



March 21, 2021

Dear EMS ISD families and staff,

We hope you enjoyed a nice Spring Break. As you prepare for school this week, we have some information and reminders for you. Over the break, the CDC released new guidance regarding distancing in schools; however, they did not change any requirements for contact tracing or close contact quarantines. As a result, anyone within 6 feet of a person confirmed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more is required to quarantine. EMS ISD will continue following all current protocols, including social distancing as much as feasible.

Please remember that all students, staff, and visitors are required to **self-screen** for COVID-19 symptoms **each day** before coming to a campus or district facility. If you (staff) or your child is currently **lab-confirmed positive** for COVID-19, is **exhibiting symptoms**, or is **awaiting a test**, please stay home from school tomorrow and report your case to the school if you have not done so already. If after hours, please report using the [Let's Talk system](#). If you (staff) or your child has previously been **notified as a close contact**, please consult your return-to-school date in the letter you received from the district before returning to campus.

If you or your child is experiencing any of the scenarios listed below, **please stay home from school, activities, practices, rehearsals, etc.**, and contact your school nurse for next steps:

- **Experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19**
  - Feeling feverish or have a measured temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Cough
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Shortness of breath
  - Headache
  - Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Significant muscle pain or ache
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- **Has had direct exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (also known as "close contact")**
- **Has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting test results**
- **Has received a lab-confirmed positive test result for COVID-19**

As a reminder, rapid testing is available on campus for students who experience symptoms while at school. If you would like for your child to receive the rapid antigen-based test at school, please complete the online permission form in [Skyward Family Access](#). This form would remain on file and would be used if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school. You still will receive a phone call from the school nurse if your child becomes ill.

Our EMS ISD Health Services team has created important information about the COVID-19 vaccine, who qualifies at this point, and where to sign up. Please take a moment to review this information [here](#).

Together, we can all help our schools and facilities to remain open and our activities to continue by proactively self-screening each day and following all health safety protocols while on campus. Please visit the [EMS ISD COVID-19 Information Center](#) for additional information. Thank you for your continued partnership and cooperation. Have a healthy week in EMS ISD!

Sincerely,  
EMS ISD Health Services