



Slidell Independent School District

Fall 2020 On-Campus School Guidance

Last Updated: 12/4/2020 with highlighted changes

Student & Staff Safety Protocols

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and it is our job to provide our best efforts in keeping our students, staff, and community safe. While it is impossible to eliminate the risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risk to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on practices that will minimize the likelihood of viral spread. Some of these systems are in place to more fully protect adult teachers and staff who are generally at greater risk from COVID-19 than students.

Prevention/Screening Protocols

- Staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day, this includes taking their own temperature. All staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed. They must also report when they have been in close contact with a COVID-19 lab-confirmed individual.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school and ensure they do not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed. Regularly performing forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended. Students will receive remote instruction until the incubation period has passed.
- Teachers will refer students to the office if any symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school will provide a screening assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus so the classroom can be disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the parents of students who came in contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students may switch to virtual instruction and be counted “present” while engaged in work at home if they will be home longer than 3 days.
- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) 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:
 - In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.
- 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, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- 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 (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or
 - obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.

Providing Notice/Response/Disinfecting for a COVID-19 Positive Case

- Slidell ISD will post the plan to mitigate COVID-19 spread and post for the parents and general public one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction on the school's homepage.
- If a classroom or facility is closed due to a positive COVID-19 case, these areas will be disinfected using hospital grade disinfectant and equipment, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

- Custodial staff will defog and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, athletic locker rooms, gymnasiums, the weight room, and any other necessary area.
- Slidell ISD will notify our local health department of all staff and students who test positive for COVID-19.
- Slidell ISD will notify the teachers, staff, and families in the school (legal confidentiality requirements with ADA and FERPA apply).

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 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Close Contact- COVID-19

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with the understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios will 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 total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of the day; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., 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) defines 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 test-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.

School systems may apply any of the following stay-at-home periods to those individuals who are identified as close contacts. Specifically, the stay-at-home period can be:

- 10 days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- 7 days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- For staff who are necessary to preserve school operations, school systems can choose not to require any stay-at-home period, so long as the affected staff continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14, and schools can consider the use of rapid tests for these individuals
- 14 days after the last close contact

Mitigation Practices

Integrated Viral Protection (IVP)

The use of the IVP technology provides powerful circulation with high performance, safety controls eliminating risk for airborne and Ni particulate (HEPA, MERV-13, carbon filtration, graphite coating and UVC light) and is proven to destroy COVID-19. The units will be disbursed throughout the district using scientific formulas and research to determine high-traffic area on campus. The s1 systems are designed to provide cleaner air and safer schools. The s1 has a throughput of 1,800 cubic feet per minute, circulating the air in a classroom ten times per hour, exceeding the ASHRAE standards for re-opening schools.

Face Coverings (Currently required for anyone over age 10, 4th grade and up)

The use of face coverings, medical and non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over nose and mouth) will be determined by the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 and governor's executive orders regarding the wearing of masks. Full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face. The District will rely on guidance from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), local health departments and officials, as well as any executive orders or directives from Governor Greg Abbott, to determine the community transmission level and use of face coverings.

Staff Expectations

Slidell I.S.D. staff will have the option of wearing face coverings during the school day or during school sponsored events and activities at their discretion. All staff will be required to wear face masks when mandated by local, state, or federal authorities.

Student Expectations

- If parents/guardians choose, students may wear face coverings during instances where other individuals are within 6 feet.
- Students' individual needs can be addressed on a case-by-case basis with an administrator.
- All students will be required to wear face masks when mandated by local, state, or federal authorities if they fit the designated criteria.

On-Campus Cleaning Expectations

Sanitizing/Disinfecting

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, on busses, and in common areas throughout the campus. Students will be given sanitizer when entering the classroom, after recess, before eating, and after restroom breaks.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch, working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible. All students will maintain possession of their own school supplies (i.e. no "community" supplies).
- Disinfecting machines will be used daily on both campuses and all busses when returning from assigned routes.

Daily Cleaning Procedures

- Slidell ISD will review proper hand-washing and general hygiene practices with students and staff during the first several weeks of school i.e. washing hands for at least 20 seconds and coughing into your elbow.
- Students will also be encouraged to clean their own spaces before and after they are used when safe and developmentally appropriate.
- Each classroom and all restrooms will be disinfected daily using commercial-grade systems.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected after breakfast, break, and all lunch periods.

- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and instructional materials regularly.
- CDC posters will be posted throughout the district to provide hygiene reminders.

On-Campus Instruction, Practices, and Procedures

Arrival

- Students can begin arriving at 7:25 A.M.
- If riding the bus, parents are expected to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms prior to getting on the bus and students must wear face coverings.
- All staff will be utilized for duty to maintain a line of sight in hallways and ensure proper distancing.
- Students will go straight to their homeroom classroom or 1st period class upon arrival and will not wait in a centralized holding area.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms. We will have protocols for the first day of school to allow more flexibility in this area while still following public health guidelines for elementary grade levels.
- Students will have assigned seating on the bus. Family units/siblings will sit together on bus rides. Parents are encouraged to bring students to school if possible.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Students that need breakfast will be able to purchase a “grab and go” meal to eat in designated areas or classrooms to maintain physical distancing.
- Cafeteria capacity will be based on public health guidelines.
- Staff will monitor in the cafeteria and hallways to ensure proper sanitizing/handwashing as well as social distancing as much as possible.
- Microwaves will not be provided in the cafeteria due to the potential of cross-contamination of high-touch surfaces.
- Lunch visitors will be limited and approved on an individual basis through administration. No visitors will be allowed to interact with students outside of immediate family members.

- Depending on the number of students, there may be a need for meals to be eaten in the cafeteria as well as the classroom. We are also working on getting outdoor eating areas for students when weather permits.
- Breakfast/lunch times will be staggered to allow time for cleaning and sanitizing in between groups.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrances and exits of the cafeteria.
- Meals will be served using disposable food service items when appropriate.

Classroom Procedures

- Desks, tables, or work stations will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- The passing of assignments, papers, and materials will be limited.
- Group work will be implemented while maintaining social distancing.
- When possible, technology will be utilized to help maintain physical distance.
- Doors will remain open to minimize contact with doors and door handles when entering and exiting rooms.
- Open windows will be encouraged when weather permits to improve air flow.
- Learning manipulatives and other instructional materials will be placed in individual student bags.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible using outdoor classrooms, clipboards, picnic tables, etc.
- Other student needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with a campus administrator.

Libraries, Computer Labs, Gymnasiums, and Other Common Areas

- Campuses will develop schedules for the use of libraries and computer labs to limit occupancy.
- Common areas will be sanitized daily.
- Procedures will be implemented in locker rooms to maintain social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.

- Informational graphics and visual reminders will be posted to help remind students and staff of physical distancing and proper handwashing/sanitization.

Restrooms

- Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
- We will encourage whole-class restroom breaks to eliminate co-mingling of students across various classes and to ensure teacher monitoring of social distancing guidelines.
- Certain stalls will remain closed to help maintain physical distance.
- After a restroom break, students will be expected to use hand sanitizer before re-entering the classroom.
- Disinfecting of restrooms will occur frequently throughout the day.
- Bathroom sinks will have dividers when physical distancing is not possible.

Transitions

- Students will have staggered transition periods based on classes and/or grade level when necessary. This primarily impacts grades 6-12. Students in grades PK-5 will stay in their homeroom class for the majority of the day.

Recess (PK-5)

- The number of students per recess group will be limited based on grade level.
- Staggered schedules will be utilized when needed.
- All students and staff will be required to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.
- Brain breaks will continue to be implemented as needed at the discretion of the teacher. All SISD health and safety guidelines will be followed during these breaks and are dependent on the type of activity.

Specials

- P.E. classes will be held outdoors when possible.
- Students will use their own art supplies (i.e. no “community” supplies).
- Music and P.E. equipment will be sanitized after each student or class use.

Dismissal

- Grade levels will have staggered dismissal times for bus riders.
- Students will have assigned seating on the bus and must wear face coverings. Family units/siblings will sit together on bus rides. Parents are encouraged to pick students up from school if possible.
- Parents who may be picking up students early will need to call ahead so students can be accompanied to vehicles by a district staff member. They will sign students out at this time.

Campus Visitors

Campuses will limit campus visitors when possible. All visitors who enter the building will be required to wear face coverings as well as complete a COVID-19 screener using a screening form. This form will also include whether the individual has been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed. If the visitor(s) shows any signs/symptoms of COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been in contact with someone who has, they will not be allowed on campus during the 14-day incubation period.

Campus Events

- At this time, no in-person assemblies will be held in the fall.
- Students leaving campus will be limited when possible.
- Back to School Bash, parent attendance at class parties, pep rallies, and parent conferences are still being discussed by school administration and will be determined on an individual basis.

Transportation

Transportation will be provided to and from school when needed. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to school and pick them up when possible to limit the number of students on each bus. Students will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus based on local or state orders. Students will sit in household pods and skip the first row of seats to allow physical distance between the driver, the students, and other household pods. When possible, windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate the bus.

Extra-Curricular Activities (UIL sponsored)

- Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following the guidance of TEA and UIL.
- Bus travel will follow transportation guidelines provided to districts.
- Spectator attendance may be limited based on TEA and UIL guidance.
- Concession stands may be limited during on-campus events if allowed.
- Slidell I.S.D. will follow TEA and UIL guidance regarding co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as we approach these events.

PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document may be revised or adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and/or community and based on requirements from state and/or local public health authorities.

Resources:

American Academy
of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Texas Department of State
Health Services

