

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQ

As Northside ISD continues to monitor the impact of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we know there are a lot of questions surrounding this respiratory illness. The District wants to keep our parents and community informed as we work closely with local health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NISD Health Services has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to help answer questions you may have. We will update the FAQ as needed.

What if my child visited North Star Mall over the weekend?

San Antonio Metro Health Department (SAMHD) has determined the risk of exposure at North Star Mall is low. The individuals who came in contact with the discharged individual have been identified and contacted by SAMHD. If you are concerned about potential contact at North Star Mall, you may contact your healthcare provider or SAMHD (210-207-8780) for additional guidance.

When should I keep my child home from school?

Students should stay home from school when exhibiting signs or symptoms of an illness, including fever and cough. At this time, we are continuing to follow the communicable disease exclusion criteria currently in place (Texas Education Code Rule § 97.7). Students with a fever (100.0° F or greater) will be sent home from school and may return once fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication. Additional information may be found in the Student/Parent Handbook. If your child is ill and in need of medical attention, please contact your healthcare provider.

What cleaning is being done routinely?

Routinely, custodial staff disinfect all high-touch areas daily (desks, light switches, doorknobs, water fountains, etc.) with chemical disinfectant applied by hand. In addition, electrostatic sprayers are being utilized. SAMHD has stated no additional cleaning measures are recommended at this time.

Should I send my child to school wearing a mask?

The CDC is recommending people who are well not wear masks. There may come a time when school nurses will place a mask on a student exhibiting symptoms of communicable illness while they wait to be picked up from school.

How are schools monitoring for Coronavirus?

Our staff are utilizing screening tools to help identify individuals potentially needing further medical follow up. School nurses document all clinic visits, including the presence of any symptoms of communicable illness. San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) has guidelines in place requiring the reporting of certain health conditions or symptoms. Health Services monitors this clinic visit information and shares pertinent data with SAMHD, which may be helpful in the early identification and/or prevention of communicable illness. Additionally, school absence rates are monitored and used by SAMHD to make recommendations.

What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in Northside ISD?

If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in Northside ISD, district staff will follow all directives from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and the Texas Department of State Health Services as guided by

CDC and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The district will also communicate information received with Northside families.

What preventative measures are being taken?

As a school district, we are prepared to discuss measures to prevent the spread of illness. Many of these actions are discussed and reinforced routinely to prevent or slow the spread of common illnesses, such as the common cold. The following methods are supported by SAMHD and CDC recommendations:

- Communication with parents/guardians as new information becomes available
- Providing hand sanitizer in all district locations
- Placing handwashing posters in all restrooms
- Giving daily handwashing reminders during morning announcements
- Placing communicable illness prevention posters at all district locations
- Frequent, routine checking of soap and hand sanitizer dispensers in each district location to ensure handwashing supplies remain available
- Instructing students and staff to remain home when sick
- Instructing and encouraging students and staff to cover cough/sneeze, avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth, and wash hands frequently

How do I know if my child's school has hand sanitizer available?

Custodial staff are routinely checking both hand sanitizer and soap dispensers to ensure supplies are available for frequent handwashing.