



Department of
Health Services

North East Independent School District

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September 4, 2020

Dear NEISD parents and guardians,

NEISD nurses are carefully preparing to care for your child during the school day, should the need arise. We take this responsibility seriously. We consider it a privilege to be able to work with students and their families and ensure the healthcare needs of students are met while at school. This letter is to inform you of some changes being made in our school clinics for the 2020-2021 school year to help keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clinic Visits

Clinic visits will be reserved for students who are experiencing symptoms which may be related to COVID-19, medical emergencies, medication administration, medical treatments and procedures, and complaints which cannot be resolved in the classroom. To minimize exposure of students to individuals with symptoms that may be related to COVID-19, minor complaints, and injuries which do not require a nursing assessment will be managed in the classroom.

Everyone in the clinic will be required to wear a face covering consistently and correctly. If a student is unable to wear a face covering, their care will be provided in an alternate location. To allow our nurses and clinic staff to effectively provide care for students, phone calls to parents will be reserved for situations where parent/guardian contact is necessary.

Students with Symptoms

One of the most important things parents and guardians can do is to perform a symptom check with their child daily before going to school. If your child has begun experiencing any of the symptoms below in a way that is new or unusual for them, please keep your child home and call your school nurse.

<i>Cough</i>	<i>Sore throat</i>	<i>Chills</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>
<i>Nausea or vomiting</i>	<i>Muscle or body aches</i>	<i>Headache</i>	<i>Fatigue</i>
<i>Congestion or runny nose</i>	<i>Loss of taste or smell</i>	<i>Shortness of breath or trouble breathing</i>	
<i>Feeling feverish or temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F</i>			

If your child presents to the clinic with one of the symptoms listed above, the school nurse will conduct an assessment and determine if they need to go home. Parents/guardians must be available to pick up their child within 30 minutes of being contacted. Students will wear a mask and wait in a supervised clinic isolation area while awaiting pickup. Students who experience symptoms will be able to return to school after meeting the criteria of one of the following options:

Option 1

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms **and**
- At least 24 hours fever free, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and**
- Improvement of symptoms

Option 2

- Submit a note to the school nurse from a medical professional clearing your child for return to school based on alternate diagnosis

Option 3

- Submit a negative COVID-19 test result to the school nurse

Situations to Report to the School Nurse

School nurses will be working diligently to help minimize the impact of COVID-19 in our schools. To allow us to respond and take appropriate action, we are asking parents/guardians to please report the following situations to your campus nurse:

- Your child or a member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19
- Your child has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (Close contact may be understood as 15 minutes or more spent within 6 feet of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, with one or both individuals not wearing a face covering)
- Your child has begun to experience any of the symptoms listed in this letter in a way that is new or unusual for them

If any of the situations above apply to your child, they should not come to school. Please contact the school nurse for information on returning to school.

Students Receiving Nebulizer Treatments or Medications

School nurses commonly administer nebulizer treatments and medications, which aerosolize medicine for the lungs to absorb. If a student receiving a nebulizer treatment had COVID-19, droplets containing the virus could be released into the air of the school. The use of nebulizers at school will be extremely restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic to help reduce the spread of the virus. Please speak with your child's physician about an alternative treatment. If extenuating circumstances prevent a different treatment, please notify the school nurse.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse.