols will be handled. Consider using sample parent letter from the CDC website. ▪ Monitor absenteeism of coaches and office and create a back-up plan for personnel. ▪ When the schools' teams visit other venues, spectators are encouraged to follow diocesan protocols as much as possible.

	<p>Infection Procedures below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a campus COVID-19 plan for athletics and submit it to the Superintendent for approval. ▪ When our school’s team visits another other venue, and our school’s COVID-19 protocols are stricter than the other school, our players and coaches are still expected to follow our own protocols. ▪ Designate a COVID-19 point of contact at each school for athletics. 	
High School Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strictly adhere to the TAPPS Guidelines. ▪ No outside groups to use facilities until further notice. ▪ Spectators must follow social distancing and wear face coverings. ▪ Follow DOSA Gathering Protocols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus as much as possible on sports with involve limited physical contact, such as track, cross-country, golf, tennis, and eSports.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow the State of Texas Regulations on wearing face coverings traveling in a vehicle with people who are not of the same household. ▪ All students and adults wear a face covering on the school bus. ▪ Students and staff are to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus. ▪ Provide hand sanitizers on the bus. ▪ Practice social distancing on the bus as well as in the process of boarding and exiting the bus. ▪ Buses are to be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles. ▪ During cleaning, open windows to allow for additional ventilation and air flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When possible, open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
Medical Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools may provide for the ongoing medical care for students, as per a normal year. 	

Parent-Teacher Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent and teacher meetings are to be conducted virtually, if possible. ▪ If face-to-face meetings are required, meetings will take place in large open areas with the use of face coverings and social distancing. 	
Meetings (School board, Boosters, PTO)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual/video meetings are recommended whenever possible. ▪ Outdoor meetings (ex: pavilion) are recommended if possible - following public health guidelines and DOSA Gathering Protocols.
Family Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to the CDC, travel increases the chances of getting and spreading COVID-19. Families are discouraged from traveling to another country or state for family trips. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html ▪ Families must notify the school of trips that may increase student exposure to COVID-19. ▪ As a result of traveling, students and staff may be subject to a 14-day quarantine and/or a COVID-19 test before returning to school. 	
Infection Procedures for Students and Adults	<p>COVID-19 Symptoms: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) have identified several symptoms of COVID-19, including high fever (above 100°F), sore throat, nausea, headache, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, fatigue, diarrhea, coughing, and difficulty breathing.</p> <p>If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19: Parents must contact the school’s office and not send the child to school. If the symptoms occur while in school, the child will be sent to the designated isolation area (separate from students and staff). The parent will be contacted to pick up the child immediately.</p>	

If an employee or volunteer is diagnosed with COVID-19:

In the case of an employee or volunteer who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when ***all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) fever-free without fever-reducing medicine have passed since recovery; the individual has improvement in symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.*** [CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.](#)

If a child, employee, or volunteer has symptoms of COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional and/or tested for the virus:

The individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to school until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above. School administration must be contacted if a student is ready to return to school for clearance.

If an 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 and is not contagious; or
- Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

If another student in a child's class is diagnosed with COVID-19:

The school will make all parents aware that a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19. All students in the class(es) will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If more

than one student is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is likely that the entire class(es) will be isolated (sent home) for at least 14 days. Students will be allowed to complete work at home while away from school.

If a student or adult on a sports team or extra-curricular activity is diagnosed with COVID-19:

The school will make all parents aware that a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19. All students involved in the extra-curricular activity or sport will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If more than one student is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is likely that the entire team or extracurricular activity group will be quarantined (sent home) for at least 14 days. The activity will likely be suspended until further notice.

If a member of the household tests positive for COVID-19:

Immediately contact the school office. The student or adult will need to quarantine for 14 days. If the household member recovers from COVID-19 and the individual shows no symptoms for the 14-day period, the school may allow for the individual to return.

Whole school building closed down due to COVID-19:

We will do our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the coming year. However, if numerous cases appear in a single school, resulting in the isolation of multiple classes/cohorts/pods, we may need to close the school building and transition all students to Remote Learning for a time (in consultation with the local health departments). Parents/Guardians will be updated regularly should that need arise.

In all cases of COVID-19:

We are always striving for the goal of remaining on campus with our students. Safety and health, however, are our number one priority for our students, families, and staff.

	<p>While we adhere to our plans as closely as possible, each case is handled based upon its unique circumstances. Aspects such as close contact, extended exposure time, and significant exposure area, are just a few of the items that are considered in the event of necessitating a quarantine of students and/or classrooms or an overall school. The schools shall notify parents immediately.</p> <p>It is important that we respect the privacy of the individual and not engage in any shaming, gossiping, or bullying of that person or their family. <i>Instead, we pray for them.</i></p>	
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