



Victoria ISD COVID-19 Update for 2021-22 School Year

As Victoria ISD prepares for the 2021-2022 school year, the health and safety of our students, staff, and families remain a top priority. VUSD is committed to maintaining transparency during these uncertain times and will resume communication protocols for reporting COVID-19 positive cases.

VUSD will resume contact tracing and will provide notification of all COVID-19 positive cases.

Facial Coverings/Masks

In May 2021, Gov. Abbott issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas — including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials — from requiring or mandating mask-wearing. Under this Executive Order, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus.

Victoria ISD will continue to follow the direct orders from the Governor as it relates to masks in schools.

Staff, teachers and students are encouraged to continue following CDC guidelines including mask-wearing. Guidance from the CDC shows that wearing a mask is an effective way to mitigate COVID-19.

Prevention & Mitigation

COVID-19 cleaning practices that were implemented in August 2020 will continue, proper cleaning supplies will remain available for all staff, teachers and students. VUSD facilities will continue to undergo scheduled Clorox 360 cleanings as well as Clorox 360 areas where a positive COVID-19 case was located. Water fountains will not be accessible; however, water bottle filling stations are available. Masks will be available for students at each campus.

Health Response Protocols

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19 (Tex. Admin. Code 97.7). Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Students with COVID-19 symptoms and have not tested positive may return to school when the following are true:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - AND**
 - Improvement of symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
 - AND**
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - OR**
 - Obtained a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis (must provide note);
 - OR**
 - Obtain a COVID-19 test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

Close Contact:

- If it is determined that a student was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, the student's parents will be notified.

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test, contact the school nurse. The nurse will also need a copy of the COVID-19 test result.

Absence documentation will remain the same. When a student is absent from school, they must bring a note signed by the parent describing the reason for absence upon return. When a

student's absence exceeds three consecutive days because of a personal illness, the student must bring a current statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the student was seen by a health care professional and the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. This will apply for COVID-19-related illness.

Please note that these guidelines, protocols and requirements can change at any moment. Notifications and updates about COVID-19 can be found on the Health Services page of the district website.

You can help! Get vaccinated. Wear a mask. Practice social distancing and handwashing.