



April 25, 2021

Dear EMS ISD families and staff,

We hope you enjoyed a nice weekend. In this week's reminder, we have an updated quarantine protocol for close contacts to share with you. Beginning Monday, April 26, the proper and consistent use of face masks will be used as a mitigating factor when determining required quarantine due to close contact exposure. This means that if both a COVID-19 positive individual and the close contact are properly and consistently masked during the period of exposure, then the exposed individual will **not** be required to quarantine.

The modified quarantine protocols are based on several factors, including local tracking of positive cases and related close contact infections, current data for our community and county, new research indicating lower transmission rates in schools, and increasing rates of vaccine distribution. We continue evaluating health guidance from local, state, and national agencies and collaborating with area school districts on effective practices.

The important piece to these modified quarantine protocols is the **proper and consistent use of face masks**. Non-medical grade, disposable face masks or cloth face coverings to protect the nose and mouth are still required on campus during the instructional day. Under the modified protocols and depending on the exposure situation, proper and consistent use of face masks *may* prevent your child/staff member from being quarantined if they are identified as a close contact. Parents are asked to make sure their child continues to bring a face mask to wear at school. Parents still have the option of keeping their child home in quarantine, and campuses will work with those families to arrange for attendance and remote learning.

Staff and students currently on quarantine due to close contact should continue to stay home. Campus leaders are evaluating all current quarantine cases and you will be contacted by your campus if you are able to return under the new protocol.

Additionally, **per CDC guidelines, anyone who is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 is exempt from close contact quarantine requirements**. All adults in Texas ages 18+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, with the Pfizer vaccine approved for ages 16+. Please take a moment to review information about the vaccine and where to sign up [here](#). Click [here](#) to link directly to Tarrant County's vaccine registration page.

As your families prepare for school this week, 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](#).

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