

# Colmesneil ISD Opening of School Plan for 2020-2021 School Year

This document has been compiled using TEA resources. Those resources may be found at the following website; [www.tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)

This document has been abbreviated for some clarity. If you have any questions regarding items in this document, please refer to the Opening of School Plan in its entirety located on the Colmesneil ISD website: [www.colmesneilisd.net](http://www.colmesneilisd.net) or a direct link <https://5il.co/j7sj>.

Colmesneil ISD is committed to working to keep everyone safe during this time. While we cannot prevent COVID-19's presence among our school community, we will do what is possible to mitigate its presence and preserve our school community's health and welfare.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread:

- PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices
- PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- MITIGATE: Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Some practices are required for all schools, some are required in areas with high levels of community spread, and some are recommendations. The District will apply recommended practices to adults on campuses, even when it might not be feasible to do so for students, to more fully protect adult teachers and staff who are generally at greater risk from COVID-19 than students.

## **PROVIDE NOTICE: Parental and Public Notices**

### ***Attendance and Enrollment***

1. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
2. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
3. Any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction.
4. School systems must provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus each day, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.

## **PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School**

### ***Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access***

1. Teachers and staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day.
2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms as listed in this document or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
3. Excluding parental drop-off and pick-up, all visitors will be screened before being allowed onto campuses

### ***Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19***

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 as listed in this document, must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - a. 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) have 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.
  - b. 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
    - i. such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and
    - ii. the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
  - c. 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
    - i. obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
    - ii. 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***

- The District will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- The District will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Updated  
7/29/20

## **RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

### ***Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School***

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the District will notify the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
2. The area will be closed off if it was heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the District will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.

## **MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School**

### ***Health and Hygiene Practices: General***

1. Campuses will attempt to have hand sanitizer stations at each entrance and classroom.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
3. Campuses 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.
4. Workers will be provided training on the guidance from the CDC regarding cleaning.
5. On the first day of school, teachers will provide instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted by the District.

### ***Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks***

*Note: For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.*

1. Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks.
2. In addition to the executive order, the District may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
3. It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities.

### ***Student-Teacher Groupings***

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

### ***Use of Non-Classroom Spaces***

1. When feasible and appropriate, it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
2. Extracurricular activities will be discretionarily offered and consistent with the guidance provided by this document for non-UIL extracurricular activities and with the guidance found on the UIL website for all UIL activities.

3. Facilities will not be available for use by the general public until this crisis has been resolved.
4. The District will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings of students and/or adults in close proximity.
5. The District will consider practices that reduce the likelihood that students meet the close contact definition at lunch.
6. The District will individually plate meals with disposable food service items.

### ***Transportation Recommendations***

1. The District will work to have students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
2. When possible, the windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
3. The District encourages families to drop students off, carpool, or walk to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
4. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip.

### ***Visits to Schools***

1. Parents and other adults can visit schools, as permitted by District policies.
  - a. Eating lunch with students will not be permitted during this time.
2. The District will not accept personal deliveries during this time.

Updated  
8/5/20

### ***Staffing***

1. Employees of school systems, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employers, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.
2. School teachers and staff will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by the District.
3. The District will attempt to reduce in-person staff meetings or other opportunities for adults to congregate in close settings.

Updated  
8/5/20

## **Self-Screening Guidelines for COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4°F;
- Loss of taste or smell;
- Cough;
- Difficult breathing;
- Shortness of breath;
- Fatigue;
- Headache;
- Chills;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering;
- Significant muscle pain or ache;
- Diarrhea; or
- Nausea or vomiting;

### ***Screening Questionnaire Information***

When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, the District will only require a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation.

The District is not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.

Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

Updated  
8/5/20

### ***The Definition of Close Contact***

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however additional factors like case/contact masking (ie. Both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either a. or b. define close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.