



# Denton I.S.D. Head Start Mitigation Policy



**Notice:** The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and this plan will be routinely evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID- 19 virus, especially in the city of Denton. Denton I.S.D. will follow recommendations for school operations from all appropriate state and local governing health and education. The district will partner with D.C.H.S., operating under their guidance, to adjust our protocols. Denton I.S.D. follows the latest public health guidance from the T.E.A. and Denton Health Department.

Policy Council Approved: 2/17/2023  
Health Advisory Committee Approved: 2/17/2023  
Board Approval Approved:  
Created, 2/8/23



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## *HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS*

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### **INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES**

- Parents/guardians must ensure they do not send their child to school if the student has a fever ( $\geq 100.0F$ ), diarrhea, or is test-confirmed for COVID-19.
- Staff are expected to stay home if they have fever ( $\geq 100.0F$ ) or are test-confirmed for COVID-19.
- Areas that have had exposure from a test-confirmed COVID-19 individual will be sanitized.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash their hands.
- Staff, students, and visitors will be encouraged to cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows.
- Publicize vaccination opportunities.
- HEPA filter air purifiers are used in Head Start classrooms.

### **HEALTH SCREENINGS**

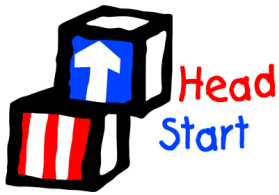
- Staff will self-screen for symptoms of illnesses prior to reporting to work each day.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their children for symptoms of illnesses prior to sending them to school each day.
- Teachers and staff will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if any symptoms of illness are present.
- Visitors must self-screen for illness and may only enter campus if they are symptom free.

### **SANITIZING, CLEANING, AND DISINFECTING**

- Campus will be cleaned daily and throughout the day.
- Staff will have access to disinfectants and gloves to sanitize high-touch and working surface, as well as shared objects as needed.
- If a student who is test-confirmed positive for COVID-19 and they had COVID-19 symptoms while in school, the classroom will be sanitized.

### **PROCEDURES RELATED TO COVID-19**

- Students and staff shall not come to school if they are actively sick with COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive test result for COVID-19.
- Parents should report positive cases to the campus. Employees should report positive cases to their supervisor.
- If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 (that are not normal for them) at school, the campus R.N. will provide a clinical assessment and determine when a student/staff member would need to be sent home or go into isolation.



- Staff and students who possess COVID-19 symptoms (that are not normal for them) may choose to be COVID-19 tested. They can be tested at home, using a home COVID-19 testing kit or at a medical office by a medical professional.
- Students and staff must be excluded from attendance if they test positive for COVID-19 and must remain off campus until current criteria for re-entry are met. (Please see [COVID-19 School Decision Tree](#) for detailed isolation days)
  - The individual will need to isolate for 5 days, day 0 being the first day that symptoms occur.
  - For moderate to severe illness or those with weakened immune systems isolation for 10 days.
  - For those who are severely ill, consult with your doctor before ending isolation.
  - The student, staff member, or volunteer can return when they complete their isolation, are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and have an improvement of their symptoms.
- Students and staff test positive for COVID-19 will immediately isolate, while at school, until the individual can leave campus.
- Given the data from 2020-2021 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in the classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children, schools are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing.
  - Denton I.S.D. will not conduct close contact reviews and students and staff will not be required to isolate for exposure.
  - If a student or staff member has been in close contact with someone test-confirmed for COVID-19, they will not be excluded from attendance unless they become actively sick with COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed for COVID-19.
- Students, staff, and visitors returning to campus from complete isolation due to COVID-19 will be recommended to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, however it is not required.

## FACE COVERINGS

- For the 2022-2023 school year, face covers are optional at Denton I.S.D. Students, staff, and visitors may wear covers if they choose, but they are not required to do so at any campus, facility, or school event.
- The district's ability to require face coverings is established by a governor's order. As of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, school districts are not allowed to mandate the wearing of face coverings. Denton I.S.D. will continue to adhere to mandates and/or recommendations from the state and local health agencies. The district will adjust requirements for face coverings if/when mandated by federal, state, or local authorities.



## DEFINITION OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals should consider whether they have recently begun experiencing any of the following symptoms in a way that is not normal for them:
  - Fever or Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Cough
  - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
  - Fatigue
  - Nausea or diarrhea
  - Sore throat
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Headache

## DEFINITION OF CLOSE CONTACT

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretion (e.g., being coughed/sneezed on)
- Being within 6 feet of a test-confirmed COVID-19 individual for a cumulative 15 or more minutes over a 24-hour period.
- For asymptomatic individuals: an infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 5 days following the confirming lab test.

## STUDENT NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

- Students should not share food or drinks.
- Frequent hand washing before and after meals, after restroom visits, after recess, and as needed.
- All tables and frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized routinely and between lunches.
- Given the data from 2020-2021 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in the classroom setting and data demonstrating lower transmission rates among children we have reopened water fountains for students to use.