

# DELL CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 110 N. Main Street, Dell City, TX 79837

### Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Dell City ISD staff and students return to campus on August 2, 2021, as the District continues to address the circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this continuing public health situation and our commitment to provide for the health and safety of students, employees, parents, and community, DCISD has developed the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

This plan references updated guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Department of Health Services, recent Texas Governor's Executive Orders, Texas Education Agency guidelines and preventive measures to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus to keep everyone safe at schools. Dell City ISD continues to work and communicate closely with our local Health authorities for continued direction, guidance, and feedback on our school district's plan to ensure students are educated in a safe and healthy learning environment as we welcome them back for another year of in-person instruction.

Guidance in this report is subject to change given developments and recommendations from federal and state entities. Please visit the following websites for updates:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov>

Office of the Texas Governor <https://www.texas.gov>

Texas Education Agency <https://www.tea.texas.gov>

Texas Department of State Health Services <https://www.dshs.texas.gov>

Dell City ISD <https://www.dellcity.schoolwires.com>

Dell City ISD will take the necessary steps to reduce the risks of this viral spread to students, teachers, staff and their families. Our district has implemented and will continue to implement, required and recommended practices including the following:

- 1) Notification of test-confirmed cases in school to the Health Department in accordance with confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- 2) Submission of a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test confirmed to have COVID-19.
- 3) Implementation of preventive practices to keep the virus from entering the school.
- 4) Follow practices to respond to a test-confirmed case in the school as per Texas Education Agency's School Health Operations requirements.
- 5) Consistently implement practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, as well as other communicable diseases inside the school

The following summary addresses the major points in communicating DCISD's Return to In- Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan to mitigate COVID-19 spread on the Dell City School Campus.

#### **COVID-19 District Contact**

Dell City ISD has designated Mr. Carlos A. Contreras, Superintendent, as the staff member responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Mr. Contreras' contact information is 915.964.2663 or [contrerasc@dellcityisd.com](mailto:contrerasc@dellcityisd.com).

## **DCISD Start of School**

The first instructional day for registered and enrolled DCISD students to safely return to school for in-person instruction is August 2, 2021. All students and staff are expected to return to in-person instruction and follow all CDC preventive measures including but not limited to social distancing 3 feet, washing of hands, staying home if sick, and covering cough and sneeze.

The wearing of face covering for students, staff and visitors is optional and not a requirement as per Texas Governor. Abbott's Executive Order effective June 4, 2021.

## **Student Attendance**

All students are eligible to return to the building - the District will not offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, but will continue to identify and implement practices, protocols, and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC, and the Texas Education Agency.

According to Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students are required to 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 2021-2022 school year. All students are expected to comply with compulsory school attendance.

## **Screening for Students, Employees, Parents and Visitors**

Dell City ISD requires all students, employees, parents, and visitors to self-screen before entering the school or district facilities. All teachers and staff must report to their supervisor if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are test-confirmed with COVID-19, or have had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19.

Parents are not to send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, is test-confirmed with COVID-19 or if the child has had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19. If an individual experiences COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, the individual must stay home and cannot return to campus until the most updated CDC guidance and DCISD requirements have been met.

## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 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

## Current CDC Exposure Guidance:

### If exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up-to-date on vaccinations, are unboosted or unvaccinated:

Stay home and quarantine for at least 5 full days. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home. Even if you don't develop symptoms, CDC recommends testing at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, a well-fitted mask is recommended for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask. Avoid travel and avoid being around people who are at high risk. **If you develop symptoms ISOLATE** immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the test results and wear a well-fitted mask around others.

### If exposed to COVID-19 and ARE up-to-date on vaccinations and/or boosters:

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms. Even if you don't develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, a well-fitted mask is recommended for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. **If you develop symptoms ISOLATE** immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the test results and wear a well-fitted mask around others. Avoid travel and avoid being around people who are high risk.

### If exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (tested positive via a viral test):

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, a well-fitted mask is recommended for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. **If you develop symptoms ISOLATE** immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the test results and wear a well-fitted mask around others. Avoid travel and avoid being around people who are high risk.

### IF YOU Tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:

Stay home for 5 days and **ISOLATE** from others in your home. Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home. If you did NOT have symptoms you may end isolation at least 5 full days after your positive test. Take precautions until day 10, wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask. Avoid travel and being around people who are high risk.

If you experienced symptoms you may end isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving. Take precautions until day 10, wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask. Avoid travel and being around people who are high risk.

If you were severely ill with COVID-19, you should isolate for at least 10 days and consult your doctor before ending isolation.

If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test, towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation). If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear

a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10. Follow additional recommendations for masking and restricting travel as described above.

### **COVID-19 Cases Reported on Campus**

If a student, teacher or staff shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the individual will be immediately separated from others and picked up by a parent or seek medical assistance. The areas used by the individual will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Students feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

### **Test-Confirmed Cases on Campus**

If there is a test-confirmed COVID-19 case in a school, the school will notify the local health department and follow confidentiality requirements. Areas heavily used by the individual will be closed off and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The campus shall notify all teachers, staff and families of all students in the school if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff of that campus.

### **Health and Hygiene Practices**

Dell City ISD campus and school facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by trained custodial staff using cleaning solutions and misters. Frequently touched areas in the classrooms will be consistently cleaned before and after use. Campuses throughout the day will implement additional cleaning practices. Hand sanitizer will be available for use by students, teachers, and staff. Frequent hand washing (for at least 20 seconds) will be highly encouraged, monitored and practiced by students, teachers and staff.

Everyone will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and used tissues thrown in the trash as well as washing hands immediately. Campuses will practice improving airflow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building and improve the ventilation through increased maintenance and improvements/upgrades of the HVAC system.

### **Facial Coverings/Masks/Face Shields**

As per Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order-36, CISD cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. DCISD recommends, encourages, and will allow individuals to wear a mask, if they choose to do so.

### **Social Distance**

All students, employees, parents, and visitors are to practice social distancing of three (3) feet apart from others and taking responsibility for the safety of others. Classrooms, hallways and cafeterias should be arranged and designed allowing for social distancing of three feet (3 ft) using labels, stickers, or markers for students to know where to sit, stand or wait. Entry and exit areas should also have labels or markers indicating the 3 feet distance between individuals to avoid any close proximity or contact with others.

### **Teachers and Staff**

District employees must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employer subject to any applicable employment contract terms or legal requirements.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

DCISD will continue to provide hand sanitizer and other necessary equipment, as needed.

### **Transportation**

DCISD will provide transportation to students following the normal routes to school. Students will be seated following social distance protocols. If students have fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, have COVID-19 symptoms, are test-confirmed COVID-19 or have had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed COVID-19, students will not be allowed to board the bus. Wearing masks and facial coverings are not required but are allowed if an individual chooses to wear one. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each route. Hand sanitizer will be available for students.

### **School Visits**

Parents are encouraged to continue to participate and support their child's education through remote meetings and conferences, telephone conferences as well as in person visits. Administrators and teachers stand ready to provide open communication to address the student's educational needs through telephone, email, school messenger, or any remote setting utilized by DCISD.

### **Human Resources**

The District will continue to provide employees with regular updates and information, including flyers, and resources on district policies and protocols related to COVID-19.

### **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

With the presence of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, DCISD uses standard operating procedures in conducting school business and explaining how the district will operate during the course of the new school year as students return to school. Standard Operating Procedures are designed to guide DCISD students, employees, parents and community in the following areas:

- 1). Operations including Fixed Assets, Child Nutrition Program, Transportation and Maintenance;
- 2). Student Services including Athletics, Counseling, and Health Services;
- 3). Compliance and School Safety including Attendance, Discipline, Police Department and School Safety;
- 4). Curriculum and Instruction including Assessments, Special Education, and Instructional continuity;
- 5). Human Resources;
- 6). Communications;
- 7). Finance

### **Vaccinations and Coordination with Local Health Officials**

Dell City ISD has collaborated with the County Emergency Management Office and other local health agencies to enhance efforts to vaccinate as many members of our school communities as possible to keep everyone safe from COVID-19.

### **Continuity of Services**

Dell City ISD will continue to offer after school tutorials to accelerate instruction by providing small group and differentiated instruction for students not mastering skills taught during that week.

Other initiatives that Dell ISD will be providing as continuity of services are:

- Interventionists who will serve all grade levels and meet the individual instructional/learning needs of all students, including low-income, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and highly mobile students.
- High quality programs that will enhance instruction and provide the most effective strategies to differentiate based on the student's needs (e.g., Istation, Renaissance, IXL, Amplify, Odell, Carnegie Math, etc.).
- Capital Outlay and instruction that will enhance the curriculum and instructional strategies integrating technology and research-based strategies to meet the needs of all learners (e.g., Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite for Education, etc.).