

Iola Independent School District COVID 19 Mitigation and Response Plan





IOLA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Protocols for Screening and Isolation

General

The health and safety of Iola ISD staff and students is a top priority within the considerations surrounding reopening of schools and facilities. All students and staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

In accordance with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards](#):

For the purposes of COVID-19 transmission, close contact is defined as:

- Being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes without a face covering starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.
- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield);
- If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Screening Protocols

All Iola ISD staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. Staff are required to report any signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19, including any known close contact to an individual with COVID-19.

Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school, and students with symptoms and/or close exposure to an individual with COVID-19 should not attend school on-site.

Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Screening includes consideration about whether the student has recently begun experiencing any of the following symptoms 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
- Headache



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- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or aches
- Diarrhea

Isolation Protocols

Students or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.

Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

If a student is isolated based upon the screening, other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools 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 in any on campus activities.

Individuals who were in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will be notified of their requirement to quarantine until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including reporting and isolation from students and other staff members.

Students and staff with known close contact to a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure if that individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined or return to work/school are met.



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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, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

During the isolation period, individuals should self-monitor daily for symptoms of COVID-19:

- Check and record their temperature twice a day
- Contact a healthcare provider immediately if they:
- Feel feverish or have a temperature of 100.4° F or higher
- Develop a cough or shortness of breath
- Develop mild symptoms like sore throat, muscle aches, tiredness, or diarrhea
- Avoid contact with high risk individuals (unless they live in the same home and had same exposure as you)

Return to Work/School Protocols

In the event that an Iola ISD teacher, staff, student, or other campus visitor is either lab confirmed positive for COVID-19 or experiences the symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until cleared for re-entry.

Individuals who are confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school until they meet criteria as established by the CDC and/or are released by their physician.

Confirmed COVID-19 with Symptoms:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
- Symptoms have improved; and
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Confirmed COVID-19 without Symptoms:

- 10 days have passed since positive test

Unconfirmed COVID-19 with Symptoms



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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 or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

Protocols for Face Coverings

Schools must comply with the following TEA requirements:

- Every student, teacher, or staff member shall wear a mask over the nose and mouth when inside a school building, school facility, facility used for school activities, or when in an outdoor space on school property or used for school activities, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this mask requirement does not apply to the following:
 - Any person younger than 10 years of age, except where a school system determines it is developmentally appropriate;
 - Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask;
 - Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated in a dining area to eat or drink;
 - Any person while the person is: (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors; and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household; or
 - Any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.

Iola ISD will provide masks and/or face shields for employees.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

General

Only visitors who are essential to school operations will be allowed on campus.

Non-essential visitors will not be permitted on campus, until further notice.



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Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible. Individuals who proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

Visitor Screening/PPE Requirements

Individuals proceeding beyond the reception area will be subject to the following guidelines:

All visitors will be subject to screening by way of a symptom screening form.

Virtual meetings will be available, when possible.

Visitors and staff will maintain physical distancing for ARD and other meetings in smaller conference areas.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

District personnel will be trained on social distancing and proper hand washing.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entries to campuses, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.

Staff will be expected to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.

Students will frequently be encouraged to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer.

Requirement for hand washing and/or use of Iola ISD-provided hand sanitizer:

Elementary: Provide hand sanitizer upon entry to classroom and periodic teacher reminders during instructional day

Elementary: Thorough hand washing after recess, before eating, following restroom breaks

Secondary: Provide hand sanitizer upon entry to classroom and periodic teacher reminders during instructional day

Secondary: Thorough hand washing upon return from outdoors, before eating, following restroom breaks

Disinfecting Expectations

Staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting



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Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Custodial staff will be trained in proper cleaning and sanitation techniques of high touch surfaces and areas and specialized equipment.

Daily Campus Cleaning

Each classroom, campus offices, and restrooms will be disinfected daily. This process will include the use of hospital grade disinfectant (Phenolcide and Quatra-Cide) and custodial staff will indicate the date/time of last cleaning in each location on a label near the entrance/exit of each room. Inspections will be conducted each morning to ensure thorough disinfection has occurred.

All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.

Custodians will be provided masks and gloves during work hours.

The cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected between lunch periods.

Staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.

Additional Cleaning Measure for COVID-19 Positive Cases on Campus

If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, hospital grade (Phenolcide and Quatra-Cide) disinfectant will be used. Any areas heavily used by the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until non-porous surfaces can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have passed since that person was on campus.

Additional Measures for Disease Mitigation

Plexiglass shields will be installed in areas of high contact (e.g., receptionists)

Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.

Water fountains will be turned off. Elementary water filler stations will be operational.

When possible, communal supplies will be eliminated. Shared supplies should be sanitized between use.

High touch surfaces (i.e. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be disinfected regularly.

Lockers will not be assigned - students will carry all needed materials and lunch with them.

Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school for their personal use.

Additional guidelines can be found in campus-level documents.