



Public Health Guidance

January 7, 2022

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order 183, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order 183 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance. This guidance is subject to change as new information becomes available.

This guidance addresses:

- x On-campus instruction
- x Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- x Any other activities that students must complete

For guidance on matters related to school system staff, please [refer](#) to [this](#) guidance. Additionally, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC, please [refer](#) to [this](#) guidance.

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1.

exclude students from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the [DSHS rule](#) for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

During the exclusion period, the school system may deliver remote instruction

Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposures ends

During the stay-at-home period, the school system may deliver remote instruction consistent with the practice of remote conferencing outlined in the proposed Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH) rules, as described here

Staff Who Have COVID-19 or Who are Close Contacts

Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19, who are suspected of being actively sick with COVID-19, or who have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when:

- x If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.
- x For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual and are in one of the following groups, do not need to stay at home

- x Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- x Was confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and has fully recovered

For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual who are not in one of the above groups, it is recommended that the school system require that staff remain off campus during the stay-at-home period, but this is a local employment policy decision. If these staff continue to work on campus, rapid testing must be performed