

EVIT Reopening Plan for 2021-22

Preparation, Protocols and Personal Responsibility

In preparation for students returning to school, EVIT employees are being trained in safety protocols that will be required of all students and staff – hand-washing, sanitization of desks and classrooms, safe distancing, and where everyone should enter and exit campus buildings each day. Signs directing buses and students to their entrances/exits are being posted on the Main and Power campuses. Students and staff are not required to wear masks at EVIT, although they may wear a mask if they wish to do so. EVIT staff and students also are not required to have COVID-19 vaccinations.

Safety for each school day starts at home. All EVIT students and staff will be required to do a self-check before they come to school for any possible COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who does not feel well is **REQUIRED** to stay home and notify EVIT. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

To help discourage students and staff from coming to school when they are ill, EVIT is cancelling its annual perfect attendance car giveaway for students and perfect attendance bonus for staff for the 2021-22 school year.

The Main and Power campuses each have health aides. If a student shows up for class and has symptoms of COVID-19, the instructor will send the student to the health aide, who will escort the student to a designated area where parents can be contacted to pick up their student. **Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine.** They can return to school after Day 5 of their quarantine if they have a negative COVID-19 test and have been symptom-free for 24 hours, or they can return on Day 14 of their quarantine.

When EVIT has a confirmed case of COVID-19, two communications to students and parents will occur:

- EVIT will notify via email all students and their parents in a class in which a student has tested positive for COVID-19.
- EVIT health aides will contact the parents of the students who were exposed based on CDC guidelines for determining exposure.

Only confirmed cases of COVID-19 are required to quarantine. Parents of other students will decide if quarantining is in the best interest of their student and family. This is in keeping with guidance from Gov. Doug Ducey that parents are the sole decision-makers regarding the health of their children. Exposed students will be excused from school if their parents decide they should quarantine.

EVIT does not require COVID-19 vaccinations and will not treat unvaccinated students any differently than those who are vaccinated.

EVIT will follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control in determining who has been exposed to COVID-19. The CDC says people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine – excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes

or more, providing direct care at home to someone with COVID-19, having direct physical contact with the infected person, sharing eating or drinking utensils used by the infected person, or if the infected person sneezed, coughed or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. For more information on CDC quarantine guidelines, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Procedures and Protocols for EVIT Staff and Students

To ensure a safe learning environment, EVIT will continue to follow modified safeguards that were put in place in 2020-21, based on guidance from the CDC and Gov. Ducey.

Teachers, staff and students will be responsible for:

- Maintaining more than 3 feet distance between themselves and others. Classrooms at Main and Power campuses will be organized so that there is more than 3 feet between desks. Additional staff have been hired to accommodate additional classrooms due to spreading out desks.
- Wearing disposable gloves when touching common equipment and tools. EVIT will provide the gloves.
- Regularly washing their hands and using hand sanitizer provided by EVIT.

Teachers and staff are being trained in the safety protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting, and other measures.

Acknowledgement of Safety Procedures

EVIT employees will be required to sign a form acknowledging EVIT's safety procedures and agreeing to abide by them.

Transportation and On-Campus Protocols

EVIT will continue to use procedures from 2020-21 for how students enter campus buildings to reduce their contact with other students. EVIT will send students and school district transportation offices maps and directions prior to the start of classes on Aug. 2. EVIT staff will closely monitor students as they arrive and depart campus to ensure they are maintaining more than 3 feet distance from each other.

Instructional aides as well as other designated staff will be assigned to entrance and parking lot duty as needed.

Students will be coached by their teacher on how to enter and exit the campus and buildings during the first week of school.

Students and staff are expected to use hand sanitizer upon entering each building. Stations will be provided for each entrance. Students are expected to go straight to class upon arrival. Students are expected to stay in class. Teachers should only allow one student at a time to go to the restroom.

Personal Responsibility

Every EVIT school day in the 2021-22 year starts at home with each student and each staff member doing a self-check for COVID-19 symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control, people who are infected with COVID-19 can have a wide range of symptoms, from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. EVIT staff and students should check for these symptoms (unrelated to a known chronic condition, e.g., asthma or allergies) every morning:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

A self-checker on the CDC website can help you make decisions about seeking health care:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

All EVIT students and staff members are **REQUIRED** to stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms or do not feel well.

Reporting Absences Due to COVID-19

EVIT students who will not be coming to school due to COVID-19, should alert attendance clerks that they will be absent due to symptoms of COVID-19; the attendance clerks will report this to the campus health aide.

Cohorting and Safe Distancing

While on campus, EVIT students and employees should remain in their assigned buildings as much as possible to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by asymptomatic carriers.

Important Reminders

In summary:

- 1) Students and staff do a self-check every day to ensure they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and are feeling well before coming to school.
- 2) Students and staff who have symptoms or do not feel well stay at home and notify EVIT.
- 3) Students and staff follow all safety protocols while on campus. This includes ~~wearing a mask,~~ practicing safe distancing, washing hands regularly, and sanitizing their desks and personal work space. Teachers, staff and students will be shown how to do this.
- 4) Students and bus drivers follow drop-off/pick-up maps and directions for where to enter/exit the buildings on campus. Maps and directions will be sent to students and bus drivers before our campuses reopen.
- 5) Students and staff stay in their assigned buildings as much as possible.

At EVIT, we change lives by loving our students and serving our community. This will continue if we all work together to stay safe and healthy. Remember: Personal responsibility is key.