



Reopening EVIT and Returning to Hands-On Learning 2020-21



Reopening EVIT - 2020-21

A return to on-campus learning



Dr. Chad Wilson
EVIT Superintendent

EVIT Governing Board

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Clerk Shelli Boggs
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Robert Covington
Lynn Burnham
David Lane
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**View Dr. Wilson's
"Love Defeats Fear"
video message to EVIT staff:**

<https://youtu.be/i5-p3paW8KU>

To our EVIT community:

When we look back at 2020, what will we remember? Certainly, the tragedy of so many lives lost to COVID-19. But also, it's been a time that's taught us what's essential – family, community, compassion, and grace. The professionals working in the trades who keep America going. Nurses and health-care technicians, builders and welders, mechanics and so many more. These are professions for which the East Valley Institute of Technology prepares high school students and adults through hands-on, lab-focused training.

It is important that we not lose sight of what makes us who we are. At EVIT, we change lives by loving our students and serving our community. We do this best by providing students with what they cannot get at their high school: Two to four hours of hands-on career training every day for one to two years. Training that can only be accomplished on campus – but that must be done with the safety of our students, teachers and staff being paramount.

To that end, our staff has been working diligently on protocols to help protect those on campus from contracting COVID-19. We cannot guarantee that our campuses will be 100 percent safe. No campus in Arizona or anywhere else is going to be 100 percent safe. But we can guarantee our parents, students and employees that we are making every effort to hear their concerns and do what we can to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus. Why? Because we love our students as though they are our own children. Over the past 18 months, EVIT has faced many changes and overcome many challenges. Through it all, I have watched as love for our students drove our staff to persevere and keep our students as the number one priority. Quite simply, love defeated fear.

This is going to be a school year that challenges us in ways we have never experienced. It will require everyone – parents and students as well as staff – to be personally responsible for checking their health, following safety protocols and staying home when they don't feel well. But I am confident that our EVIT community is up to the task because we know how important it is for students to return to school. We know how important it is to give our young people every chance to succeed, and how important it is to build Arizona's workforce of essential workers. We are not afraid to try and to try again if something doesn't work. COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives but it doesn't change the fact that at EVIT, we change lives. It doesn't change the fact that we love our students – and that love will always defeat fear.

Sincerely,

EVIT Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson

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Reopening Schedule for EVIT Main and East Campuses

- **Aug. 3-6**
Staff will be trained in safety protocols, create online lesson plans and communicate with students.
- **Aug. 10-14**
Online instruction.
- **Aug. 17**
Students return to EVIT campuses for in-person, hands-on training.

NOTE: Students participating in EVIT programs in Apache Junction and Fountain Hills will follow schedules and safety protocols established by the Apache Junction and Fountain Hills school districts.

Governor's Executive Order for Reopening Schools

As required by Gov. Doug Ducey, State and County health officials and the Arizona Department of Education are expected to release guidelines by Aug. 7 for schools to consider in reopening schools.

Read the governor's executive order: https://azgovernor.gov/sites/default/files/executive_order_2020-51.pdf

Partnership with Adelante Healthcare

Adelante Healthcare, which operates a clinic on the EVIT Main Campus, is partnering with EVIT to assist students and staff who become ill while on campus.



EVIT's Mission

- To change lives by loving our students and serving our community through hands-on education that prepares students for college, career and life.

Objectives for 2020-21

- Make EVIT's central campuses as safe as possible for students to return.
- Base safety protocols on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Education, Gov. Doug Ducey and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.
- Listen and respond to concerns of students, parents and staff.
- Communicate critical information and updates to students, parents, staff and community partners.
- Return instruction to the on-campus, hands-on training that students and parents expect.



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EVIT Leadership Team

Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson
Director of Legal Services Kevin Koelbel
Main Campus Principal Daniel Fisher
East Campus Principal John Corsaro
Health Programs & Adult Education Director Stephanie Bondeson
Assistant Principal Dana Kuhn
Facilities Director Mark Howard
Business Manager Edith Perez
Information Systems Director Carlos Sanchez
Public Information Officer CeCe Todd
Director of Business & Development Mark Yockus

Safety Assignments

Public Information Officer CeCe Todd: Prepare communications to students, parents and staff regarding COVID-19 and the reopening of EVIT.

Facilities Director Mark Howard: Ensure that each EVIT campus has safety equipment and supplies and coordinate with maintenance staff and janitorial vendor to ensure campuses are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected throughout the day

Main Campus Principal Daniel Fisher & East Campus Principal John Corsaro: Monitor campuses to ensure that students and staff are following safety protocols, including wearing masks and following safe distancing guidelines.

STEPS Personnel: Work with EVIT counselors and principals to ensure the needs of students with disabilities are being met..

Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson: Monitor all reports of COVID-19 symptoms and illness among students and staff.



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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, including wearing masks – as ordered by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors – 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 East campuses.

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. Anyone who is living with someone with COVID-19 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 2020-21 school year.

Health aides are being hired for the Main and East campuses. 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. Teachers, staff and students who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case will be sent home to quarantine for 14 days, as recommended by Maricopa County Public Health. A positive exposure is defined as an individual being less than 6 feet from a confirmed case for more than 10 minutes. This is why it is crucial that all students and staff do a health self-check **BEFORE** coming to the campus and stay home if they are ill.

Campus Visitors

No non-essential visitors will be permitted on EVIT campuses. This means there will be no school or public tours of our campuses or community events on campus until further notice.

Updates

Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson will update students, parents and staff of COVID-19 exposure, according to guidelines issued by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, as well as any changes to EVIT's timeline for reopening.



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Contracted Janitorial Services

EVIT will contract with a janitorial services provider for nightly cleaning and disinfecting services.

In the event of COVID-19 exposure on campus, the janitorial services provider will:

- Disinfect all exposed areas as directed by EVIT
- Clean the affected area with the appropriate chemical (as needed) and remove any build-up
- Disinfect the area again (as needed)
- Remove any additional disinfectant residue
- Use EPA-recommended chemicals in a Protexus Electrostatic sprayer

EVIT has hired three additional daytime employees (2 at Main and 1 at East) to operate Protexus and disinfect every classroom once a day in between AM and PM sessions. They will also disinfect all touchpoints on the campuses at least two times a day – while AM students are in class, and while PM students are in class. All EVIT employees and vendor staff are required to wear masks and gloves while disinfecting doorknobs, panic devices, restrooms, desks, tables, chairs and breakroom areas.

Facilities staff will be assigned daily schedules for increased cleaning of classrooms.

Students will use gloves when using lab equipment and any other shared items. When using gloves is not practical, students will disinfect lab equipment and any other shared items after each use.

Classroom Supplies

Each classroom will be supplied with a kit that includes sanitizer, gloves, disposable masks, disinfectant table wipes, paper towels, and spray bottles with disinfectant. Supplies will be replaced as needed.



**For more on our EVIT's
commitment to the safety of all
students & employees:**

<https://youtu.be/6jM1U3fnTto>

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Procedures and Protocols for EVIT Staff and Students

To ensure the safest learning environment possible, new safeguards have been put in place to meet and exceed the guidance/orders from the CDC, Gov. Ducey, and the Maricopa County Health Department.

Teachers, staff and students will be responsible for:

- Wearing masks, as required by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
- Maintaining 6 feet distance between themselves and others. Classrooms at Main and East have been reorganized to ensure desks are 6 feet apart, and additional staff have been hired to accommodate additional classrooms.
- 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 the week of Aug. 3 in the new safety protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting, and other measures.

Face Coverings

All students, staff and visitors will wear masks when on campus.

Safe places will be designated as needed for anyone needing to remove their mask. A safe place is anywhere social distancing can be maintained for the period of time the mask is removed. In most cases, a safe place should be available in the classroom or program area.

EVIT will provide a face shield to anyone with a health condition that precludes wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible.

EVIT's mask policy is a requirement of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

Acknowledgement of Safety Procedures

Students and staff will be required to sign forms at this link acknowledging EVIT's safety procedures and agreeing to abide by them:

Staff: [Acknowledgement of COVID-19 Risk](#)

Student: [Acknowledgement of COVID-19 Risk](#)



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Transportation & On-Campus Protocols

EVIT has changed 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 on-campus instruction on Aug. 17. EVIT staff will closely monitor students as they arrive and depart campus to ensure they are maintaining 6 feet distance and wearing masks.

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 online learning. 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. Breaks are to be done in the classroom. Teachers should only allow one student at a time to go to the restroom.



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Personal Responsibility

Every EVIT school day in the 2020-21 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. It is important to know that some people contract COVID-19 but have no symptoms. So even if a student or staff member has no symptoms and feels fine, they still are **REQUIRED** to stay home if they or anyone in their home has tested positive for COVID-19.

Students who are self-quarantining will be able to access daily content via video conference. Instructors who are self-quarantining will be asked to video conference into their classes daily to conduct their lessons. EVIT will assign an aide to be in the class with students. If the staff member is unable to video conference in, a substitute teacher will cover the class.

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 or exposure to COVID-19; the attendance clerks will report this to the campus health aide.

EVIT staff members who will not be coming to work due to COVID-19 symptoms or someone in their home being infected with COVID-19, will report their absence to their supervisor, who will notify EVIT Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson.



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. They should also avoid congregating with classmates and co-workers in common areas. **Everyone should have the mindset that every person they encounter on campus could potentially have COVID-19 and practice safe distancing.**

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Our Commitment to Safety

To ensure the safest learning environment possible, new safeguards have been put in place to meet and exceed the guidance/orders from the CDC, Gov. Ducey, and the Maricopa County Health Department. The mitigation strategies in use include a face covering requirement while on campus, all desks facing the same way, physical barriers where appropriate, 6 feet of social distancing, and utilizing additional classrooms where available or needed to ensure a safe learning environment.

EVIT has invested nearly \$900,000 so far to hire additional staff and purchase more supplies.

Every classroom will be supplied with a disinfecting kit to include disposable gloves, disposable masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray, paper towels, and disinfecting wipes.

Building entrances will have hand sanitizer available.

Because students must be spread out 6 feet from each other or as far apart as possible in every class, some classes will spill over into additional classrooms. EVIT has spent \$323,222 so far on additional instructional staff to cover those additional rooms, and plans to spend another \$303,205 on additional instructional staff prior to the start of on-campus instruction. With benefits, the total for additional personnel will come to approximately \$801,000.

So far, EVIT has spent an additional \$91,000 in cleaning and disinfecting services, supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE).



**For more on our EVIT's
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<https://youtu.be/6jM1U3fnTto>

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Important Reminders

In a survey of EVIT parents and students, 96 percent indicated they want to have in-person, on-campus learning. The EVIT Governing Board and staff also believe that EVIT students are best served on-campus doing the hands-on learning that allows them to practice the skills needed for their chosen career. But during the COVID-19 pandemic, this will only work if:

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 who may feel well, but have someone in their home with COVID-19 do NOT come to school and notify EVIT.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Students and staff stay in their assigned buildings as much as possible, avoid congregating with classmates and co-workers, and adopt a mindset that every person they encounter on campus could potentially have COVID-19 and practice safe distancing.

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:

Love defeats fear. Personal responsibility is key.





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CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP

