

EZZELL ISD

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

This is a draft and may change between now and the start of school
based on TEA and Health Department guidance

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ON-SITE INSTRUCTION

Health and Safety Protocols

Screening

- All staff members are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. If a staff member is experiencing any of the symptoms listed below in a way that is not normal for them, the superintendent will be notified, and the staff member will not report to the campus. Symptoms to screen for include:
 - 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
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for these COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. Students who are experiencing symptoms in a way that is not normal for the student will be kept home from school. Students who ride the bus must be screened by the parent/guardians before boarding the bus each morning.
- Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the school nurse/office personnel if symptoms are present in a way that is not normal for the student.

Presence of Symptoms

- If a student displays symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse/office personnel will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when the student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be removed from the classroom. Parents/guardians will be notified and should make arrangements to pick the student up within 30 minutes. After being sent home, students must meet the district defined criteria before returning to school.
- Students exhibiting mild symptoms who are able to compete work from home may engage in remote learning while absent from school.

- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols for separation from students and other staff members, testing and returning to work. For individual guidance, staff members should contact the superintendent.

Confirmed Diagnosis

- If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school district will notify Lavaca County 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).
- 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.
- If a student or staff member receives a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the district will notify staff members and parents/guardians of students known to have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member. **Close contact is considered someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before the infected person's illness onset or 2 days prior to them being tested for COVID-19.**
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to submit a medical release from a physician's office or health department prior to returning to school. Any students or staff who themselves either:
 - a. are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
 - b. experience the symptoms of COVID-19
 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 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
 - i. Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on alternative diagnosis or
 - ii. Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Face Coverings

- To create a safe environment for EISD staff and students, the Texas Governor's executive order will be followed. All staff and students ten years and older will utilize face coverings when moving through hallways and while in common areas including restrooms, library, etc. Face coverings will also be utilized to the greatest extent possible in the regular classroom setting.
- For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the mouth and nose), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some activities. Students who are actively exercising may remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields.

Social Distancing

Every effort will be made to implement recommended social distancing in the school setting.

Campus Visitor Protocols

Family participation is encouraged at Ezzell School; however, during this time we must work together to find new ways to partner with families while keeping staff and students safe and healthy. Participation through virtual meetings and interaction will be encouraged.

Visitor Access to Buildings

- In order to limit potential exposure for staff and students, visitors will not be permitted into any parts of the buildings other than the school office.
- Families are encouraged to contact the office by phone rather than entering the building.

Visitor Screening & PPE Requirements

- All individuals entering the campus and visiting the office area must wear a face covering.
- In situations where individuals must move beyond the office area:
 - All visitors will be screened through the use of a symptom screening form.
 - Physical distancing of a minimum of 6 ft. will be followed.

Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing Protocols

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- On the first day a student attends school on campus, the school will provide instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices used in the school.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the front door, in classrooms, the cafeteria, and common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided each time students enter or leave the classroom.
- Students will be required to wash or sanitize hands after recess, before eating, and following restroom breaks.

Supplies and Materials

- The sharing of supplies will be extremely limited. When supplies must be shared, they will be sanitized after each use.
- Staff will use disinfectant wipes or sprays to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces.

Campus Cleaning Protocols

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily
- Cafeteria tables will be disinfected between breakfast and lunch.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or sprays 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

- An electrostatic sprayer will be used to “fog” the classrooms and all common areas for an additional level of disinfection to surfaces often missed by the use of rags or wipes.

- If a staff member or students receives a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, the school will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual and thoroughly disinfect the areas, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible with a goal of maintaining a distance of 6 ft. between individuals. In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks will be placed a minimum of 6 ft. apart.
- To the greatest extent possible, contact with individuals from other designated student groups will be limited.
- Group work may be implemented while maintaining appropriate distancing and safety measures.
- Any materials or furnishings that must be used by multiple students will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes or sprays following each use.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain separation from other classroom groups to the greatest extent possible.
- Supplemental services will be provided while maintaining safety protocols.
- The recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education settings when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Common Areas

- Common areas include spaces that are used by multiple groups of students or staff for instructional activities, eating, play, or meetings. This includes computer lab, cafeteria, gym, playground, and the library.
- Schedules will be developed for the use of common areas. All staff and students will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Virtual meetings will be utilized when possible.
- In-person meetings will maintain social distancing and facial coverings will be required.

Restrooms

- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students.
- Number of students in the restroom will be limited to assist with social distancing
- After restroom breaks, students will be required to use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom.

Transitions, Arrival and Dismissal

Transitions

- Transitions from class to class will be staggered to limit exposure between student groups.

Arrival

- As students arrive at the school their temperature will be taken before entering the campus. Any student with a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit will be returned to the car. **Parents should not leave campus until their student has passed the temperature check.**
- Buildings will open at 7:30 am with students reporting to the cafeteria
- Students arriving prior to 7:30am will wait in cars with parents until the buildings open
- All staff will be utilized for duty
- Visitors will not be allowed in the buildings during arrival.

Dismissal

- Student groups will remain separated until students are called for pickup.

Daily Schedule

- Start time 8:00 am
- End time 3:30 pm

Breakfast

- Breakfast will be served to students in the cafeteria with social distancing guidelines practiced.

Morning Break

- Morning breaks will be staggered to limit interaction between student groups

Lunch

- Lunches will be served in the cafeteria with social distancing guidelines being followed.
- There will be 2 lunch periods staggered 10 minutes apart: Prek-4th and 5th-8th
- There will be extra tables added to allow for maximum distance between students

Recess

- Staggered recess schedules will be utilized.
- All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer before entering the playground and before re-entering the classroom.

PE/ART etc.

- PE classes will be conducted outdoors when possible with classroom groups separated as much as possible. Appropriate social distancing measures will be followed. Students will not be required to wear masks during recess and PE while maintaining social distancing.

Bussing

- In order to reduce the number of students on the bus, families are encouraged to provide their own transportation if possible.
- Student temperature will be checked before being allowed on the bus.
- **ALL** students will be required to wear a mask or face covering while on the bus
- A student exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 may not board the bus and needs to remain at home. Students with mild symptoms who are able to complete work at home may contact the school for remote learning assignments.
- Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus

Remote Instruction

Instructional Plans

Ezzell ISD will offer two instructional options for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents are expected to select the plan that is in their family's best interest. The two options include: Regular/In Person instruction at school, or Remote Asynchronous Learning at home. Please pay close attention to all guidelines for the asynchronous option as the requirements have been updated since the Spring 2020 semester.

Remote Asynchronous Instruction - Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engagement at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real-time. This type of instruction may include various form of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.02.

- In this setting, teachers will provide instruction, learning resources, and support through the use of See Saw (PK-2nd) and Google Classroom (3rd-8th)
- Parents will support as a "learning coach" and ensure their student has access to a device, a place to work, and are engaged in virtual learning activities.
- We will ensure open lines of communication between teachers, students, and parents as we work together to ensure each student is successful.

- Teachers will use accredited curriculum and will design strategies for the remote learning environment.
- Grading will be consistent with the guidelines and practices used in all face-to-face instruction.

Ezzell ISD student expectations for asynchronous learning:

- At this time, Ezzell ISD will not provide internet service to support remote learning. Families that choose this option must be able to provide this for their children.
- Students will complete asynchronous activities assigned each day.
- Students must show proof of participation in daily virtual instruction by satisfactorily completing assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning, e.g., video, picture or activities submitted as lessons and/or completing assignments.
- Students and parents will communicate with the teacher when needing additional assistance, tutoring, etc.

Schedule for Remote Learning

While in a remote learning environment, time management is critical to success. Students and teachers must remain in communication regarding daily schedules and assignments. As with any traditional course, there is a risk of receiving a lower grade if a student falls behind. If students are struggling with time management, then the parent or student should contact the teacher for additional assistance.

Attendance for Remote Learning

Students must engage in instruction or assignments daily in order to be counted “present”. If a student does not engage in a lesson or turn in assignment, they will be marked absent for that day.

If a student is engaged in asynchronous learning and completes the entire week’s worth of learning activities on Monday and does not log in for the remainder of the week, he/she will be marked “present” on Monday **only** and counted absent for Tuesday-Friday. You must be engaged in instruction each day to be marked “present” for that day.

It is important that students and parents understand that Remote Learning attendance is based on daily engagements, not solely the completion of assignments. State law TEC §25.092 and Ezzell ISD Policy FEC (Local) and (Legal) still require students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus (face-to-face) attendance in satisfying this requirement.

Remote Learning Grading

Grading for all remote courses will follow the same grading policy as the courses in the face-to-face model. Students may be required to take assessments on campus on assigned days and times.

Intervention

Intervention times will be scheduled regularly for students to best meet their academic needs. Intervention may be scheduled for different times throughout the school day to include before and after school.

Special Education Support

For students who have an IEP, progress will be carefully monitored and ARD committees will convene and make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs. This will ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

Important Information Regarding Asynchronous Remote Instruction

Choosing Asynchronous Instruction without a Positive COVID-19 test

Parents who choose the asynchronous remote instruction for their child will be required to remain in the asynchronous remote model for the entire 3 week grading period. Parents must give one weeks notice if there will be a change of instructional plans during the school year.

Moving to Asynchronous Instruction with a Positive COVID-19 test

Students who test positive for COVID-19 and are forced to move to the asynchronous plan, will be allowed to return to the regular campus upon meeting the health requirements to return. This requirement may be met at any time during a grading period.

Attendance Accounting

Students are still required by the State of Texas to meet the 90% attendance rule for each semester to receive credit. Truancy laws will still apply. Communication with the school about transitioning into and out of remote learning during any illness will reduce the number of absences accrued during the year. All students who meet remote learning expectations for the day will be counted present for attendance.

Please do not send your child to school if they are showing signs or symptoms of illness. For any illness parents/guardians may contact the school to move to remote learning for the day(s) that the student is ill.