



NYOS
CHARTER
SCHOOL

PLAN TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF
COVID-19 AT NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL

Safety and Guidance for NYOS Charter School Families



Every decision made will take into consideration the latest guidance and direction from local, state and federal authorities. NYOS Charter School reserves the right to change this document at any time without prior notice. In the event that any changes are made, the revised document shall be posted immediately.



Revision Date: August 27, 2020

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Introduction

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and school system leaders should do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in-person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.”

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. NYOS is using information from the TEA documents [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#) and [20-21 School Reopening Guidance Summary](#) as well as [CDC guidelines](#) and [Austin Public Health Interim Guidance on Reopening for Austin-Travis County Schools](#).

- PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices
- PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- MITIGATE: Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

PROVIDE NOTICE

This document is intended to fulfill the Texas Education Agency (TEA) requirement for school systems to post for parents and the general public one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction. The document provides a detailed plan that students, staff, and school leaders will be required to follow to mitigate COVID-19 spread in schools for on-campus activities and instruction.

NYOS has identified the following people to respond to COVID-19 related inquiries and concerns.

- Instruction and Activities Grades PK-5 – Elementary Assistant Principal Samantha Gladwell, sgladwell@nyos.org
- Instruction and Activities Grades 6-12 – Secondary Assistant Principal Kisha Jackson-Thompson, kthompson@nyos.org
- Boys and Girls Clubs – Jayme Johnson jayme.johnson@bgcaustin.org or Kellie Paolillo kellie.paolillo@bgcaustin.org
- Facilities – Director of Finance Hweilu Chen, hchen@nyos.org



Attendance

Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-2021 school year.

Families have rights with regard to attendance and enrollment. Please see [this notice](#) from the TEA to learn more about these rights and responsibilities.

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

NYOS will require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. NYOS teachers and staff must report if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off-campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, they must report to NYOS if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off-campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in Appendix A) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. They should instead opt to receive remote instruction until the conditions for re-entry are met.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

NYOS will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. We have identified isolated locations on each campus where symptomatic students will stay until they are picked up. NYOS will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff member).

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

If an individual who has been at NYOS is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, we will notify Austin Public Health, 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).

NYOS will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.

Consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, NYOS will notify teachers, staff, and parents/guardians of students if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students,



teachers or staff who participated in any on-campus activities. The notification process will take place in regards to the following:

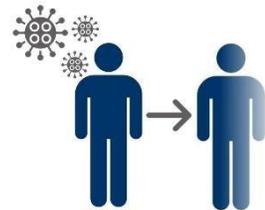
Primary:

- This indicates that a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19.



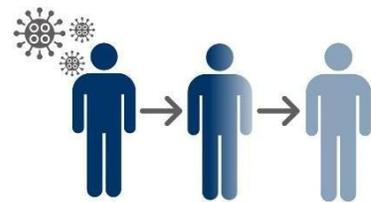
Primary Exposure:

- Student or staff member has symptoms or has been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- An email will be sent to staff and parents/guardians of students who have been in close contact with the primary. Please see Appendix C for close contact definitions.



Secondary Exposure:

- Student or staff member has been in direct contact with a Primary Exposure.
- No email will be sent at this level.



MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Health and Hygiene Practices

NYOS will have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each main entrance and throughout the campuses. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be directed to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently. Campus visitors will be restricted only to those who are essential to school operations.

On the first day students attend school on campus, NYOS will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted on our campuses. Bathrooms will have signage reminding students of good handwashing techniques.

Both NYOS campuses will have additional disinfecting and cleaning from janitorial staff throughout the day. This includes frequently touched objects such as door handles, common tables/desks and playground equipment. Students will be required to clean their own spaces regularly throughout the day using disinfecting supplies available in the classrooms.



NYOS is required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. As such, all adults and students in all grades will be required to wear masks on campus unless eating. **Be sure to send your student with an appropriate face mask each day.** In addition, teachers will wear transparent face shields to provide a further layer of protection. Students in specific situations may also be provided a face shield for specific instructional settings like speech therapy, reading intervention, and other settings where a plexiglass barrier is impractical.

Masks may be non-medical grade disposable face masks, or cloth face coverings that go over the nose and mouth. **Neck gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable face coverings on campus.**

It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, NYOS will require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities, such as active exercise, as long as they maintain at least 6 feet of distance.

Social Distancing on Campus

NYOS will place students at desks or tables to maintain 6 feet of social distance while Austin is at Stage 3 or Stage 4. NYOS will change entry, exit, and transition procedures to reduce large group gatherings of students and/or adults in close proximity. Parents will be required to remain in their vehicle during drop-off and pick-up.

For now, NYOS will not hold assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together.

At lunch, students will follow procedures to reduce the likelihood that students meet the close contact definition (please see Appendix C for definition). At NYOS, this will include a combination of the following:

- Students eating lunch at their desks in their classroom
- Students sitting at least 6 feet apart
- Students eating lunch outside (weather permitting)
- Students eating at tables with dividers that act as shields

NYOS has contracted with a new food services provider called Preferred Meals. Starting this school year, Preferred Meals will provide individually packaged meals. Each meal will include disposable utensils.

Bus Transportation

NYOS will NOT provide transportation between the Kramer and Lamar campuses in the morning and afternoon. When bus service resumes, students will be encouraged to use hand



sanitizer upon boarding the bus. When possible, school bus windows will remain open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus. The bus will be thoroughly cleaned after each trip, with a focus on high-touch surfaces such as seats, the steering wheel, knobs, and door handles.

RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

Following are the return to on-site work protocols for NYOS campuses. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to change protocols to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, NYOS will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

It is important to remember the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person shows no symptoms or is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously or fatally ill, especially for persons 65 years of age or older or with pre-existing health conditions placing them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, NYOS expects all employees, students and families to rigorously follow these practices.

Preparation for the Opening of School

NYOS will ensure all staff, resources and supplies are prepared prior to re-opening our campuses, including but not limited to assigning sufficient staff to carry out re-opening plans, ensuring proper training, and stocking inventory of necessary supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, NYOS will implement health and safety plans that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory (e.g., PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Austin Public Health, the Texas Education Agency and other jurisdictional policies.
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering campus facilities and throughout buildings.

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

All students and staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily and individuals with symptoms will be separated and sent home.



Staff will be required to complete a self-screening process prior to entering a NYOS building, and the district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines. Staff and substitute teachers are required to completed a daily check-in form prior to arrival on campus.

A parent or guardian will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending them to school. Parents will need to take their child's temperature daily. Additional screening may be conducted during the school day.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in Appendix A) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the conditions for re-entry are met.

Staff and students should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply. The individual is:

- Sick or has been sick in the past 14 days. Symptoms to watch for: fever (100°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician.
- Has a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or if the student is awaiting their own test results.
- Has traveled internationally or on a cruise in the past 14 days. These individuals must follow current CDC self-quarantine recommendations.

Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation

For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.

Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and must be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus has contacted the parent/guardian.

Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will NOT be permitted to return to school until:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery of fever without the use of fever-



- reducing medications,
- AND improvement in symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath,
- AND at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- OR with written clearance from a medical professional in order to return.

Protocols for Personal Protective Equipment

Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about the health benefits of wearing a mask at school. Students in all grades must bring an appropriate face covering to school each day. Families will be responsible for daily cleaning and replacement of face mask. The school has a limited supply of face masks should student or staff face coverings become unusable or lost during the school day. Masks may be non-medical grade disposable face masks, or cloth face coverings that go over the nose and mouth. **Neck gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable face coverings on campus.**

There are some limited exceptions for adults or students for whom masks are not developmentally appropriate or pose a health risk. Individual needs regarding face coverings will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodations will need to be submitted to campus administration for approval.

Additional protective equipment, including gowns and gloves, will be provided to school nurses.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

Visitors, including parents/guardians, must not attempt to enter school buildings. If a student needs to be picked-up during school hours, the student will be escorted outside upon arrival of the parent/guardian. Upon the arrival, the parent/guardian must remain in their vehicle and contact the appropriate campus receptionist to let them know of their arrival:

- Kramer Campus (PreK-3rd): 512-275-1593
- Lamar Campus (4th-12th): 512-583-6967

Virtual tools will be used to conduct meetings such as PTA meetings, ARDs, LPAC, etc.

Volunteers are not allowed to visit campuses at this time (including mentors, college representatives, guest speakers, etc.).

In the unlikely event of an on-campus visitor required for campus operations, the visitor will be required to complete a screening form before entering a campus facility.

Protocols for Disinfecting, Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff. Students will participate in hand washing and hand sanitization upon arrival to school, before and after lunch, before and after recess or P.E., before leaving school, and at other times of the day based on teacher discretion.



Paper towels and sanitizing spray will be provided near doors and in classrooms to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects frequently.

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected nightly.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Custodians will wear PPE (masks and gloves) during work hours.
- Cafeterias will be disinfected between lunch periods.

Staff and students will have access to disinfecting items to sanitize working surfaces, shared objects, and high-touch areas after use and during breaks in instruction.

NYOS will provide hand sanitizer upon entry to classrooms and encourage periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.

If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, quaternary disinfectant, which is recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19, will be used to defog and disinfect after a mandated 24-hour waiting period.

Custodial staff will defog and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, lunch areas and all additional areas necessary for proper disinfection on a regular basis.

Protocols for Restrooms

Staff will limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time to comply with health agency recommendations and social distancing.

Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

Protocols for Common Areas

Common areas include spaces that includes computer labs, flexible spaces, conference rooms and other meeting rooms. Classes/grade levels will sign-up to reserve common areas.

Campuses will schedule and follow protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize the space between use. When needed, students will bring personal supplies from the classroom.

Students will sanitize their spaces before and after usage.

The number of students allowed in a common area will be based upon social distancing requirements.

Visual reminders will be displayed for social distancing throughout common areas. Informational graphics and markers will be posted to serve as a visual reminder for students to keep social distance.

Protocols for Training

On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices including: the practice of covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covering coughs and sneezes with their elbows, throwing used tissues in the trash, washing hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer.

Student:

- Students will participate in training specific to newly adopted health and safety protocols.
- All students will be trained on information about COVID-19 screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.
- If a student is experiencing symptoms they need to immediately notify a teacher.

Parent/Guardian:

- Parents are asked to talk to their students about COVID-19 symptoms and prevention strategies.
- Parents are asked to talk with their child about the health benefits of social distancing at school, as well as the health benefits of washing their hands, and/or using hand sanitizer.

Teacher/Staff:

- Teachers attend training and develop classroom procedures consistent with TEA, District and CDC guidance.
- All staff will be trained on COVID screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.
- All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the nurse if a student is showing any symptoms.

Protocols for School Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival: Separate entrances will be utilized for different grade levels. All staff will be utilized for duty to maintain a line of sight in hallways and distancing of hallway cohorts. Students will go straight to the designated areas set by each campus. Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.

Dismissal: Campus will designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, or grade levels will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time. Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit. Separate exits will be utilized for different grade levels.

**Student:**

- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Students will be assigned to report to a specific area and will be expected to adhere to schedules for morning arrival.
- It is required that students and staff wear masks when entering the building and waiting in the designated waiting area.

Parent/Guardian:

- Parents/guardians must remain in their vehicle during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. If a student needs to be picked-up before dismissal, the student will be escorted outside upon arrival of the parent. Upon the arrival, the parent must remain in their vehicle and contact the appropriate campus receptionist to let them know of their arrival:
- Kramer Campus (PreK-3rd): 512-275-1593
- Lamar Campus (4th-12th): 512-583-6967

Teacher/Staff:

- Campus staff is required to complete the staff check-in form before entering a campus.
- Staff will be assigned to supervise students during morning arrival
- Staff are required to have masks on when entering the building and ensure that they ensure that students are wearing masks in the hallways and in classrooms.
- Staff will dismiss student cohorts using staggered student release into halls from these areas.

Protocols for Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch

Based on building capacity and student enrollment, campus administration will determine areas that may be utilized for lunch, such as the cafeteria.

Teachers will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote social distancing practices. Depending on the number of students in the school, students may some days have meals in both the cafeteria and in classrooms. Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines.

Physical distance will be provided around each occupiable seat. Posted signage and staff will reinforce social distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria. At this time, microwaves will not be provided for student use in the cafeteria due to the opportunity for cross contamination with a high-touch device. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

Student:

- Students will be instructed to follow campus guidelines for cafeteria procedures.
- Students will be seated according to a seating plan for students consistent with social distancing guidelines
- All students are required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the cafeteria.
- Students must read and adhere to the expectations and posted directional prompts/signs to ensure for proper social distancing.

Parent/Guardian:

- At this time, due to COVID-19, mealtime visitors will not be permitted in the school cafeterias.
- Parents are encouraged to speak to their children about safety protocols and social distancing.
- Parents are asked to read and be familiar with all school communication regarding health and safety protocols.
- Parents should talk to their students about COVID-19 symptoms and prevention strategies.

Teacher/Staff:

- Signs will be posted on the walls and floor to ensure appropriate social distancing in cafeteria lines.
- A seating plan for students will be followed for social distancing.
- Assigned staff will supervise students in cafeteria lines, direct students to open seats, and ensure that students maintain desired social distance.
- A seating plan for students will be followed for social distancing.
- Teachers will monitor students while in the cafeteria to ensure social distancing.
- Staff will ensure to maintain a student consistent cohort for “in person” lunches.

Protocols for Classrooms

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations regarding not sharing school supplies, social distancing, no or limited group work and hand washing or sanitizing, etc. Teachers will ensure high-touch areas in the classroom are wiped in between classes. Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:

- Visual reminders of distancing requirements will be in all classrooms marking off areas for common spaces and distancing best practices.
- Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations.
- Access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces.
- Students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus.
- Technology will be utilized when students are involved in collaborative work.
- Group or pair work may be implemented while maintaining physical distancing.
- Occupied student desks will be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart.



- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered. Classroom groups working outside will maintain at least 12 feet of social distancing from other classroom groups.

Student:

- Students will be expected to adhere to class and school-wide protocols that are consistent with CDC guidelines.
- After washing hands or using hand sanitizer, students will be asked to immediately sit down in their assigned seat.
- Students will avoid sharing school supplies and will sanitize shared items after each use.
- Students will maintain a 6 feet distance in classrooms whether they are sitting at a desk or a table. Additionally, if tables are provided instead of desks, students will sit one per table.
- Students that want to use hand sanitizer should use it at the beginning of class. If a sink is available in the classroom students should wash their hands at the beginning of class.
- Students should avoid touching high-touch areas.

Teacher/Staff:

- Multiple locations of hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans will be available throughout classrooms and common areas to limit student and staff movement.
- Teachers will post signs with clear class protocols that are consistent with CDC guidelines and school-wide practices.
- Teachers will limit student movement within the classroom such as turning in assignments, materials being passed out, etc.
- Teachers will create assigned seating arrangements to ensure social distancing.
- Teachers will create systems to limit the sharing of items such as school supplies
- Teachers will clean supplies after each use by students.
- Teachers will prop doors open to allow for additional ventilation during class and in between classes so students don't touch doors or handles.

Protocols for Recess/Playground

Administrators will provide training for teachers on guidelines and procedures associated with outdoor play and student activities. Administrators will develop a schedule for students to access the playground equipment. Teachers will monitor students to ensure safety guidelines are followed. Campuses will limit the number of students per recess group. Staggered schedules and consistent cohorts will be utilized.

Guidelines for Outdoor Play

Students will wear masks during outdoor activities. Students must maintain social distancing while lining up to return to class.

All students and staff will be required to wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer



before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.

While in the classroom, brain breaks will be implemented as needed, at the discretion of the campus/teacher.

Protocols for Water Fountains

NYOS will be replacing water fountains with water bottle fillers in fall 2020. Until that time, the following is expected:

Student:

- Students are must bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the day and must to take water bottles home to be cleaned on a daily basis.

Parent/Guardian:

- Parents must secure a reusable water bottle for their child to bring to school on a daily basis.
- Parents are asked to assist students, as needed, to clean water bottles on a daily basis.

Teacher/Staff:

- Develop and demonstrate how students should fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains.
- Monitor that students take water bottles home to be cleaned.

Protocols for Elementary Specialized Classrooms/Areas

Music

- Appropriate social distancing measures will be followed.
- Music equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.

P.E.

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact, or requiring multiple students to touch or handle the same equipment will be avoided.
- P.E. equipment will be disinfected and wiped down after each use.
- Visual markers will be on the gym floor and bleachers as reminders of social distancing rules.
- Students should avoid touching their face at all times, but especially while playing



games.

- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided. Students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after P.E.

Art

- Students will use their own art supplies and avoid sharing equipment, utensils and supplies as much as possible.
- Students will complete cleaning protocols and sanitize their areas in between use.
- Art equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.

Library

- Visual reminders will be added and furniture arranged to help students maintain social distancing while in the library.
- Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.
- High-touch surfaces (e.g., table tops, chairs, door handles, etc.) will be disinfected regularly.
- Occupancy will be limited.

Secondary Specialized Classrooms and Extracurricular Programming

P.E.

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact will be avoided.
- Visual markers will be used as reminders of social distancing rules.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Activities requiring multiple students to touch or handle the same equipment will be avoided.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided. Students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after P.E.

Athletics

See Appendix D for more information about Athletics.

Fine Arts

- Large group practice sessions, sectionals and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., NYOS, TEA, Austin Public Health).
- Fine arts music private lesson teachers will not be allowed to teach on campus facilities until further guidance is provided by an authorized entity. Private lessons may continue to be conducted virtually if agreed upon between individual families and the lesson teacher. All district guidelines will continue to be adhered to.



- Off-campus fine arts performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g., NYOS, TEA, Austin Public Health)
- Concerts/performances will be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g., NYOS, TEA, Austin Public Health) including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.
- All fine arts performances will be streamed online when possible.

Protocols for School Wide Events/Activities

- Campuses are prohibited from planning large attendance events such as all-school assemblies, parties, socials, pep rallies, etc. that bring large groups of students together at one time until further notice.
- Administration will follow TEA, CDC, and Austin Public Health guidelines in regards to games and practices.
- Any school-wide events that are approved to be held on campus must adhere to requirements outlined by NYOS, TEA, CDC, and Austin Public Health. (Examples: grade level pep rallies, assemblies, performances, etc.) Some athletic events may be live streamed and/or occur virtually when possible.
- To limit larger gatherings, campus club meetings will be held virtually. If a meeting in-person is required, groups will utilize larger meeting spaces or multiple meeting opportunities will be provided.
- PTA must collaborate with and seek approval from campus/district administration prior to any event that is planned.

Protocols for On/Off Campus Activities & Field Trips

On-Campus Activities

- No in-person assemblies will be held in the fall.
- Meet the teacher, open house, parent conferences, etc. will be held virtually.
- Parents will be allowed to attend class parties and performances virtually.

Field Trips

- Off-campus field trips will be scheduled as appropriate to meet curricular needs while maintaining proper social distancing practices.
- Virtual field trips will be planned as often as possible.

Off-Campus Activities

- Campuses will limit students from leaving campus after school prior to travel or start of extra-curricular or co-curricular activities when possible.
- Student participation in academic contests (Science Olympiad, Robotics, etc.) will only be attended if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g., Host site, NYOS, TEA, UIL, etc.).



Protocols for Hallways & Lockers

Elementary

- Students are encouraged to observe and follow school hall traffic flow directions while maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.
- In two-way halls students are expected to stay to the far right of the hall when walking.
- Students will be routed outside whenever possible during transitions.

Secondary

- Visual markers will be developed to help students maintain physical distances and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separates individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Students are required to immediately report to their next area (cafeteria, gym, Media Center, etc.) and not congregate in the hallway.
- Students will not be assigned a locker. Students will be permitted to bring backpacks to class.
- For grade levels that implement departmentalization of subject areas, teachers will move to students for transitions in instruction and students will remain in their homeroom class.
- Students and staff must wear face coverings in the halls and avoid gathering in large groups during passing periods.

Protocols for Emergencies and Drills

NYOS will continue to follow the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and its emergency actions of Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter.

Emergency Evacuation Protocols

Administration will continue to implement drills and protocols as defined by the Texas School Safety Center. The TXSSC has modified some drills and protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social distancing will be encouraged but not required during an actual emergency such as a fire, lockdown, shelter for dangerous weather, evacuation, etc. Masks will be required.



APPENDIX A

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following from [Austin Public Health Interim Guidance on Reopening for Austin-Travis County Schools](#):

- Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?
- Fever (temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit when taken by mouth)
- Chills
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for persons with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New severe headache, especially with a fever
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain



APPENDIX B

Conditions for Re-entry

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.



APPENDIX C

Close Contact

The NYOS plan refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b) being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;
- c) if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.



Appendix D

NYOS Athletics

- Similar to summer strength and conditioning activities, practices and contests will follow protocols established by TAI AO, TEA and NYOS. In-season and off-season activities will follow the most current guidelines available.
- Coaches will provide an orientation of protocols and expectations for students at the beginning of their respective season(s).
- Specific entrances and exits of athletic facilities will be utilized by students for appropriate separation and distancing. Signage will serve as a visual cue and reminder for students.
- Athletic equipment and uniforms will be issued to athletes. These items will be taken home each day. Uniforms will be laundered at home.
- Equipment used during practices will be sanitized frequently during practice sessions.
- Athletic areas will be frequently disinfected during the day.
- Athletes will not be allowed to socially congregate before, during, or after practices/workouts.
- Attendance at scrimmages and games for spectators is yet to be determined and will be communicated as this information becomes available from the TAI AO and/or TEA. This may also impact ticket sales and seating configurations.
- Parents and students must provide timely notification of any health concerns to their coach and athletic trainer (if applicable). Communication, quarantine, and proper disinfecting will occur in the event of a confirmed diagnosis.
- Athletes must bring their own reusable water bottle clearly marked with their name. Sharing of water or sports drinks will not be allowed at any time. Athletes should bring a personal towel to wipe perspiration.

Cheer

- Practices and performances will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from NYOS and TEA. This will include COVID-19 screening, group sizes, sharing & sanitizing of equipment, etc.
- Students must maintain social distancing and avoid congregating in groups.
- Students must wash or sanitize hands before and after practices, games, or events.
- Cheer students must bring their own water bottle and towel to wipe perspiration.
- Cheer students will not share equipment/props (i.e. pom poms, megaphones, etc.)
- Students will be required to wear a face mask.

Links to leagues and resources for guidance

- [TAIAO](#) and TAI AO [Message from Steering Committee re: COVID-19](#)
- [TCSAAL](#)
- [UIL](#)

