



ODEM-EDROY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Yolanda L. Carr, Superintendent
1 Owl Square
Odem, TX 78370
361-368-8121 Ext. 223
carry@oeisd.org

COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Procedures at Odem-Edroy ISD

September 2, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On September 10, Odem-Edroy ISD will begin **Phase 2** of our Safe School Opening Plan at which time we welcome our first group of students for Face-to-Face Instruction (F2F) since closing in March. We recognize that this continues to be an unusual school year, but we remain committed to supporting your student's learning, as well as his or her safety.

This document outlines the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified. We hope this transparency helps you to make a decision about your student's on-campus attendance at Odem-Edroy ISD.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. For many children, there are distinct benefits to attending school in person, including instructional, social, and safety benefits. For these reasons, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has made a statement supporting on-campus instruction for students in the coming year.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. The Odem-Edroy ISD strategy for opening and operating is outlined below. Please use the following link to review a copy of [Odem-Edroy ISD – Safe School Opening Plan](#).

Prevention

To prevent COVID-positive individuals from entering our campuses, your student's school will have the following COVID-19 symptom screening procedures in place:

- OEISD staff will be screened daily.
- Staff Health Attestation Form Completed
- Required Face Coverings – all OEISD staff members
- Students will be screened daily using a thermometer.
 - Prior to drop-off
 - Prior to boarding the bus
 - Prior to entering school facilities
- Student Health Attestation Form Completed
- All students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear face coverings, except when participating in activities that cannot be conducted with a mask on, such as eating, or unless it is not developmentally appropriate for the student to wear a face covering.
- Face Coverings for students in grades PK-2 are recommended and encouraged, but not required.
- Parents are asked to proactively identify when their student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed and to keep them home.

- Symptoms Include:
 - Feeling feverish or a temperature equal to 100.0 °F or greater
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Follow all TEA, local, state, and federal agencies guidelines

Information collected in these screens will not be retained if the screening is passed. If a parent indicates that a student is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms, the school will retain that information until the student meets the criteria for return to school.

Criteria for Return to School

Conditions for return to school after an individual showed symptoms or has a positive test result:

All conditions must be met:

- 72 hours with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Symptoms Resolved; and
- 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - Remote instruction available to students while in quarantine
- Students must be cleared by District Nurse prior to returning to school
- Staff members must be cleared by Human Resources prior to returning to school

Mitigation

Our district will be taking the following steps across each of our campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- Daily Screening of all OEISD staff members
- Required Face Coverings – all OEISD staff members
- Daily Screening of Students
 - Prior to drop-off
 - Prior to boarding the bus
 - Prior to entering school facilities
- Students with any of the following symptoms will be sent home:
 - Symptoms Include:
 - Feeling feverish or a temperature equal to 100.0 °F or greater
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- All students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear face coverings, except when participating in activities that cannot be conducted with a mask on, such as eating, or unless it is not developmentally appropriate for the student to wear a face covering. Face Coverings for students in grades PK-2 are recommended and encouraged, but not required.
- Social Distancing – 6’ – when feasible and appropriate
- Increased hand hygiene and hand washing
- Daily Cleaning & Sanitizing: classrooms, restrooms, and commonly shared areas
- Disinfecting Mist – Regular Application
- Controlled access to campuses and district facilities
- No visitors – Limited public access by appointment only
- In-person Instruction will be Phased-In per [San Patricio County Health Order](#)
- Transportation will be limited while in-person instruction is Phased-In:
 - Screening prior to boarding bus – students with symptoms will not be allowed to board
 - Hand sanitizer upon boarding bus
 - Social Distancing - assigned seats
 - Buses sanitized after each route
 - Routes may be staggered to meet social distancing compliance
 - Parents encouraged to transport their student
- Follow all TEA, local, state, and federal agencies guidelines

Response

In the event of a COVID-positive case on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- District nurse will evaluate student or staff member
- Student or staff member will be isolated
- Immediately Notify Parents – Student must be picked up within 30 minutes
- All areas used by the individual will be closed off until disinfected.
- Immediately Notify Anyone – considered to have been in “close contact”
- Student/Staff quarantined 14 days at home until cleared to return by District Nurse/HR
 - Remote instruction available to students while in quarantine
- Public notification of confirmed COVID-19 case; local health department; TEA

In the event of a student or staff member with COVID-19 symptoms on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- District nurse will evaluate student or staff member
- Student or staff member will be isolated
- Immediately Notify Parents – Student must be picked up within 30 minutes
- All areas used by the individual will be closed off until disinfected
- Immediately Notify Anyone – considered to have been in “close contact”
- Student/Staff quarantines 14 days at home until cleared to return by District Nurse
 - Remote instruction available to students while in quarantine

We hope that this information gives you confidence in our systems and our ability to stop the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to District Nurse Lisa Perez at (361) 368-8121, Ext. 238 or by emailing her at perezl@oeisd.org.

While this will be a challenging year, we believe it can also be a great one, and we look forward to supporting your student in his or her learning journey. For parents who have already made the decision to return Face-to-Face Instruction in Phase 2 your student’s assigned campus will be contacting you with more information.



James A. Mobley, M.D., FAAFP, Medical Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

313 N. Rachal Street
Sinton, Texas 78387
Phone: (361) 587-3530
Fax: (361) 587-3730

July 24, 2020

Communicable Disease Control Order

A Local Health Authority Order For Independent School Districts in San Patricio County Delaying On-Campus Instruction

To: Superintendent
Aransas Pass Independent School District
2300 McMullen Lane, Suite 600
Aransas Pass, TX 78336

Superintendent
Gregory-Portland Independent School District
608 College Street
Portland, TX 78374

Superintendent
Ingleside Independent School District
2664 San Angelo
Ingleside, TX 78362

Superintendent
Mathis Independent School District
602 E San Patricio Ave
Mathis, TX 78368

Superintendent
Odem-Edroy Independent School District
One Owl Square
Odem, Texas 78370

July 24, 2020

Superintendent
Sinton Independent School District
322 S Archer Ave
Sinton, TX 78387

Superintendent
Taft Independent School District
400 College St
Taft, TX 78390

1. Based on the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), there is reasonable cause to believe that community spread is occurring in all precincts in San Patricio County.
2. The Texas Education Agency ("TEA") does not have general authority to close schools due to public health, and TEA acknowledges that such authority lies with the local health authority, the Department of State Health Services, and the Governor.
3. The Local Health Authority has determined that if schools open for on-campus instruction on the currently scheduled date, students and staff may spread COVID-19 through contact with other students and staff and that this will pose an unacceptable risk to vulnerable students and staff.
4. This order includes appropriate control measures based on the risk for spread of COVID-19 in schools due to the necessity of groups gathering in indoor spaces and the difficulty for children to follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

Pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 81.082 and § 81.084, Dr. James Mobley, the Health Authority for San Patricio County, hereby issues this order imposing specified control measures and restrictions on all independent school districts within San Patricio County (hereinafter described as "public school systems").

The following restrictions are effective as of the execution of this Order:

1. Schools may not conduct Face to Face/On Site Instruction (Face to Face Instruction) until September 8, 2020.

July 24, 2020

2. The Health Authority will update and consult with District Superintendents on a regular basis to determine how best to proceed with reopening Face to Face Instruction.
3. Generally, the following criteria will be met prior to beginning On Site Instruction or proceeding to the next phase.
 - a. Four weeks of level or declining trajectory in:
 - i. Texas COVID Cases
 - ii. Texas COVID Hospitalizations
 - b. No spikes or outbreaks in San Patricio County or surrounding area
4. The Health Authority will provide weekly written update reports to superintendents. Conference calls may also be considered as necessary.
5. Phases will be advanced in two week increments unless the clinical situation in the county indicates that the opening schedule should be delayed or advanced. Phase advancement will be determined by consultation with District Superintendents.

Reopening of Face to Face Instruction will be conducted in a phased manner:

Phase 1

- Districts may reopen to On-Site instruction at 25% of students/families who select this delivery model.

Phase 2

- Districts may reopen at 50% of students/families who select this delivery model

Phase 3

- Districts may reopen at 75% of students/families who select this delivery model.

Phase 4

- Districts may reopen to all students/families.

Districts have the flexibility to determine how to identify the On-Site Instruction students for their community.

Closure Parameters

If the Health Authority determines that conditions warrant reclosure of some or all school activities, he will notify the District Superintendents and will consult with them on the best response to the conditions.

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Conditions which would warrant reclosure:

1. Two weeks of increasing trajectory in:
 - Texas COVID Cases
 - Texas COVID Hospitalizations
2. COVID-19 spike or outbreak in San Patricio County or surrounding area

Superintendents are authorized to make exceptions to this order for persons with special needs and situations.

Extracurricular Activities

1. Districts will abide by University Interscholastic League (UIL) requirements and guidelines.
2. In addition, immediately prior to participation in all scholastic and athletic events coaches and advisors will:
 1. Check each participant's temperature. If the temperature is 100.4 F or higher, the check is considered positive.
 2. Symptom check:
 - Have you been exposed to anyone with COVID in the last 14 days?
 - Have you had fever or chills in the last 24 hours?
 - Do you have a new cough or shortness of breath in the last 24 hours?

If either 1 or 2 are positive, the student must be immediately excluded from the activity. The student should be isolated and his/her parent/guardian notified.

ISSUED PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 81.082 AND § 81.084 AND MY AUTHORITY AS THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR SAN PATRICIO COUNTY, TEXAS THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JULY, 2020.

THIS ORDER MAY BE RENEWED OR EXTENDED BY FURTHER ACTION PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 81.082 AND § 81.084.



**JAMES A. MOBLEY, MD
HEALTH AUTHORITY
SAN PATRICIO COUNTY**