



Darrouzett Independent School District

P. O. Box 98
102 W. Kansas Avenue
Darrouzett, Texas 79024
Phone (806) 624-2221
Fax (806) 624-4361

Dr. Deidre Parish, Superintendent

COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Procedures at Darrouzett ISD

August 5, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we plan for returning to school at Darrouzett ISD, we recognize that this will 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 Darrouzett 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 Darrouzett ISD strategy for opening and operating is outlined below. A more detailed plan can be found on our district website www.darrouzettisd.net.

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:

- All staff will be required to self-screen daily.
- All visitors will be required to wear a mask and will not be allowed past the reception area of the front office.
- Parents are asked to identify when their student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed and to keep them home.

Screening Questions:

Have you experienced any of the following symptoms that indicate a possible COVID-19 infection?

- Temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Loss of smell and/or taste;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Please answer **YES** or **NO**.

2. Have you had close contact with any individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

Close contact is defined as:

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Please answer **YES or NO**.

If an answer to either of these questions is “Yes,” then please call the school at 806-624-2221 to arrange remote instruction and **do not send** the student to school. 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 shows symptoms or gets a positive test result:

Either:

- 72 hours with no fever without a fever reducing medication (i.e. Tylenol); and
- Symptoms improved; and
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

- An acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19

Or:

- A doctor’s note indicating an alternate diagnosis

Mitigation

Our district will be taking the following steps at our campus to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- For bus pick up, students will stay in cars in a single file line. Wearing masks, students will exit the car and enter the bus one car at a time. An adult will record the students, ask the parent if students have been screened with the questions above, and take the temperature of each student as he/she climbs on the bus. All bus riders will wear masks while on the bus. For drop off, students will exit the bus wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.
- All adults in the building will wear masks.
- All students in all grades will be required to wear masks, particularly when they are within six feet of one another on buses and in hallways, except when participating in activities that cannot be conducted with a mask on, such as eating. For small groups, elementary students will be provided a face shield.
- Hand-washing will be expected. Hand sanitizer will used upon arrival in every room.
- A student who shows symptoms during the day will be sent to the Superintendent’s office. The parent will be called to come and pick up the student. The student will return to school based on criteria listed above.

Response

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

- All areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until disinfected.
- All teachers, staff, and families of all students in that school will be notified.
- The local health department will be notified.

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 Mr. Scott Miller, Principal, or visit our website at www.darrouzettisd.net.

On-campus Instruction

Parents make the decision that is best for their child(ren) for accessing education. Please keep in mind that children need adults in their lives who they trust in addition to their parents. Children need structured time away from home, and when that's not possible, professionally structured time at home while learning on a virtual platform. Children thrive on routine, which is often difficult to achieve at home for a sustained period of time. At school we offer extracurricular and co-curricular enrichment programs, such as arts, music, athletics, clubs, and activities. We teach children a certain degree of independence. Children keep track of their class schedules, move from one class to another, buy their lunch, and engage in club activities. At Darrouzett School, we will meet the learning needs of your student(s). Concerning your choice for your child's instruction, please go to this link to complete a very brief survey **by Wednesday, August 12**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Longhorns2021>

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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deidre Parish
Superintendent