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## E.A. Young Academy COVID-19 Guide

This is a dynamic document and may be revised as new information emerges

### Overview

Since early 2020, E.A. Young Academy's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been working to evaluate the various guidelines relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ERT continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within our community, as well as continuously absorb current and emerging data.

E.A. Young Academy is a school that follows the science, and we will continue to work hard to enact measures that best protect our immediate community while maintaining the fidelity of our mission.

To that end, we are guided by the following understandings:

- Children learn best in-person, and when they feel physically and emotionally safe
- It is our ethical, civic, and institutional responsibility to protect those who are most at risk
- Masks, vaccines, and common sense are the best tools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- Transmission of COVID-19 is largely airborne
- Science evolves, as do responses and policies

E.A. Young Academy supports and utilizes the guidance from, yet not limited to:

- Johns Hopkins School of Education
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The Tarrant County Health Department
- Texas Private Schools Association
- Texas Health and Human Services
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Peer reviewed scientific literature regarding evolving COVID-19 and its sequelae.

### Preventative Practices

It is important to understand that individuals with COVID-19 can spread the virus both before and after they exhibit symptoms.

**Individuals who are exhibiting unexplained COVID-like symptoms are not allowed on campus.** These symptoms include:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature of 100° F or higher
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting



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If a scholar demonstrates any of the above, they must stay home, and parents must report to E.A. Young Academy administration the signs or symptoms which are being exhibited.

As always, if a scholar has a fever (regardless of cause), they must be kept home from school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Additionally, vomiting and diarrhea are now symptoms of COVID-19. If your child has vomited or had diarrhea during the last 24 hours, no matter what you may think the cause may be, keep them home. Please contact your physician to discuss further, and to clear your child to return to school. The child may not return to school until it has been 24 hours since their last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

If your child experiences chronic issues resembling COVID-19 symptoms (for example, seasonal allergies), expect increased communication from E.A. Young Academy staff to determine how to best differentiate these symptoms from COVID-19 symptoms. We will err on the side of caution and work under the assumption that symptoms are indicative of COVID-19 until determined otherwise.

## Safety Measures

### Masking

- All humans, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask while indoors, as appropriate.
- Scholars should bring and use their own mask that meets the minimum CDC requirements. It would be a good idea for scholars to have a backup mask or two in their backpack as well.
- If needed, E.A. Young Academy will provide masks for those without.
- At this time, scholars, faculty, and staff may choose to not wear a mask while outdoors.

### Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Vehicles should enter the school driveway using the north entrance (near the Aldi parking lot or AT&T store) and then proceed to the top of the hill, where a faculty member will greet them.
- Drivers will remain in their vehicles, and scholars must be masked prior to exiting.
- The same traffic pattern will be used during dismissal, and a faculty member will guide scholars to their vehicles.
- All drivers are to remain in their cars during drop-off and pick-up.

### Visitors on Campus

- Visitors, including parents, will be limited and must be pre-approved except in emergent cases.
- All visitors are subject to the same prevention and safety policies as apply to the immediate school community

### Appointments and Checking a Scholar Out of School

- Prior notification of checking a scholar off campus during the school day is required. Scholars will be escorted to their car by a staff person as to limit access of visitors on campus.

### Lunch

- Lunch will occur outside whenever possible & appropriate.
- Parents will not be able to join their scholars for lunch at this time.



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### Special Events

- There may be limited opportunities for specially designed outdoor events and activities. For these events, there will be specific COVID-19 guidelines and criteria that are communicated ahead of the event.

### Instructional Spaces

- Classroom capacities will be closely monitored and aligned with safety measures.
- All indoor spaces have disinfecting surface wipes, hand sanitizer and tissues.
- All classrooms will have individual hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for each scholar.
- Water fountains are not available at this time. Scholars should bring their own, labeled water bottles.

### Ventilation

- Our building's HVAC system is robust and uses a return air system to continuously exchange our indoor air.
- Classroom external doors will be allowed to remain open, when feasible.

## Protocols for Individuals Confirmed, Suspected, or Exposed to COVID-19

### Isolation Procedures:

During the school day, scholars and faculty presenting with any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to the front office for evaluation.

Scholars and faculty who display COVID-like symptoms will be sent home and must either obtain a COVID test (NAAT) or an alternative diagnosis from their physician. Parents should plan accordingly and have a responsible adult who is willing and available to pick up their child and on the emergency contact list. Individuals are then cleared to return to campus when the following criteria have been met:

- The NAAT test returns a negative result; AND symptoms have improved; AND fever, diarrhea, and vomiting free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- or --
- The individual receives an alternative diagnosis and return-to-school release from their physician; AND the individual has been fever, diarrhea, and vomiting free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- or --
- 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms; AND symptom severity has improved over time; AND a negative COVID test (NAAT) result from no earlier than Day 8 of their quarantine has been obtained

**If the individual tests positive for COVID, refer to the following section, "Individuals Who Test Positive"**

### Individuals Who Test Positive

Any form of positive test will result in a minimum 10-day isolation period from school. **Families must inform the school immediately if their scholar tests positive.** Individuals who test positive may only return to campus when all the following are met:

- 10 days out from the positive test, AND
- Fever, diarrhea, and vomiting free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, AND
- Symptoms have improved



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### Notification and Contact Tracing

If an individual who has been on campus is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify the Tarrant County 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).

Consistent with school notification requirements set forth for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, the academy will notify all faculty, and families of all scholars if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among scholars or faculty members who participate in any on campus activities.

### Close Contacts

Definitions:

- On campus, due to the dynamic nature of our classes, the quirks of our class schedule, and the physical constraints and design of our spaces, the school will consider all students rostered together in any individual class section as close contacts.
- In all cases, beyond campus, family members and/or individuals who live within the same household as a COVID-positive individual must remain off campus until at least 10 days have passed since the household member's positive test, no COVID-like symptoms have been observed, and a negative COVID test result has been obtained on no earlier than Day 8 of quarantine

If a scholar, faculty, or staff member is deemed to come in close contact with a test-confirmed case of COVID-19 at school, they will be contacted. Additionally, all close contacts will receive written notice regarding instructions for self-quarantine and requirements that must be met prior to returning to school. The confidentiality for the individual who tests positive will be maintained. **If a scholar, faculty, or staff member is found to have come into contact with a COVID-positive individual outside of school, they are required to immediately notify the administration.**

#### Unvaccinated & Partially Vaccinated Close Contacts

Must remain off campus until:

- At least 10 days have passed since exposure, AND
- No COVID-like symptoms have been observed, AND
- A negative COVID test result has been obtained on no earlier than Day 8 of quarantine

#### Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts

Individuals are only considered fully vaccinated if they:

- Have been boosted
- or--
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months
- or--
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

Fully-vaccinated individuals who have provided the School with proof of vaccination, as well as individuals who are within 90 days of a previous COVID infection, do not need to quarantine upon identification as a close contact, as long as they do not have any symptoms.

Fully vaccinated individuals are encouraged to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they don't have symptoms.



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### **Instruction While Quarantined**

In situations where students are unable to attend classes on campus due to either infection or exposure, we will make our best effort to help scholars maintain academic momentum and progress. We will attempt to use our smaller class sizes to our advantage to remain nimble. Individual situations may warrant different approaches, yet, as a rule of thumb:

Classes in which the majority (or totality) of students must remain home:

- Due to their inability to get vaccinated, and in accordance with our Close Contact policies described above, a positive COVID test result among students in grades Pre-K through 5/6 will likely result in entire class sections needing to stay off campus for at least 10 days.
- In this situation, classes instruction will likely switch to be completely synchronous and remote (ie, live via Zoom)

Classes in which a single or limited number of students must remain home:

- This is the scenario that will likely play out among our students that are over 12 years old, as the vast majority are fully vaccinated.
- In this situation, instruction will continue on-campus as usual for students that don't need to quarantine.
- For students who must remain at home, instruction will be asynchronous. Core academic teachers will remain in contact with at-home students via email, Teams, etc. to provide assignments.
- Homeroom Advisors will schedule a daily live (Zoom) check-in to guide at-home students and answer questions.

Due to the structure and design of our school, there are likely to be edge cases, especially for students in classes with scholars just around 12 years old (because of vaccine availability). While the above are general guidelines, we will approach any quarantine situations on a case-by-case basis and work diligently to provide the best opportunities for all scholars.

**Parents of Scholars:**

These policies, procedures, and regulations are binding and a continuing condition of enrollment at E.A. Young Academy. E.A. Young Academy reserves the right to not only meet but exceed COVID-19 prevention, mitigation, and quarantine expectations to the extent allowable by law.