

DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative

Strong Start 2022-2023

Action Plan in Response to COVID-19



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Introduction

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-38, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-38 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), response in Texas public schools, visit <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>.

As our communities continue to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative remains committed to its purpose of providing a continuum of special education services to students in the nine member districts while maintaining our schools as a place where students, families, and staff feel safe. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of exposure to COVID-19, many steps can be taken by schools to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. These steps are outlined in the following DLSEC Strong Start 2022-2023 Action Plan as it delineates protocols that will be put into effect in the DLSEC Instructional Programs settings to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to the new school year.

FOUR PRACTICE ACTION PLAN



NOTICE



PREVENT



RESPOND



MITIGATE

DLSEC will:

1. Provide notice to parents, guardians, and the public as required.
2. Implement practices to prevent the virus from entering the school.
3. Respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school.
4. Implement prevention and mitigation practices to reduce the likelihood that an outbreak occurs on campus.

On-Campus Health and Safety Protocols

SELF-SCREENING PROTOCOLS PRIOR TO CAMPUS ENTRY

In addition to the measures by DLSEC staff outlined in this action plan, all students, parents, employees, and visitors are asked to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, check their temperature before coming to campuses, and stay home when sick.



PREVENT

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Covid-19 manifests differently in individuals. Some people are completely asymptomatic, while others experience symptoms. The following list includes possible symptoms, but these symptoms may or may not be present.

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100° F
- New experience of loss of taste or smell
- New uncontrolled cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Fatigue
- Congestion and/or runny nose
- Significant muscle ache or pain
- Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Confusion
- Bluish color to lips

PRESENCE OF ACTIVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS ON CAMPUS

Each campus will designate an office or room for the DLSEC nurse supervisor and/or health staff to isolate those individuals exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. This room will be sized with sufficient space to allow for at least 6 feet for social distancing purposes. The nurse supervisor and/or health aide will conduct a clinical assessment for an individual who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

Trained staff will clean the area(s) heavily used by the student or staff who shows COVID-19 symptoms after the individual has been relocated to the isolation area as soon as feasible.

Parents/guardians of students who are ill will be notified and should make arrangements to pick the student up from the designated isolation area within 1 hour.

Staff displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols for separation from students and other staff members, testing, and returning to work. Reentry criteria listed apply to staff as well. For individual guidance, staff members should contact their immediate supervisor or the DLSEC Director of Operations.

REQUIRED ACTIONS IF INDIVIDUALS WITH TEST-CONFIRMED CASES HAVE BEEN IN A SCHOOL

- If an individual who has been in a school is test-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 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

REENTRY CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT AND STAFF

As provided in the Department of State Health Services Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19 or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. As noted in TEA's Public Health Guidance, exclusion shall continue until the conditions for reentry are met:

- For children with symptoms, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19.

Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return according to the following criteria:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptoms onset, fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days have passed after the day of a positive test

FEVER FREE DEFINITION

“Fever free” means that an individual is without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

FACILITY CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Safety of our students and staff is our first priority. All classrooms and rooms associated with the DLSEC Instructional Programs have been completely cleaned and disinfected. Daily scheduled disinfection measures outlined below are to be taken to reduce the risk of spread the virus. Staff will be required to maintain these standards:

- **Workspaces**, such as classrooms, therapy rooms, and offices, will be cleaned at the end of each use/ day.
- **Appliances**, such as refrigerators and microwaves in staff-only areas, will be cleaned at the end of each day.
- **Electronic equipment**, such as iPads, shared keyboards, copier machines, and telephones, will be cleaned between each use.
- **General high-frequency objects**, such as door handles, light switches, sinks, and tables, will be cleaned at least 4 times a day and between groups.
- **Common areas**, such as hallways or computer labs, will be cleaned at least 4 times a day and between groups.

Additional cleaning and sanitizing measures will be taken when concerns arise relating to possible active COVID-19 cases or exposures.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In order to assist classrooms with their safety measures, the DLSEC has provided staff and students with available PPE. This includes the purchase of touchless forehead thermometers, gloves, Plexiglas desktop shields, hand sanitizer, and face shields.

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

Mask provisions of GA-38 are not being enforced as the result of ongoing litigation. Currently, masks are an option for all students and staff. Further guidance will be communicated when available.



MITIGATE

AIR PURIFICATION

Units are strategically located throughout DLSEC instructional spaces and common areas.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Every effort will be made to practice social distancing in the school setting. Classroom sizes will be kept small when possible. Desks or tables will be distanced as much as possible.

SANITIZER STATIONS

Hand sanitizer will be provided to all classrooms and common areas for student and staff use. Students and staff will make use of hand sanitizer after transition times when entering the classroom and as often as needed.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

Visitors will be limited to essential individuals who have scheduled appointments on campus. All visitors must adhere to the self-screening process and PPE expectations.

STAFF TRAINING

It is imperative that all employees understand the safety requirements, protocols, and expectations to ensure everyone stays safe and aids in the prevention of the spread of the virus. Janitorial staff will receive training specific to deep cleaning and sanitation of high-traffic areas as well as areas inhabited by a COVID-positive individual.

HANDWASHING AND SANITIZATION LESSONS FOR STUDENTS

Training regarding the importance of safety and health of students, staff, and our communities will also extend to all students in the DLSEC Instructional Programs. Lessons regarding proper handwashing, cleanliness of our work and class spaces, personal hygiene, and self-awareness of one's own health will be incorporated into daily lesson plans.

Contact Information for DLSEC Action Team

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Student Tests Positive for COVID-19 or is Suspected of Being Actively Sick with COVID-19

Parent-to-School Nurse Notification

Principal Notifies Admin.

School Custodians Disinfect Affected Areas

School Notifies All Close Contact Staff & Students

Exclusion Process until re-entry criteria are met

Per TEA Guidelines: School systems must exclude students from in-person attendance who are actively sick with COVID-19, suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met:

- If symptomatic, exclude until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.
- If asymptomatic but with a positive test for COVID-19, exclude until at least 5 days after the day the student was tested.

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or higher.



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For the full guidelines outlined by the Texas Education Agency, visit tea.texas.gov/coronavirus.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Office of the Texas Governor
Coronavirus Resources and Response:
<https://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus>

Texas Health and Human Services:
<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>