



## District Response Plan COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

### **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION**

The El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) will utilize the Prevention, Responsiveness, Education, Physical Spaces (PREP) plan to achieve the following goals:

**Prevention:** Minimizing the spread of COVID-19 (Corona Virus) in our community

**Responsiveness:** Timely and accurate dissemination of information to our community

**Education:** Preserve continuity of learning and essential school functions for our community

**Physical Spaces:** Maintaining the safety, security, and cleanliness of our schools

**PREVENTION:** Our goal is to build on everyday practices including hand hygiene, monitoring student attendance and effective communication to minimize disruption to classroom schedules and prevent stigma or discrimination in regards to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Members of our school community are to continue following these essential steps that can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Custodial staff and any other person directed by the district are to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**RESPONSIVENESS:** EPISD is committed to keeping all members of our school community informed in a timely manner.

- The Superintendent will provide regular updates via the Superintendent's Message.
- The EPISD website will have a devoted section to COVID-19 news and information on our homepage. ([www.episd.org](http://www.episd.org))
- EPISD will use social and traditional media to keep our community informed.
- EPISD is providing counseling support to respond to schools where anxiety is high to help students focus.
- EPISD welcomes all questions and will provide support as necessary. (See [episd.org](http://episd.org) FAQ)



**EDUCATION:** Our learning community is prepared to ensure that our students continue to receive educational experiences.

- Each building principal will have an instructional plan for extended school closings that will be communicated directly to families via School Messenger and will be posted on school websites

**in the event** of a prolonged closing.

- Schools will post assignments online in Schoology to assist students absent due to illness for more than three days. Elementary students will be provided access to MyOn Digital Library for supplemental Reading and Istation for Reading and Math instruction and enrichment.

Additional campus based digital resources will be posted on campus websites. All students will be provided with core content instructional packets via email to the parents email address on file.

- EPISD is exploring options to ensure secondary students have remote access to learning if they are out of school for an extended period.

- Scheduled field trips, extracurricular activities and sports will continue as planned unless the school is closed. Any information regarding cancelations, postponements, or delays will be communicated by the school principal.

- EPISD will be working with families on accommodations for medically fragile students and students with special needs.

**PHYSICAL SPACE:** Our Operations Support Services has implemented a robust custodial cleaning program to ensure our schools are ready to receive students every day in a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, buses are being disinfected daily.

- EPISD will continue to provide hand-washing supplies at every school.

- EPISD will continue to have custodial staff clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.

- EPISD will continue to focus on extra cleaning in areas where disease is most likely to spread.

- If a school closes, EPISD has resources to deep-clean classrooms or entire schools.

- For schools not closed, our custodial staff will focus on cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces.

#### **ONGOING PREVENTION SUPPORTS:**

- EPISD will continue to message to students, families and staff about disease prevention and hygiene.

- EPISD will maintain contact with local and state health authorities on best prevention practices.

- EPISD will review and continue to stock supplies in every school health office and custodial closet.

**EXCLUSION PROVISIONS:** Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, will notify EPISD in the event any individual is required to be excluded from work/school.

- We will follow the instructions provided by the Health Department for exclusion and readmission to any of our sites. The current recommended time period for self-quarantine is 14 days following the last exposure to the affected individual.



- It is recommended that you contact your health care provider if symptoms develop while on home quarantine.

**DETERMINATION OF SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** EPISD will be guided by this plan and will collaborate with Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Texas in the event additional guidance is provided. EPISD will be guided by current Board Policies and procedures in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, City of El Paso, any closure announcement will come through the Superintendent via Community Engagement to all personnel, students, and parents.

- If there are confirmed cases at any of our schools or offices, the specific school or office will be closed for one day to sanitize. If we are directed to close schools by any of the aforementioned entities, we will comply and communicate this to our parents and communities.

**TRAVEL RELATED CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Suspending school sponsored travel programs for all students and staff indefinitely.
- Develop plans to suspend international programs, regardless of CDC travel guidelines.
- Students and faculty returning from currently impacted countries or regions of impacted countries will be asked to be under precautionary quarantine for 14 days upon return. If there is a COVID-19 case related to a school, the school will be contacted by EPISD officials. Schools should be proactive and develop plans for monitoring illness among students and staff, send sick students and staff home, and develop contingency plans to cover key staff positions when employees are home ill. Schools should communicate with parents and staff on the importance of the exclusion recommendations.