



## **Driscoll ISD Health & Safety Protocols** (Updated 09-15-21)

Driscoll ISD is a **GREAT** place to be! Please review our most current Health and Safety Protocols below!

Educating the students of Driscoll ISD is our top priority and ensuring their health and safety while on campus is equally important to us. We are working diligently to implement protocols that promote a safe and healthy environment, are aligned with legal authority and respect parental choice. It is not an easy process; however, we are committed to monitoring and reassessing our plans as conditions/guidance dictate. Thus, the district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community. The following guidelines are in accordance with direction from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Texas.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Face coverings are strongly encouraged while inside buildings at Driscoll ISD; however, as per the TX Supreme Court ruling and Executive Order 38, face coverings are not required for staff, students or visitors. An individual may choose to wear a mask if desired and additional masks will be available at the front office. DISD will allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so. DISD will work to ensure no student is treated differently as a result of the choice to wear a mask or not to wear a mask.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to recommend that individuals two and older who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask indoors. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. To be clear, while the CDC and APA recommend wearing masks, the recent Texas Supreme Court ruling and the [Governor's Execute Order](#) requires mask wearing be voluntary in schools.

### **SCREENING AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS**

Parents **MUST** continue to [screen their children for symptoms per CDC guidelines](#) before coming to school each day. The Dr. Owl mobile app can still be used as a screener option for students and staff. DISD will no longer monitor or ask screening questions upon entry to the facilities, as the [CDC recommends](#) screening should happen before leaving home. As a reminder, students and staff members who are sick should stay home and contact the campus immediately.

### **HYGIENE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the campus with additional dispensers in each classroom. Handwashing remains a priority and students are provided multiple opportunities to wash their hands with soap and water throughout the day.

Desks, tables and seating arrangements are arranged to maximize space between students. Plexiglass partitions are also being utilized for classroom instructional groups.

## **VACCINATIONS**

The CDC attests getting a COVID-19 vaccine helps to lower an individual's chances of getting COVID-19. At this time COVID-19 vaccines are not approved for children under the age of 12. However, there are [various opportunities](#) for those 12 and older to receive the vaccine if they so choose. Per Governor Abbott's order, Driscoll ISD cannot require students or staff to get vaccinated. At this time, the State of Texas has not added the COVID-19 vaccination to the required immunization list for students. Driscoll ISD cannot require students or staff to report vaccination status.

## **RAPID TESTING**

To help mitigate the risk of asymptomatic individuals (both students and staff) being on campus, DISD provides and administers COVID-19 testing, using rapid tests provided by the state or other sources. Nurse Jennifer has been trained to administer the rapid tests to students and staff. Parents must provide written consent/permission prior to testing students. Please contact Nurse Jennifer regarding administration of rapid tests at Driscoll ISD.

## **COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES & REPORTING**

If a student is feeling sick, regardless of whether vaccinated or not, he/she **MUST** stay home and contact a physician and the school nurse as soon as possible. Likewise, students with a confirmed case of COVID-19, **MUST** stay off campus and contact Nurse Jennifer.

If students are symptomatic, he/she must remain quarantined for at least 10 days since symptom onset and be fever free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 but does not have any symptoms, he/she must still stay home for at least 10 days after the day he/she was tested. This guidance is specific to the person testing positive **ONLY**, not others in the household unless symptomatic.

Nurse Jennifer will continue to send students home who have a fever, diarrhea, vomiting or display significant symptoms of illness. Siblings of the symptomatic student do not need to be sent home, unless they too are symptomatic.

Staff members who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of whether vaccinated or not, **MUST** stay home, and contact a physician and the school nurse as soon as possible. The district is still required to report positive cases to the Nueces County Public Health Department.

## **CLOSE CONTACT/EXPOSURE TO COVID-19**

As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. Additionally, based on data from 2020-21 showing very low COVID-19 transmission rates in a classroom setting, schools are considered one of the safest places to be during the pandemic. While schools are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing, Driscoll ISD will notify parents of a positive case within their child's grade/ instructional area. Students and staff are not required to quarantine for exposure unless symptomatic.

For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. The CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, or students can receive a negative test result (see RAPID TESTING).

## **ABSENCES/REMOTE CONFERENCING**

If a student must isolate after testing positive for COVID-19, Driscoll ISD can now implement **Remote Conferencing** as a means to provide instructional support while in quarantine:

- Instruction will be provided synchronously, which means two-way, real-time/live virtual instruction between facilitator and student. The instruction cannot be concurrent, which means remote students **must not** be taught by a teacher who is also teaching in-person students at the same time.
- Remote conferencing will be made available during the quarantine period (not to exceed 10 school days). Remote conferencing will be consistent with the practice outlined in TEA's [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook \(SAAH\)](#).
- iPads and additional educational resources will be provided to the student during the quarantine period every Wednesday and Friday as necessary.
- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom and/or SeeSaw (PK) to provide students with work to be completed and provide communication with students.
- While in quarantine, students will be required to log into a specific, synchronous Google Classroom from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 3:00pm to receive attendance credit and support for classroom work.
- During the quarantine period, DISD will provide an instructional facilitator to support students while participating in remote conferencing.
- Students will not be counted absent if he/she logs into the Google Classroom Meet for the duration of the instructional segments (4 hours per day).
- Students remain responsible for all missed work during quarantine as noted in the student handbook.
- Employees of DISD required to quarantine must use personal/sick or comp days while isolating as there are no COVID-19 days available.

## **VISITORS & MEETINGS**

Visitors will be allowed on campus according to standard visiting rules. Meetings will be allowed on campus without capacity restrictions and face coverings will not be required.

## **CLEANING/SANITATION PROTOCOLS**

Frequent cleaning and sanitation support a healthy learning environment for students and staff. DISD will continue with cleaning and sanitation protocols in all buildings. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the buildings along with opportunities to wash hands frequently.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

All extracurricular and co-curricular activities will resume with full capacity. Students nor spectators will be required to wear face coverings.

## **RESOURCES AND SUPPORT**

Driscoll ISD recognizes the importance of social-emotional support for our students. DISD is providing Second Step Social and Emotional learning curriculum for all students. Please contact the school counselor, Mrs. Shana Vasquez at (361) 387-7349 ext. 8108 for additional individualized support for students.

Positive Case reporting, please contact Nurse Jennifer Killion at (361) 387-7349 ext. 8101

*Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year and we will keep all parents informed in a timely manner if/when conditions change.*