

COVID FAQs 2021

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How will faculty and staff prepare for reopening?

All staff will receive training on updated health and safety protocols related to COVID-19.

Will there be COVID-19 testing for staff and students?

No, students and staff should consult with a physician for testing.

Will students and staff be screened for COVID-19?

Parents will be asked to complete screening steps each morning before bringing their children to school. Staff also will self-screen. As needed, non-touch temperature checks and screening of students, by a staff member, will occur as necessary.

Will CCS have a space for students who develop symptoms while at school?

Yes, an "isolation area" will be designated to separate a student who reports symptoms.

What if a student or staff member gets sick?

If a student or staff member in school is sick, has been exposed to COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19, CCS will follow all guidance from federal, state, and local agencies. The individual will be required to stay home throughout the infection period and will not be able to return to campus until certain conditions for campus re-entry have been met. A staff member or student will need to meet the CDC criteria for return if they are displaying symptoms, presumed positive or have received a confirmed positive COVID-19 test. CCS is following TEA guidelines regarding next steps for those who have been exposed to a diagnosed individual. Details below.

What process will the school follow if a student/staff member receives a COVID-19 diagnosis?

The school will deep-clean classrooms, shared space, and/or areas where that individual had been. The school will notify classmates and parents, although federal privacy laws prevent a patient from being identified by name. CCS will use guidance from local health authorities to determine the "reach" of notices and quarantine plans.

How long will the individual have to stay out of school?

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 (after 10-14 days of quarantine):

- 1) At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- 2) The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- 3) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

What if a student exhibits symptoms that could be associated with other illnesses?

If a student displays COVID symptoms, CCS will follow protocol as outlined in the TEA "SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guide" released June 23, 2020 for reopening school. These symptoms include: fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, headache, chills, sore throat, shaking or exaggerated shivering, significant muscle pain or ache, and diarrhea.

Students displaying these symptoms will be moved to the isolation area and parents will be asked to pick up the child within 30 minutes. *Parents it is urgent to self-screen your children before dropping them off at school.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the standard 10-14 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 one confirmation that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

What if someone was in close contact, or may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19?

CCS is following TEA guidelines regarding next steps for those who have been exposed to a diagnosed individual (see **Close Contact**). Depending on the level of exposure, next steps may range from self-monitoring and taking additional safety precautions while on campus, to staying home and self-monitoring for 10-14 days, or even undergoing testing prior to return.

Close Contact

TEA refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency.

In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on, sneezed on);
- or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact, face coverings (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The following symptoms are consistent with COVID-19.

For self-screening and campus evaluation, consider the following question: Have you recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for you?

- 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
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

- o Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- o Significant muscle pain or ache
- o Diarrhea
- o Nausea or vomiting

Will school shut down if a staff member or student with COVID-19 exposes other members in the school?

Although we do not anticipate another closure, the need to shut down an entire campus will depend on the number of cases, the level of contact, isolation of groups and guidance from health authorities.

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SAFETY PROTOCOLS

What safety protocols will be taken inside buildings?

CCS is following all guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other governing authorities that assist with the safety of facilities and determining appropriate measures such as: controlling building access, reducing touch points, increasing cleaning, and planning for social distancing. Additionally, CCS has face coverings available for purchase, desk dividers upon request and limited on-campus capacity.

How will CCS ensure social distancing in classrooms?

Where feasible and without disrupting the educational experience, measures will be implemented to support students choosing to social distance. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, the following options will be provided: facial coverings are in the office for purchase, desk dividers are available upon request, hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and at different sections of the building, proper hygiene and more frequent hand washing is always encouraged, and considerations for increased airflow when possible. Campus will operate in smaller groups and at a lower capacity.

Will students and staff be required to wear face coverings?

Although we are cautiously moving forward, at this time, CCS will not require mask wearing. Masks are optional. In May 2021, Gov. Abbott issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas — including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials — from requiring or mandating mask-wearing. Under this Executive Order, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus.

CCS will continue to follow the direct orders from the Governor as it relates to masks in schools.

What if a student wishes to wear a face covering?

Anyone entering the building can choose to wear a face covering. The office has disposable face masks available for purchase (\$1.00) and are limited in supply.

How will personal hygiene be reinforced?

Aligned with CCS policies already in place: students will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and will be reminded and requested to wash hands frequently. Signage will be prominently displayed in appropriate areas, hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations throughout the campus, and thorough hand washing will be required after recess, before and after eating, following restroom breaks, and periodically throughout the day. Lower elementary students have hand washing stations in classrooms and hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the building.

Is CCS taking any steps regarding ventilation that may help with circulation?

CCS is taking into account recommendations from national sources including the CDC to increase ventilation and increase the amount of fresh air in rooms and the buildings.

Are dividers going to be used?

CCS is providing individual desk dividers, upon request, for any student in any classroom. These can be placed in a way that will provide an extra layer of separation between students in classrooms where the layout or age level is challenging with regard to elective social distancing.

How will the campus be cleaned?

Commonly used surfaces and areas will be thoroughly and frequently disinfected. Classrooms and restrooms will be professionally deep cleaned weekly, with concentration on high-touch and common areas, the cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods and staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction. Each student will be responsible for maintaining a clean workspace and cleaning up their personal belongings.

What will classroom cleaning protocols for younger elementary grades with more hands-on areas look like?

Designated areas of campus will be equipped with various disinfectants. Teachers (at all grade levels) have disinfectant spray bottles to touch up areas throughout the day. Hand-Held Mist Sprayers will be available in each classroom to be used as needed, to disinfect high-touch areas, potentially spraying classrooms when students are at lunch, in another location, and at the end of each day.

How will bathroom breaks be structured for elementary students?

CCS implements practices that limit the number of students in restrooms at a given time. Protocols will vary slightly by grade level depending on layout of the building, location and size of restrooms, etc.

Will visitors be allowed on campus?

All parents are asked to self-screen for possible symptoms before entering the building.

Will school close if a staff member or student with COVID-19 exposes other members in the school?

The need to shut down an entire campus will depend on the level of contact, isolation of groups and guidance from health authorities.

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Staff**What do I do if I get sick?**

If an employee becomes ill or presents with the list of symptoms consistent with COVID-19, he/she is directed to not come to work. Employees are asked to seek appropriate medical attention. Please contact the school's office to report lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses to the director as soon as possible. This allows CCS to make appropriate notifications to those who may have been exposed and to ensure appropriate disinfectant steps can be carried out in the workplace.

What do I do if I think I may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19?

Employees who think they may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 are asked to self-report to the director for next steps. CCS is following TEA guidelines regarding next steps for those who have been exposed to a diagnosed individual (see Close Contact). Employees who have been exposed

are to report to the director to walk through a series of questions to determine appropriate next steps. Depending on the level of exposure, next steps may range from self-monitoring and taking additional safety precautions while working, to staying home and self-monitoring for 10-14 days, or even undergoing testing prior to return.

Will I be informed if I was exposed to illness at work?

Yes, although CCS will not disclose the identity of persons in the workplace who report in a confirmed case of COVID-19, notice of exposure in the workplace will be sent to those potentially exposed while working who came into close contact with the individual confirmed to have COVID-19.

Do I have to wear a face covering?

No, per the Governor's Order this is optional.

Will face coverings and gloves be provided?

Yes, face coverings and gloves are available for employees.

How are facilities being cleaned?

Staff are asked to please maintain a clean workspace and disinfect their personal area as needed throughout the day, and again at the end of each day. A professional cleaning service is disinfecting shared areas used by staff each day including but not limited to offices, restrooms, staff break rooms and common areas. Bottles of disinfectant are available in designated areas allowing for those areas to be sanitized or wiped down as needed by office personnel throughout the day.

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Due to the constantly changing conditions under which we are operating, which include health data and guidance from state and county authorities, FAQs are subject to change.