

COVID Safety Plan 22-23

UPDATED 8-23-2021 (H. Piles)

UPDATED 1-10-2022 (H. Piles)

UPDATED 1-18-2022 (H. Piles)

UPDATED 08-08-2022

UPDATED 08-24-2022

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. They provide safe and supportive learning environments for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to critical services, and improve life outcomes. They also employ people and enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. Though COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within school settings, when multiple prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than – or similar to – community transmission levels. CDC’s science brief on [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs](#) summarizes evidence on COVID-19 among children and adolescents and what is known about preventing transmission in schools.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risks of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps Natalia ISD can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. The District is implementing procedures to attempt to mitigate and control the spread of COVID-19. However, this document is subject to revision as guidance to districts is updated. If you have a specific concern regarding COVID-19, please contact one of the following:

Natalia High School	Mr. Lee Myers	Principal
Natalia Junior High School	Mr. Adam Martinez	Principal
ECC and Natalia Elem.	Dr. Moreno-Hewitt	Principal
Natalia ISD	Mr. Harry Piles	Superintendent

Masks

Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38. School systems must allow individuals (students and staff) to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Prevention of COVID-19

Vaccination is the best tool we have to protect people and communities from COVID-19. Since the COVID-19 vaccination began, nearly all Texas COVID-19 deaths are among people not fully vaccinated.

You are fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose of a two-dose vaccine. Or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine.







Like any vaccine, COVID-19 vaccines do not stop 100% of cases. But fully vaccinated people are less likely to be infected. They are also better protected from severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

We will provide COVID-19 testing using rapid tests upon request for symptomatic individuals. With prior written permission of parents, testing will be conducted with students (contact will also be performed before testing, even with a signed consent form on file).

Masks Protect Everyone. CDC recently updated its mask [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#) and when they should get tested.

Wearing a mask in indoor public spaces, regardless of your vaccination status, can help protect you and everyone close to you. State and [CDC mask recommendations](#) are available for [schools](#), [public transportation](#), and [healthcare settings](#).

Take the precautions below to protect yourself and others from infection and illness.

 Wash hands with soap and water	 Wear a face covering	 Cover coughs and sneezes
 Avoid touching face	 Disinfect often touched surfaces	 Practice social distancing

Student, Staff, and Visitor Self-Screening

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, initial monitoring of symptoms begins at home. All Students, staff, and visitors should stay home, go home, and/or seek medical care if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills (Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher)
- New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

Visitors will be welcome during planned academic and extracurricular activities/events. However, visitors will not be allowed to eat with their child/ren during breakfast or lunch.

Students may bring a lunch; however, no outside food for student lunches will be accepted during the school day.

On-Campus Identification of COVID-19 Cases

When a student, staff member, or teacher is identified as exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, the following steps will be implemented:

1. School health staff will provide a clinical assessment to determine if a student is experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness (COVID-19, flu, strep throat, etc.), and whether the student will need to be sent home.
2. Any student who shows possible contagious symptoms which require them to leave school will be separated and isolated until the student can be picked up by a parent/guardian or designated emergency contact(s).
3. Any staff member or teacher will be asked to leave the campus and a substitute or other staff member will be assigned to the class.
4. All areas used by the individual who exhibited COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) will be cleaned as soon as possible.
5. Individuals (students and staff) must not attend school if they meet any of the following conditions:
 - Received a positive test for COVID 19
 - You are symptomatic and pending a COVID 19 test result

Based on recent updates from the CDC, individuals may return when:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and *fever-free, (A fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher) and other symptoms have improved (return on day 6).
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive (return on day 6).

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual and are in one of the following groups, do not need to stay at home.

- Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
 - Was confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and has fully recovered.
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The District will continue to report any individuals with COVID-19 who were present on a school campus to the designated state and local authorities.

We will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom, extracurricular, or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

Note - Natalia ISD does not offer remote learning. Student absences due to Covid-19 will follow standard make-up work policy.

Close Contacts

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. As a reference, close contact determinations are generally based on guidance outlined by the CDC, which notes that individuals who are vaccinated are not considered close contacts. In general, close contact is defined as:

1. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
2. being within 3 to 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes or more throughout the course of a day. The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time.

- Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may **opt** to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. Parents who opt to send their children to school in the two weeks following exposure are encouraged to closely monitor their children for symptoms. **This is NOT required.**
 - The stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 6 after close contact exposure if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed.
 - Alternatively, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends (recommended testing date is day 3 or later after exposure).
 - If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system should notify the student’s parents.
 - For staff who meet the close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, if these staff continue to work on campus, they must monitor for symptoms, and test as needed (recommended day 3 or later).
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School Readmission criteria for COVID-19

If symptomatic, stay home at least 5 days from symptom onset, fever-free*, and other symptoms have improved. Young children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested (and can return on day 11).

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (Examples: Tylenol/ Motrin/ Ibuprofen/ Acetaminophen). Fever is a temperature of **100°** Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

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

General operational mitigation practices that will be implemented include:

1. Hand sanitizer will be available for building entrances and in classrooms.
 2. All students will be taught handwashing techniques and will be encouraged to frequently wash their hands.
 3. Teachers will wipe down desks regularly.
 4. Custodial staff will wipe down surfaces, including counters and doorknobs.
 5. Deep sanitizing weekly.
 6. Students will not share supplies, electronic devices, or food.
 7. Until further notice, classrooms will be void of cushions, carpets, and other “soft” items.
 8. When possible windows will be opened to increase airflow.
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UIL/Extracurricular Activities

Please visit the [University Interscholastic League \(UIL\)](https://www.uil.org/) website for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding UIL/Extracurricular activities.

CDC RESOURCES

Positive individuals:

English

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/your-health/QI-Guidance-Isolation.pdf>

Español

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/your-health/QI-Guidance-Isolation-Spanish.pdf>