

TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY

Arts & Technology Charter School

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PLAN FOR RETURNING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL

This plan is designed, to help protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff and prevent and/or slow the spread of COVID-19. We will collaborate with state and local Health Officials, as well as refer to CDC Guidelines and Recommendations, and take into consideration all the needs and considerations of the local community. Enforcement will be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the community, students, teachers, staff, and administration.

CDC Guidelines and recommendations will be used as a reference and a copy of which will be attached to this plan. The plan will be updated and kept current as new information is released by local and state Health Officials and the CDC, as it applies to all state, local, and federal laws.

Cleaning and Disinfection: The school will be thoroughly disinfected before the return of any students, teachers, administrators, or staff. This will include all classroom furniture, i.e., blackboards', desks, chairs, tables, as well as playground equipment, toys, games, art supplies, and any other shared supplies not named.

The school will supply and keep an adequate supply of FDA approved disinfectant, cleaning supplies such as soap, toilet tissue, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.

After the return of the students, faculty, and staff, the building will be cleaned and thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day. If students change classes the classrooms will be cleaned between classes.

All water fountains will not be available for use. Parents will be encouraged to send students to school with their own personal water bottles if possible. Student's names must be on the water bottle and any other personal items brought with them to school to prevent cross-contamination.

Food Service: If at all possible, have students bring their own food, and encourage no sharing, no trading, or swapping of food or snacks. If meals are prepared at school, the kitchen and eating areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before school starts and after. Allow students to eat in classrooms to comply with and maintain social distancing guidelines as mandated by local and state officials. If meals are prepared at the school, use individual meals if feasible, if not use disposable dishes and utensils. Foodservice workers should wear masks and gloves while preparing and servicing meals and/or snacks. Gloves and masks should be worn also when picking up used dishes and utensils.

Office Staff: To assist with staff protection, provide physical barriers (if possible) at the front office. Place tape on the floor 6 feet apart to make sure, students, staff, and visitors remain 6 feet apart. If more than one person works in the office, barriers should be placed between their desks. If the office has two doors designate one as the entrance and one as the exit.

Campus Visitors: Limit any non-essential visitors, or volunteers.

Public Area: Signs will be posted at all entrances, restrooms, and other visible location, promoting and describing protective measures that stop the spread of infection such as proper handwashing using soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available, and wearing cloth face

coverings. Since sinks in the bathroom are stationary, barriers will be placed between sinks to maintain social distancing. Toilet tissue, soap, and paper towels will be available at all times in bathrooms.

Staff and Student Training: Before the return of students, all staff will be trained on safety protocols, i.e., wearing a mask, face coverings, gloves, handwashing procedures, social distancing, and communication between students, parents, staff, and administration. A designated staff personnel will be identified who will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All personnel will know if and who high-risk students are. Last but not least: **If you are sick stay home.**

Protocol: CDC Guidelines of handwashing, face covering, social distancing, (gloves when applicable) must be followed and will be strictly enforced at Texas Empowerment Academy not excluding, students, faculty, administrators, visitors, and volunteers.

Temperatures of all students, teachers, administrators, staff, volunteers, or visitors will be taken each day before the beginning of work. Any student, teacher, administrator, staff, volunteer, or visitor, with a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or above will not be allowed to enter the building. No one will be allowed to return to school or work until their temperature is 99 degrees or below for three consecutive days without any analgesia or fever-reducing medication. If any other symptoms are present, i.e., cough, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, and pain, the student and faculty member will not be allowed to return back to school unless cleared by a physician.

Protocol for Temperature Testing: Health professionals will be provided with a list of staff and students at the beginning of each week. Staff will arrive half an hour before students for a temperature check and clearance to enter the building. Student arrival will be staggered by grades to allow for temperature checks and to limit contact with other students and/or parents.

Students: Before a student can be dropped off for school, they will be required to have their temperature taken. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or above, they will not be allowed to enter the school nor allowed to return to school until their temperature is 99 degrees F or below for three consecutive days without any analgesia or fever-reducing medication. If any other symptoms are present, i.e., cough, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, and pain, the student will not be allowed to return to school until cleared by a physician.

Teachers, administrators, staff, volunteers, and visitors: Before entering the building for work, as a volunteer, or visitor, you will be required to have your temperature taken. If you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or above, they will not be allowed to enter the school nor allowed to return until their temperature is 99 degrees F or below for three consecutive days without any analgesia or fever-reducing medication. If any other symptoms are present, i.e., cough, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, and pain, the faculty member will not be allowed to return to school until cleared by a physician.

Isolation Plan: If a teacher, staff, or administrator, becomes ill during the school day and meet the criteria for dismissal from school they should leave campus immediately and seek medical attention. If a student becomes ill during the school day and meet the criteria for dismissal and has no immediate way to leave campus, they will be isolated in the designated isolation area until such time they can be picked up by a parent, guardian, or person listed as an emergency contact.

If transportation to a health care facility is needed, emergency personnel should be notified of symptoms when the call is made.

After the isolation area is clear it should be closed off for 24 hours before cleaning if possible. If 24 hours is not possible, hold off cleaning for as long as possible. After the area is cleaned, open windows if possible, to allow for ventilation and circulation of fresh air into the area. Again, make sure you are using an approved FDA disinfectant agent. Ensure all cleaning and disinfectant products are stored out of the reach of all students.

Notification to Health Officials: If a student, teacher, staff, or administrator test positive for COVID-19, the local Health Officials, staff, and families must be notified immediately while maintaining confidentiality by the American with Disabilities Act. Anyone in close contact with the person diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor for symptoms of the disease as outlined in the CDC Guidelines. They cannot return to school or work until the CDC Guidelines for clearance have been met.

Backup Staffing Plan: Monitor student's and employee's absenteeism via the student and employee daily temperature check-in sheet. Cross-train as many staff as possible and have a roster of trained back up staff.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Any students who have disabilities will receive the needed accommodations to ensure their safety while they are on campus or attending any campus-related events.

COVID-19 Vaccinations • TxEA promotes/coordinates with outside agencies to provide vaccination clinics for staff, students and the community.

COVID Testing • TxEA provides COVID-19 testing opportunities for students and staff during the school day.