

# Poth ISD Health Protocols

## 2022-2023

### **Poth ISD Health Protocols as of August 11, 2022**

Poth ISD looks forward to beginning the school year on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The district will adhere to the following guidelines based on recommendations and requirements made by the Texas Education Agency. Please know that guidelines may change based on further guidance from TEA and local health authorities.

### **Masks**

Masks are optional for staff, students and visitors. According to Governor Greg Abbott's current executive order, school districts are prohibited from requiring anyone to wear a mask or face covering. We encourage all families and staff members to make the best decision for themselves regarding face coverings, and we expect all staff, students, and visitors to respect the choice of others.

### **Exclusion from School**

COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school.

- A school administrator **shall** exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19.
- Exclusion **shall** continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

### **COVID-19 Confirmed Positive Case**

Staff and students are required to notify the school if they are test-confirmed positive with COVID-19 and **must** quarantine for 5 days (even if symptom free).

- Positive students must have parents contact the district nurse.
- Positive staff must contact the district nurse and supervisor.
- An individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 must be excluded from campus and school-related activities for 5 days after the test date or symptom onset AND be symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of medications. The district nurse will determine the return date based on consultation with patient.

### **Students or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms**

Symptomatic students or staff should not report to campus/work.

- Students or staff experiencing symptoms should quarantine for 5 days **unless** they receive a negative test and contact the nurse prior to returning. Parents and staff are encouraged to seek medical attention if symptoms persist.

### **Contact Tracing, Close Contact and Communication with Parents**

Contact tracing is not required by TEA at this time. However, Poth ISD will notify parents if we know there is a close contact (i.e. Students are in the same classroom or on an athletic team with a student that has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test.)

- The school cannot require parents to quarantine students for close contact.
- Vaccinated individuals (or those that have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 3 months) are not considered close contacts according to TEA.
- Communication will be provided to families in a manner deemed appropriate by the district administration while protecting the confidentiality of individuals and their health information.
- If a parent chooses to quarantine their child, the child will be counted absent and all work must be made up according to guidelines. Absences count against required 90% attendance.

### **Return to School & Participation in Activities**

The return to school and participation in district activities for positive COVID-19 cases is as follows:

- If symptomatic, exclude until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset,
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications (fever is a temperature of 100 degrees or higher).
- Students or staff that test positive but do not have any symptoms, must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.
- In addition to the criteria and processes described above, a student or staff member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 **must** receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to school and before participating in any district related activities if he/she has missed more than 3 consecutive school days.

### **Mitigation Efforts**

- Routine and frequent cleaning and disinfecting will continue at all district facilities and on school buses.
- Frequent handwashing will be encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be available for all students and staff.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are installed in common areas.

### **Capacity Considerations**

There is no limit on capacity at UIL or school activities at this time.