



Department of Public Health



MAYOR
Oscar Leoser

HEALTH AUTHORITY COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022)

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

UPDATED November 15, 2021

District 2
Alexandra Annello

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is the Local Health Authority (LHA) and leading agency in the local pandemic response. It provides guidance and support on issues such as Isolation and Quarantine (I&Q), close contact definitions, contact tracing, and other public health tools and interventions.

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

Recommendations for K-12 schools will continue to be updated as necessary due to the fluidity and changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic; updates are based on careful analysis of available local pandemic data.

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

Students

All COVID-19 positive students (PCR or antigen test confirmed) are required to isolate for a minimum of ten days from onset of symptoms, or for ten days from date of specimen collection, if asymptomatic. Schools should follow their protocol to continue notifying parents of exposures to COVID-19 positive cases.

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

Students may be allowed to return to school if:

- They have completed ten days of isolation, and;
- They have been afebrile for at least twenty-four hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and;
- Symptoms have improved.

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

High risk/close contact (close contact is someone within 6 feet for more than 15 min. cumulative in a day) as determined by exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual, should be tested 3-5 days after exposure if asymptomatic.

High risk contacts that develop symptoms should be tested at the onset of symptoms and sent home. They may only be allowed to return to school if:

- Result from COVID-19 test is negative, and;
- Afebrile for >24 hrs without the use of fever reducing medications and;
- Symptoms have improved.

Angela Mora – Director
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Department of Public Health



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School Nurses are encouraged to continue to monitor students for symptoms after contact with a COVID-19 positive case for 10 days after exposure. Testing of symptomatic students/teachers and exclusion from school attendance is required.

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

DPH recommends a quarantine period of ten days for all unvaccinated students, teachers and staff who are identified as a high risk/close contact of a positive COVID-19 individual regardless of whether or not they have symptoms. If any of these contacts become symptomatic, they should be excluded from attending school and be tested for COVID-19.

District 2

Alexandra Anello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

Student athletes identified as high-risk contacts of a positive COVID-19 case, who are not fully vaccinated, should be tested 3-5 days after exposure if asymptomatic, be placed under quarantine and excluded from athletic activities (i.e. games, practice) for the duration of the 10-day quarantine period and monitored for symptoms.

District 4

Joe Molinar

District 5

Isabel Salcido

Student athletes not fully vaccinated should be tested before games and before traveling to out-of-town games/matches. Symptomatic student athletes should be tested at the onset of symptoms, and not allowed to participate in athletic activities until:

District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

- Receiving a negative COVID-19 test result, and;
- Have been afebrile for >24 hrs without the use of fever reducing medications, and;
- Symptoms have improved.

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

Student athletes who test positive for COVID-19 must follow current isolation guidelines and be cleared by their medical professional to start Return to Play Protocol after COVID-19 (published on epstrong.org)

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Classrooms or sports teams with multiple confirmed cases:

If multiple cases are identified in a classroom or sports team, school nurse and school administration should notify DPH/LHA and refer to the document “Guidance on School Closure for In-Person Instruction” for decision thresholds for closing a classroom, or suspend a sports team.

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