

Escambia County School District

COVID-19 Information for Parents

2021-2022 School Year

Student health and safety continues to be a top priority as we return to more normal school operations.

The Escambia County School District guidelines for COVID-19 are provided in this document. These guidelines are for school districts throughout the State of Florida and have been provided by the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Education in Emergency Rule 64DER21-12. The emergency rule is in line with Executive Order 21-175.

Due to recent legislation, H.B. 241 requires written parental consent for the provision of health care services for students in school. Students will not participate in any school clinic services without a parent's written consent. School health services include first aid, health appraisals, nursing assessments, medication administration, emergency care, health screenings and referrals, health counseling referrals and follow up, disease and injury prevention, health promotion, health education, and health consultations. Schools will be sending the parent consent forms home at the beginning of the year. Parents may also obtain the consent form from the Health Services page of the district website http://escambiaschools.net/health_services. Once given, this consent will continue each year unless a parent opts out in writing.

Families may contact their child's school if they have additional questions or visit our website: (<http://escambiaschools.org>).

COVID-19 Guidelines

- 1. General Protocols and Definition:** The following procedures should be instituted to govern the control of COVID-19
 - Schools should encourage routine cleaning of classrooms and high traffic areas.
 - Students should be encouraged to practice routine handwashing throughout the day.
 - Students may wear masks or facial coverings as a mitigation measure; however, the school must allow for a parent or guardian of the student to opt-out the student from wearing a face covering mask.
 - For purposes of this rule, "direct contact" means cumulative exposure for at least 15 minutes, within six feet.
- 2. Protocols for symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students:** Students experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who have received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 should not attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property until:
 - The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; or
 - Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or a positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours, and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
 - The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.
- 3. Protocols for students with exposure to COVID-19:** Students who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 should not attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property until:

- The student is asymptomatic and receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test after four days from the date of last exposure to the COVID-19 positive individual; or
 - The student is asymptomatic and seven days have passed since the date of last exposure to the COVID-19 positive individual.
 - If a student becomes symptomatic following exposure to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, the student should follow the procedures set forth in subsection (2) above.
4. **Protocol for students with prior COVID-19 infection:** A student who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days and who is known to have been in direct contact with an individual who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 is not subject to the protocols set forth in subsection (3) so long as the student remains asymptomatic. If a student with a previous COVID-19 infection becomes symptomatic, the student should follow the procedures set forth in subsection (2) above. This subsection applies equally to students that are fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
 5. **Testing:** Any COVID-19 testing of minors at school requires informed written consent from a parent or legal guardian.
 6. **Non-discrimination:** Students whose parents or legal guardian have opted them out of a mask or face covering requirement shall not be subject to any harassment or discriminatory treatment, including but not limited to:
 - Relegation to certain physical locations;
 - Isolation during school activities; or
 - Exclusion from any school-sponsored events or activities.

Questions and Answers Specific to the Escambia County School District

1. **What are the COVID symptoms?**
Fever of 100.4° or greater, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, headache, body or muscle aches, GI symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain), new loss of taste or smell, nasal congestion/runny nose.
2. **If there is a positive case at home, and a student has been identified as a close contact, will the student be excluded from school?**
Yes. Parents should follow the previously noted guidelines from the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Education regarding quarantine protocols. Please contact your school to inform them of any required quarantine.
3. **Will absences due to isolation/quarantine or COVID symptoms be excused?**
Yes. Absences of this type will be excused.
4. **COVID-19 cancelled or modified many different types of school events last year, such as field trips, athletic events, and performing arts events. Will these return to normal this year?**
Yes. Our plan is to allow normal school activities such as field trips to resume. Athletic events and extracurricular activities such as band and choral concerts will occur without limits on seating capacity.
5. **Will parents be able to volunteer in classrooms this fall and chaperone field trips?**
Yes. We are pleased to have our parents return to schools as volunteers. The volunteer application can be completed online at <https://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/volcord>.
6. **Will remote learning be an option this year?**
No. There is currently no Executive Order authorizing blended or remote instruction as an option for this school year. Escambia Virtual Academy is our district's primary K-12 virtual option. Registration for the fall begins on August 3 and ends on August 31, 2021. Registration for Spring courses begins on January 3 and ends on January 24, 2022. More information about this option is available at <https://eva-ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com>.