



Eternity Christian School and Pre-Kindergarten

1122 West Road, Houston, Texas 77038 281-999-5107

COVID-19 Health and Safety Operational Procedures

(Revised 7/29/2020)

ECS Administration prepares for on-campus school operations to resume in August, we will follow specific health precautions in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements. The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits.

INSTRUCTIONAL OPTIONS

ECS plans to offer In-Person Instruction and Remote Virtual On-line Classroom learning, five days a week.

Traditional In-Person Instruction will require additional health and safety precautions because the safety and well-being of students, families, and staff will remain ECS's top priority. Traditional In-Person Instruction will consist of a safe environment that is in alignment with local health protocols. Social distancing will be adhered to as much as instructionally possible.

Remote Virtual On-line Classroom Instruction will be delivered by the teacher from the classroom setting, providing teachers access to instructional materials and resources. Any parent may request that their student be offered remote virtual instruction. If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so at any time. A student that is not benefitting from virtual instruction will be required to switch to on-campus instruction following a parent-teacher conference.

ATTENDANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must 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 2020-21 school year. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of remote virtual instruction. Daily on-campus and remote virtual attendance for students will be required.

OPERATIONAL DECISION METER

We developed the Operational Decision Meter to help guide our process for determining when to make adjustments in our learning environments. Any movement between colors will be informed by public health conditions as established by our local, state and federal experts. Again, we will rely on our health experts to help us make these distinctions.

ECS's campus is closed to parents and visitors with the exception of those needing to conduct essential school business. Anyone needing to conduct essential school business will be required to wear a face covering upon entering the building for Levels II and III.

Below are explanations for each color:



Level III- Extreme Level of Concern (Red) *Mandatory Health and Wellness Measurers*

A severe and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in our community, meaning outbreaks are present and worsening. Authorities are advising residents to take action to minimize contacts with others wherever possible and avoid leaving home except for the most essential needs.

If those conditions are present, the majority of students move to remote learning until COVID-19 threat level improves. Some small-group instruction may be allowed with strict social distancing protocols in place. Restrict outside visitors. Communicate to parents the extent of the remote learning, length, and school work accommodations. Continue to monitor attendance for absence caused by illness, which requires a doctor's note to return for illness with fever and/or stomach. In the event of campus closure, communicate to staff members to report to duty to maintain services. Cancel all school events and clean all areas. Childcare will remain open for children needing daily care. Frequent clean commons areas including door hardware, etc.



Level II- Moderate Level of Concern (Yellow) *Additional Health and Wellness Measures*

A moderate, but controlled level of COVID-19 in our community as determined by local health officials, meaning there is demonstrated reduction in transmission and local healthcare systems are within capacity. Authorities are advising residents to remain vigilant, but to resume activities using recommended social distancing where possible.

If those conditions are present, social distancing protocols will continue to be monitored and large group and/or "high risk" activities may be restricted. Restrict outside visitors. Continue to monitor attendance for absence caused by illness, which requires a doctor's note to return for illness with fever and/or stomach. Stay informed by Harris County Health Department. Potentially limit large gatherings to only essential events or consider postponing essential events. Frequent clean commons areas including door hardware, etc.



Level I- Low Level of Concern (Green) *Normal School Routines and Procedures*

A minimal and controlled level of COVID-19 in our community as determined by local health officials, meaning new chains of transmission are limited. Authorities are advising residents to resume normal contact with others unless they've been exposed to the virus or are sick with the virus.

If those conditions are present, large group and/or "high risk" activities will continue to be restricted as needed. Continue to monitor attendance and communicate with Harris County Health Department. Communicate to parents to keep sick children at home. Communicate to staff to stay at home if sick. Continue precautions to avoid spreading the coronavirus. Frequent clean commons areas including door hardware, etc.

PREVENTION AND RESPONDING METHODS

1. Teacher Screening for COVID-19

Teachers and staff are to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature, and checking for COVID-19 symptoms. Teachers and staff should not report to the school if they have multiple symptoms or have been exposed to the COVID-19. All teachers and staff must follow the COVID-19 Exposure Policy in the employee handbook.

COVID-19 Symptoms: Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit when taken by mouth; Sore Throat, Uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline); diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain, onset of severe headache. (Revised TEA 7/2020)

2. Student Screening for COVID-19

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as above), child has had close contact (being directly exposed to infectious secretions or being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes) with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or the student is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test. The student will be required to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry which are 14-days from exposure are met. Student screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic

methods and/or in person and a forehead temperature check upon entry into the school's facility. A student with a temperature of 100.0 F or above will not be permitted entrance into the facility. (Revised TEA 7/2020)

3. Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19 (revised 7/2020)

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- A. 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:
 1. at least one day (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 ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- B. 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.
- C. 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) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

4. Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19. The principal will determine separate areas for well and sick students. Any student with a temperature greater than or equal to 100°F and/or showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be masked as developmentally appropriate, isolated, and the parent/guardian notified for pick up. Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

5. Response to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

1. If an individual who has been in the school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify its 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).
2. The School will close off the areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus. (Revised 7/2020)
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the school will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in the school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRACTICES

Operational Considerations:

Universal signage in the facility outlining the policies and procedures for face masks, social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing and directional signage to help inform all visitors, staff and students. On the first day a student attends school on campus, the school will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices: hand washing, wearing a mask, social distancing, and Covid-19 facts.

1. Absence caused by Illness:

Any student that is absent and has an illness involving a fever, coughing, or stomach illness with diarrhea and/or vomiting will need a doctor's note to return to school.

2. Entry and Exit:

Drop-off and pick-up will be done outside the facility door providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six feet. All students will be screened by questionnaires to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms, close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 and temperature checks. Parents and visitors are not allowed in the facilities, unless they are regulation licensing, emergency personnel, or medical personnel. All parent-teacher conferences and school/childcare tours will be done virtually.

3. Hygiene Practices:

1. Handwashing

ECS has hand sanitizer at the entrance and hand sanitizer and hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom. Teachers, staff and students are required to hand sanitize upon entering the facility. All will practice frequent and good handwashing techniques throughout the day, encouraging

hand washing after using the restroom and before eating. Poster of good hand washing hygiene are posted in each lavatory.

2. Masks

- a. Children should wear face coverings when harms (eg, increasing hand-mouth/nose contact) do not outweigh benefits (potential COVID-19 risk reduction). The use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate is not mandatory, but will be based on parent's preference and child's actions within the classroom. Masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Level 1: Face coverings worn by students and staff are optional. Level 2: Face coverings worn by students and staff are strongly encouraged. Level 3: Face coverings must be worn by students ages 10 and up and all staff are required to wear face covering or full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face. Face coverings are encouraged for students ages 5-9. Anyone needing to conduct essential school business will be required to wear a face covering upon entering the building. (Revised 7/2020)
- b. While participating in some athletic or other extracurricular activities, schools must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields.

3. Coughing and Sneezing

Teachers, staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

4. Social Distancing and MISC. Strategies

- Desks will be socially distanced as much as physically possible.
- Students will move in slow lines during transitions to promote students walking 6 feet apart.
- All large group gatherings (of students and/or adults) in close proximity will be done outside or providing 6 feet between students.
- Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. We will limit the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission.
- Students will eat in the cafeteria allowing for distancing between each students while seated at the cafeteria tables. The school will provide individually plated meals with disposable food service items for students who do not bring their own lunch.
- When possible, communal supplies will be eliminated. Shared supplies will be sanitized between use.
- Use of shared books, electronic devices, games, etc. will be avoided as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans will be available in the classrooms and common areas to limit student and staff movement.
- Each classroom door will be open to eliminate multiple touches by students and staff.
- Lockers will be assigned to each student.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school for their personal use.

5. Maintenance and Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily. For Level's II and III throughout the day.
- High touch surfaces (i.e. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be disinfected regularly.
- Disinfectant wipes will be provided to each classroom and common area to maximize room-to-room cleanliness.
- Teachers will wear masks and gloves during work hours while cleaning and disinfecting.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.
- Classrooms and campus areas will be cleaned and disinfected upon assessment of an ill student/staff member.