

Aspermont ISD
Return to School Guidelines
2020-2021



Aspermont ISD is looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday, August 19th, 2020. We have been consistently monitoring the COVID 19 spread and have been in communication with local and state health authorities, the TEA commissioner of education, other superintendents from around the state, and our local school board to determine the best possible methods for reopening our schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

This document provides information that will guide all procedures, safety measures and protocols put into place for the 2020-2021 school year in an attempt to provide a safe educational experience. Due to the ever changing environment surrounding COVID-19, this document could change through Governor, TEA, or local orders. Aspermont ISD will continue to provide excellent educational services to our students, which will include both in-person and remote learning environments.

Below is a quick reference guide to a few of the key operational changes for this year and the start of school. These changes will be followed in order to help protect our students and staff and minimize the spread of COVID-19 as we resume instructional activities and student/teacher interactions. Also, each campus will have specific guidelines that address issues unique to that campus.

- All campus entrances will open at 7:15 am. Students will not be allowed to enter the buildings prior to this time. Exceptions can be made for athletics and coaches will be present to allow entry.
- Students will dine in the cafeterias for breakfast and lunch with social distancing guidelines in place to the extent possible. Cleaning procedures will be in place to make sure all surfaces are disinfected after use. High School lunch will still be considered an open campus.
- No parents/visitors will be allowed to come into any buildings, including the cafeteria to have breakfast or lunch or to walk students to their classrooms.
- All student lunches will need to be brought to school the morning of and students will not be allowed to go to vehicles during lunch time to pick up their lunch from visitors. There will be a location for students to leave the lunches. Microwaves will be provided and staff will make sure food is heated up for the student.
- If you need to speak with any school personnel you will have to call the office and make an appointment.

- Due to health precautions only prepackaged food will be allowed for class snacks, birthday celebrations, class parties and concession stands until further notice.
- Students who elect to participate in remote learning will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- All staff and students will be screened daily as they enter the buildings.
- All Students will need to have a mask or other facial covering at school.
- The school day will be from 7:55 a.m. to 3:55 p.m. each day.

Instructional Plan

Aspermont ISD will be offering 2 learning environments beginning August 19th: On campus and Remote Virtual. Parents will be able to choose which learning environment they wish their children to take part in. That decision will have to be made 2 weeks prior to school starting so that we have time to plan for each method appropriately. Students who commit to remote learning will have to stay with that choice until the next grading period.

Our remote learning model will be what the state is calling “synchronous”. Teachers instruct daily and students will be required to join the class virtually. All work will be using state adopted TEKS aligned curriculum and materials. Remote learners will have scheduled times to join with campus students and staff via the Google Suite (Google Meets). Remote learners will be held accountable to all daily attendance, grade reporting, and discipline standards as students who are learning in person. Students will be expected to check in daily for attendance and will be expected to complete and turn in all assignments, on a daily basis, as required for all classes. Students who do not have internet access may be able to use an asynchronous model of instruction. These situations will be handled on an individual basis. More information on Remote learning will be released soon.

Technology

During times of mandated closure, Aspermont ISD will provide students who do not have a technology device such as a chromebook, desktop, laptop or iPad with the appropriate resources to continue with instruction until school resumes in person, this may be paper packets.

Parents who choose remote learning as their learning environment of choice will be responsible for providing adequate bandwidth, devices and connectivity to be able to successfully participate in remote learning so that the student is not counted absent.

Screening Protocols

Student

- Parents/Guardians will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 Symptoms each day prior to sending them to school each day.

- Parents/Guardians will be asked to fill out an attestation stating that they will not send their student to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the conditions in this document for re-entry are met.
- Students may receive remote instruction if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Aspermont ISD will perform temperature checks twice daily (morning and lunch) to ensure students are safe and no symptoms are present..

Staff

- Aspermont ISD will require teachers and staff to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The screening will include temperature screenings upon arrival. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab- confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed or they have been cleared to return by a healthcare professional.
- The district reserves the right to further screen employees at any time based on any current state or federal guidelines.

Visitors

- Visitors will have limited access to the buildings for only essential school functions and by appointment only.
- 504 meetings and ARD meetings are considered essential school functions.
- To help insure the safety of our students no visitors will be allowed during breakfast or lunch.
- All visitors will be screened for COVID-19 with a temperature screen and a signed health attestation form before entering the main part of the campuses.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Aspermont ISD will immediately separate any student who shows a temperature while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Students will be separated until the time they are picked up.
- Aspermont ISD will clean the areas used by any individual sent home while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be sent to the office for an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

- In the case of an individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

Either:

1. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Or:

4. An acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19

Or:

5. A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed a set of criteria listed above.

Actions if a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 has been in Aspermont ISD

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, Aspermont ISD will notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

2. Aspermont ISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.
4. Actions taken to prevent possible spread due to a COVID-19 exposure at school could include Aspermont ISD closure, campus closure, or grade level closures for an extended period of time not to exceed 5 days.
5. If a student, staff member or someone in the same household tests positive for COVID, all family members attending school will be required to quarantine and move to remote instruction.

Mitigation Measures taken by Aspermont ISD to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Operational Guidelines

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. Aspermont ISD will have hand sanitizer stations at each entrance and will attempt to provide hand sanitizer in every classroom.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently. This specifically includes after restroom breaks and before breakfast and lunch periods.
 - a. Aspermont ISD will teach students good handwashing techniques.
 - b. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
3. Campuses will institute more frequent cleaning practices. Daily sanitizing will be implemented for high touch areas. (door knobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) including the opportunity for staff to clean their own spaces and classrooms before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
4. On the first day a student attends school on campus, Aspermont ISD will provide training to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.

5. Parents will need to provide students with individual water bottles labeled with their name to use during the day at the water bottle bottle refill stations. All drinking fountains will be shut off. Water bottles will need to go home each day and be sanitized before returning.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

1. For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. Aspermont ISD is required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks for staff and students.
3. In addition to the executive order, Aspermont ISD may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
4. At this time, all students will be required to wear masks during periods of transition, during group activities and in situations where they will be in close contact with another student or staff member. (This could change depending on the governor's orders)

Student-Teacher Groupings

1. Classroom Configuration - Desks and tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible to ensure the safety of staff and students.
2. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, Aspermont ISD will encourage more opportunities for hand washing.
3. Aspermont ISD will encourage students to practice social distancing.

Transportation to and From School

1. Aspermont ISD will require students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding school vehicles.
2. When weather permits, school vehicles should open windows to allow outside air to circulate.
3. Vehicles will be cleaned after each trip.
4. Due to the proximity of vehicle seats masks will be required of all people on the trip.
5. The District will make every effort to ensure that students are spaced as far from one another as possible.

6. Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to and from school for the 2020-2021 school year, but bus routes will be available to those who cannot.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- o Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- o Loss of taste or smell
- o Cough
- o Difficulty breathing
- o Shortness of breath
- o Headache
- o Chills
- o Sore throat
- o Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- o Significant muscle pain or ache
- o Diarrhea

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- *being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or*
- *being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;*

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

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.