

FAQ - Elementary

If we do the virtual teaching model and teachers teach from school, will it be possible for the teachers to bring their elementary aged personal children to work and those students will work virtually? RISD and Garland ISD are doing something similar.

Answer: At this time, we have a district policy that prohibits this practice so we would need board approval to waive the policy.

Will our custodians be specially trained on new procedures or do we need to sit down with them and go over the expectations?

Answer: The Operations Department is planning the training for the custodial supervisors to then cover with the custodians, however hearing the campus principal expectations are always appreciated.

When will PPE be delivered?

Answer: The deliveries will begin July 27th and continue through August 6th; however not all supplies might be in, so deliveries may occur after that point.

Will we be able to get this printed to review?

Answer: Yes, you all should have received the PowerPoint by email.

Will elementary campuses receive plexiglass dividers?

Answer: Yes, they have not all been received in the warehouse. As soon as they are, they will be distributed.

Are we going to have sanitation tunnels or sanitation chambers at every entrance?

Answer: We are planning on temperature checks and hand sanitizing, creating a chamber or tunnel was not part of the plan, a campus could do so if they wanted to.

The initial campus sanitization in March lasts 90 days. Will campuses be sanitized/disinfected prior to the beginning of school? (Outside the backpack sprayer option). My custodian has not been trained.

Answer: The cleaning schedule for the summer is in the Education Evolution handbook that details out the summer cleaning.

Will plexiglass be provided for the main office counter?

Answer: Yes, once we have the materials and supplies in, they will be provided to campuses.

Will elementary campuses be provided a vendor to purchase plexiglass dividers?

Answer: We can provide the name of the companies we have purchased from, but the procurement office can also provide approved vendors that have these materials.

Will thermometers be provided for teachers?

Answer: Non-contact thermometers were ordered at a ratio of 1:30 for a campus for use by personnel as identified by the principals on campus to check student temperatures. We will not be providing thermometers to teachers for personal use.

For elementary, is the expectation for masks to stay on with face shields?

Answer: That is totally up to the parent and student; they will not be required to remove the face mask to wear the face shield.

Will there be different versions of this video (ie - elementary vs. high school) so it is age appropriate?

Answer: We only filmed elementary level students.

Will playground equipment be disinfected? More frequently?

Answer: This will also be sprayed weekly

Are campuses allowed to require water bottles rather than using water fountains?

Specifically elementary?

Answer: If you wish to require it, then you would need to provide if the students do not have one.

How will the Student Activities component of our LAS be adjusted given our circumstances?

Answer: Student and teacher involvement in extracurricular activities continues to be an important component of the school day. The expectations will be held as designed at this time; the student activities department will offer activities virtually. Campuses can also hold after school sessions following all the same guidelines as the regular school day.

What about the devices already distributed to our scholar? Will they have to return them to get the backpacks or just keep them and only distribute them to those that do not have them?^{SEP}

Answer: That will be a campus decision, at the elementary level, campuses will receive one device per student, so if you distributed campus purchased devices in the spring you can collect those back and provide the student with a backpack.

Are persons in contact still returning face to face while watching for symptoms or do they isolate for 14 days while observing for symptoms?

Answer: Persons who had close contact as defined by the CDC within 6 feet of someone known to have COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure with or without a face covering.

The 14 day quarantine period is based on the time it takes to develop illness. One exception to this is healthcare workers. We will also follow the guidelines established by the county.

Is emergency leave different from FMLA?

Answer: There are some differences under Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Benefits can assist employees determine which leave is most appropriate as one FFCRA is exclusively related to specified reasons related to Covid-19.

Is there a timeline for the PPE and Plexiglass distribution?

Answer: The distribution will begin July 27th. There may be more than one delivery dependent upon when supplies arrive in the warehouse.

What if we have more than one student on site with symptoms

Answer: The school nurse will need to identify the isolation location for the second student, etc. The campus may need to identify a secondary site in the event that there is more than one person at a time.

Will we be allowed to have a permanent sub assigned to our campus?

Answer: At this time, that is not the plan.

We use our gym and cafeteria for morning holding areas. What do you recommend we do when we reach capacity based on social distancing?

Answer: There are options to include possible older students wait outside of classrooms spaced apart, utilizing the library, wait in shaded outside areas, this is part of the facility site evaluation, as you could additionally utilize hallways if your buildings have wings, etc.

Can we begin to share information including the AWA information with the teachers at this time? [P] [SEP]

Answer: Unless we get more specific information we would request that you not share it yet. The HCM department is developing communication along with the Communications Dept. regarding final information.

What about breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the classroom? Our cafeteria is packed for breakfast and lunch daily.

Answer: In working with Food Services, breakfast will be provided as breakfast in the classroom.

FAQ - Secondary

Will there be a hybrid model for MS?

Answer: No, TEA is only allowing the hybrid model for grades 9-12.

For attendance for the virtual option, attendance doesn't need to be taken for every class, just once a day by at least one teacher? What counts for attendance? What does "engagement" mean for attendance?

Answer: Attendance will need to be taken in every class. Student engagement (logging in, performing work, submitting assignments, working with a content platform, teacher-led or contact, etc.) is used to record the student attendance as present. Each teacher will need to check to see if the student was on the system and conducting learning.

Does simply logging in count as "present"? Is that evidence of engagement? (Kind of like a student showing up to your room and not doing any work)

Answer: Engagement is defined by TEA to include a myriad of things such as: completing and submitting an assignment, working within a content platform, meeting with a teacher, working on an assignment, etc.

For technology - those rising 9th graders that have technology from their middle school but will be issued new technology at the high school campus - are we collecting the middle school tech and returning it to IT or the middle school campus?

Answer: If the rising 9th grader has a Chromebook they will keep that device as they transition to high school. If they have something other than a Chromebook, that device will be collected and the student will be issued a Chromebook. If the student has a device purchased by the middle school campus through Grant/Title funds, the device will be returned to the middle school campus and the student will be issued a District purchased Chromebook.

Can we require a form asking for teachers to ask these questions (HIPPA)?

Answer: There is not a form to complete for the COVID screening questions. Any information regarding the illness of an employee or student will be maintained in compliance with applicable laws.

Will parents be able to switch between instructional models anytime during the 9-week period?

Answer: If a student is in a face-to-face model and needs to switch to distance learning, we would allow that. The District would not allow distance learning to move to face-to-face during the nine week grading period, due to related safety requirements, such as the safety video.

How many backpacks will each campus receive and when?

Answer: It is based upon your campus projected enrollment and they will arrive on campus prior to the date the campus principal puts down as their open house date.

Will the district create the policy (teacher expectations) for working at home, or will that be a campus decision.

Answer: The district will have to create teacher expectations for working from home/remote.

How will this impact staffing for when students return to school in the face to face setting, i.e number of teachers working with kids in the building?

Answer: The District does not know at this time, as we do not know how many students and teachers will opt into the face-to-face model.

How can we ensure that the backpacks remain on campus and not taken to teacher's homes? These products are hard to come by and some may see this as an opportunity to supply their homes.

Answer: There is only one backpack sprayer per campus, and the backpacks with technology are issued to students, not teachers.

We will need information regarding classroom items such as novels/books that are generally part of a Reading Language Arts classroom. I'm assuming we will not be able to have books out on a bookshelf in classrooms anymore?

Answer: E-books are encouraged. Please work with the campus media specialist or through Clever to check out e-books. Novels/books can be set out to spray with the electromagnetic disinfectant.

Will we receive more than the one packet of each?

Answer: More than one packet of each of what?

Can you clarify the individual plexiglas guard?

Answer: The individual plexiglas guard folds up, has a handle, and can be carried.

How will high school students store the shields?

Answer: They will leave them in their last classroom and pick them up in that same classroom the following morning. Names should be written on the mask.

Is there evidence that the face shields are as effective as masks in terms of limiting spread of covid?

Answer: The Dallas County Health and Human Services Dept. and TEA both support the use of a face shield.

Is there a delivery date of PPE for staff who are currently working from the building and for those who chose to report to campus?

Answer: The Health Services Dept. delivered PPE to campuses for currently required staff, if you do not have any or need more, please contact J. Finley at jfinley@dallasisd.org in the Health Services Department.

Students will carry the individual guard with them?

Answer: Yes

The use of face shields is not aligned with CDC guidelines, which state that they are not an appropriate substitute for cloth face masks. Why are students not required to wear masks all day?

Answer: The Dallas County Health and Human Services Dept. and TEA both support the use of face shields. Students may wear both, there is not a requirement to remove their face mask.

Are face shields mandatory for secondary or can the masks be used?

Answer: That is up to the parent and student.

On the individual plexiglass dividers the secondary students take with them from class to class, do they also return to the first period classroom daily along with the face shield at the end of the day?

Answer: Yes, that is the process.

Will we allow students to also wear masks under the shields if that makes them comfortable?

Answer: Yes, there is not a requirement to take the mask off.

If students enroll from another school/district once a nine weeks term has begun, are they automatically enrolled in distance learning? What does that change especially from distance learning to face to face with each new nine weeks term? (and with the video etc.)

Answer: At this time, the answer would be yes, they would be enrolled in distance learning and may then change at 9 weeks term.

Will the plexiglass dividers be taken home with them or stored at first period each day? Also can we ask all students to take their plexiglass with them in their backpack?

Answer: They will not be taken home, they will remain in the school. They can be set out to be sprayed with disinfectant on a weekly basis if they are set up in the last classroom.

Should or can we ask staff to complete staff self assessment in Google form to capture information or is that a violation of rights?

Answer: There are state and federal privacy laws that may apply to the information that is collected and recorded on a google form. To ensure compliance with privacy laws, staff self-assessment information should be for screening purposes rather than recorded, logged, or stored where confidentiality may be easily compromised.

Colleges that are located on college campuses, will Dallas ISD be coordinating with Dallas College to distribute materials such as hand sanitizer, the sanitizer used for backpacks, etc.

Answer: We are coordinating with Dallas College and UNTD, a section has been added to the Education Evolution book. Like, Dallas College will host their classes virtually with students staying on the high school campus. Those that have to travel to the college campus will follow the college campus protocol.

Is campus administration allowed to work remotely?

Answer: Not at this time, as it has been determined that administrators are needed on campus to prepare for the 2020-21 school year.

Are we no longer cleaning desks between classes due to germ blasts?

Answer: Correct, that would remove the disinfectant spray.

What about teachers that teach only courses that require face to face only? What if they want to opt out?

Answer: These courses are at the high school level and we are now offering the hybrid model at that level. When the students are allowed to come to school, teachers would also be expected to return. If a teacher does not return and are on a leave, it would be handled like any teacher on a leave.

Will the stand alone early colleges (Lassiter, Garza, and Northlake) get a backpack for the electrostatic spray? Hoping so. Custodial support is provided by Dallas College.

Answer: We are going to have to see what the agreement with Dallas College is and what their cleaning protocol is.

Are teachers not required to report during PD/work days, as well?

Answer: The rules involving staff return are being governed by the County. Once we have these rules, we will apply them.

If a middle school has the student population of a high school will they be considered for the temperature checking metal detectors?

Answer: Middle schools that have a population over 1,200 will receive the walkthrough temperature checks.

Thinking about the hybrid model for high schools, could we consider a split by alpha instead of grade level? While splitting by grade level will reduce transition numbers/times/waves, etc. It doesn't reduce the class sizes. Splitting by alpha will also reduce the numbers in the hall but also the number of students in the classroom.

Answer: We are looking at a couple of options related to reducing numbers and are getting feedback on those ideas.

If a teacher opts to work from home and half the students in her class opted for face to face instruction, who will monitor the students in the classroom? My campus does not have a TA.

Answer: Once students/parents have the option to select an instructional model; if a teacher does not return they would have to put in for a leave and it would be handled like any teacher on a leave with a long term sub. etc.

If high schools choose to have multiple entrances, will more dual metal detectors be provided?

Answer: Campuses submitted the number of entrances they were going to utilize and those are the number of devices we will be providing.

Will middle schools be provided more metal detectors to allow for multiple entry access?

Answer: We are going to provide the walk-through metal detectors/thermometers at middle schools over 1,200. We asked the schools how many entrances they were using, so that is what we will be providing.

How is the social distancing being handled on buses?

Answer: It will depend on how many students opt in to the hybrid (high school) and face to face model (grades Pk-8).

What happens to failures of temperature monitoring with students that are bused in? Can students who ride buses be checked by the bus driver?

Answer: We are attaching a device to the inside of the bus that will read the temperature, so drivers are not actually getting up to use a thermometer.

For the sanitizing stations, we will be provided with a hand sanitizer stand to place outside of every classroom?

Answer: The hand sanitizing stations are portable and may be moved within the building where needed.

Are there plans on fixing air conditioning within schools? Air is stagnant in rooms that do not have working AC

Answer: There is an option to open windows on a schedule. Air filters are also being changed on a more frequent basis.

How will social distancing guidelines work for classrooms with tables only?

Answer: Students will wear shields or masks and tables will have the plexiglas dividers.

For students waiting outside at the bus stop for pickup, are bus drivers taking temperatures after students have sat down so as to prevent false positives of high temperatures?

Answer: The devices will be attached within the bus, to prevent false positives.

Is there a plan for ADL and FLS unit students who might not be able to wear masks or social distance?

Answer: The special education department is working through various scenarios. They will produce a manual to specifically address special education situations.

Is the maintenance department getting more personnel? Often times it takes a long time for someone to come and check when AC is not working on campus and the excuse is they are shorthanded.

Answer: At this time, we are not adding personnel to the maintenance department.

How do schools handle after-school tutoring &/or activities with returning shields/masks?

Answer: Each campus can design the methodology for return of the shields. I would recommend that shields are left in the classroom and students wear masks to the after school tutoring, as the masks go to and from home with students.

Can the school counselors get plexi-glass dividers for their desks in their offices?

Answer: All shared spaces will have plexiglass dividers.

Will campuses receive extra custodial staff to maintain this level of sanitation?

Answer: At this time, there is not additional custodial staff being hired or assigned.

Could the choir sing in the auditorium with significant spacing? For example, students could be spread out in the seating area, not standing on stage?

Answer: At this time, the VPA Department is only allowing outside singing.

If bands can't share instruments, will there be more instruments sent to campuses? What if instruments can be sprayed and disinfected?

Answer: They are ordering additional instruments. They do NOT recommend spraying disinfectant on the instruments. The recommendation is that single issued instruments are only handled by the student, once the student puts the instrument in the case, the case can be disinfected.

With all the new requirements for us now will the dress code be adjusted?

Answer: No, the dress code is not being adjusted.

If no singing is recommended have we considered the impact of loud talking and laughing impacts safety during lunch? Is a silent or allowing only low level speaking lunch been recommended?

Answer: The cafeterias will have the plexiglas dividers, which choir rooms do not, etc.

Will students/parents come to school to get their class schedule, or will they be mailed?

Answer: Campuses can set up a system for pick up or mail, dependent upon preference.

Will the band follow the same guidelines as choir?

Answer: Not at this time, VPA will provide detailed guidelines to the VPA teachers.

For clarification, if outside PE activities are held with 6 ft social distancing, then masks are not required? Does this apply to gyms, as well?

Answer: Yes, this applies to when students are doing physical activity.

In HS we use air dryers instead of paper towels in restrooms, do we need to switch back to paper towels or are we good with air dryers?

Answer: The air dryers should be fine, as students use them after hand washing.

In Florida, some teacher's technology was malfunctioning and they decided to co-teach. All of them got Covid-19. Will something be in place to prevent teachers from going into each other's rooms to co-teach?

Answer: At this time, we would request that the same safety guidelines be followed- face masks, hand sanitizing when the person comes in and out of the room, and distancing.

Can we have district testing sites at various campuses in each area of the city i.e. North, South, East and West?

Answer: A list of testing sites is available in the Education Evolution handbook and through the Benefits department. At this time testing is not available at campuses.

If a student is sent home or tests positive, do the absences count against students?

Answer: They can move to the distance learning model. If the student continues engagement as described by TEA, then the student can be marked as present. If they do not engage they would be counted as absent.

Will students who were in close contact with the positive student be required to quarantine for 14 days?

Answer: We will follow the county diagram on contact training. This decision comes from the Health Department guidance.

Will we be requiring staff to be tested prior to coming back to campus?

Answer: No, we do not have a requirement to test prior to returning to campus. That was lifted on July 20th.

Will substitutes receive info on contact tracing or at campus level?

Answer: The safety information will be provided to the substitutes, but any and all reinforcement is needed during this time.

Will teachers be teaching in class AND virtually for students not in class?

Answer: Yes, T&L and SL are working on the instructional plan. The plan will be presented to campus administrators next week.

Who will be responsible for marking the line in the middle of hallways?

Answer: The campuses will be responsible for placing all graphics as well as marking the line in the hallways.

When will campuses receive bus route information for this school year? Will magnet campuses share buses this year?

Answer: Yes, you will receive route information. Yes, most likely magnet campuses will share buses. They have been cleared and are wearing masks.

Will we be able to modify our master schedule? It would be better to have less transitions, so if we can move to a A/B schedule with only four periods a day, will that be an option for us?

Answer: There will be time to modify your master schedule. I would recommend waiting until after the instructional model information is presented.