

Devine ISD Protocol on Reopening

Reviewed 05.24.2023

Introduction and District Priorities

As the concern for the safety and well-being for everyone at the district is our priority, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has required our district to collaborate in new ways, examine practices, learn new information and skills, show flexibility in a time of changing information and needs, and make difficult decisions. As we transition to a less restrictive learning environment, DISD is committed to supporting our students and staff, and we are guided by our beliefs that:

- Public education is the keystone of the success of our community.
- All decisions should be made in the best interest of all students.
- Devine ISD is responsible to prepare all students for their future.
- Developing leaders is vital to our success.
- Instruction should be designed on the needs of the learners.
- Community/Parent/Guardian engagement leads to a successful educational experience.

The goal of Devine ISD is to have the reputation for being home to the most inspired students, served by the most dedicated leaders. We believe that this pandemic, through progressive leadership and initiatives, is an opportunity for our organization to lead, grow and serve the students, faculty, and community.

Instructional Information for Families

Devine ISD will be returning to fully face-to-face learning for all DISD students in the fall of 2021. We are excited to welcome all of our students back to campus and will not offer remote learning in any framework. We do understand, however, that some students and families may still be seeking greater flexibility with their education. There are options available outside of Devine ISD to families to continue their student's education in a virtual setting.

Learning Tools

Specific DISD grade levels were issued a district Chromebook as part of our one-to-one technology initiative. We will continue to provide specific grade levels with a Chromebook.

In most cases, learning devices are turned in at the end of the school year for maintenance and upgrades. Any student or staff member who is in possession of a DISD-issued device that is not

needed is encouraged to return it to a campus or department. Unless maintenance is required, staff who have a district laptop only need to turn in devices upon separation from the district.

Protocols for Safe and Healthy Schools

As the year progresses, Devine ISD 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. Devine ISD will continue to seek guidance from governmental agencies including the Medina County District. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs. Updates to safety protocols will be posted on our website as needed.

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

Screening Protocols

- Neither staff nor students should report to school/work if they have fever or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Absences should be reported to the campus or staff supervisor.
- For questions regarding attendance procedures, you may contact your campus with questions or review the **Student Handbook**.
- Employee questions regarding absence procedures should be directed to staff supervisors.

Isolation Protocols

- If students display symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- If an individual who has been in a school or district facility is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must 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).
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school when they have documented the following requirements:
 - They are 1 day (24 hours) fever-free without using fever-reducing medication; and
 - Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.); and
 - 5 days have passed since symptoms began.
- Positive cases will be reported to staff and families with children in the same classroom.
- Individuals who are a close contact are not required to observe quarantine protocol.

Protocols for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive orders regarding the wearing of masks. **As of June 1, 2021 masks are optional for all students and staff.** Desktop plastic shields and cafeteria dividers will not be used. However, portable plastic desktop dividers are available upon request.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Washing

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will contribute to the positive health and wellness of students and staff.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to each campus and district facility as well as in the cafeteria and other common areas.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. The district will continue to supply adequate cleaning and disinfectant supplies for all district facilities. Staff will be trained on campus protocols before the first day of school.

Resources for Mental Health

School counselors will provide support to all students through their comprehensive guidance program. This includes working with students through large group instruction and/or working with classroom teachers to meet the personal/social needs of students.

Those students who need more specific mental health support can receive a referral to school-based therapy through their school counselor.

Staff's Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

The social, emotional, and mental health needs of staff will be addressed through allocating ESSER III and other funds as needed to implement multiple strategies and targeted supports to ensure that all staff member's needs are met. Implemented programs will include:

- Survey staff to identify what social, emotional, and mental health supports and programs are recommended.

- Formative check-ins and surveys on these measures throughout the school year will be conducted to gauge what is and is not working.
- Keeping staff informed of the latest COVID-19/pandemic information to reduce anxiety and uncertainty and provide a chance for them to address outstanding concerns for the upcoming school year.
- Provide staff members with available community resources to assess their own self-care and well-being,
 - Ensure staff members are aware that the district's Communities in Schools Professional Counselor is available to them.
 - Provide staff mental health and/or work/life balance strategies at campus and district levels.
 - ESSER III funds are used to maintain current staff employment which will relieve the stress staff members may feel about losing their jobs.

Resources

- [CDC List of COVID - 19 Symptoms](#)
- [TEA Guidance](#)