



EDNA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ensuring a quality education for all

Dear Members of the EISD Family,

I'm sure you are aware of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) that originated in China and has been in the news over the past few months. I want to assure you that our school district is keeping track of this situation through reliable sources such as our local health department, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are no cases or suspected cases within the district or in our community, and health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time.

Edna ISD will continue to monitor informational updates and follow the guidance of our local, state, and federal health agencies to keep our community informed and healthy. If conditions change over time, any decisions that may need to be made regarding a change to school operations will be done so with guidance and direction from the CDC, local health officials, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Region 3. We have met with County officials and the Jackson County Hospital district to discuss our plans moving forward and to get a unified response and plan for the three county school districts.

Much is being learned about this new virus. It is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. At this time, persons considered at risk are those who traveled to China, or those in close contact with persons infected with COVID-19.

Based on current information, health officials are recommending that local communities and schools take the same steps to protect against COVID-19 that help prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- Stay home when sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover the mouth and nose with the inside of the elbow when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing the nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects such as toys and doorknobs.

EISD follows the Texas Department of Health guidelines for illness-related exclusions from school. A student will be sent home if he/she has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher, or any other contagious symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) and will need to remain home until symptom free for 24 hours, without the use of medications. Also, parents should call and inform the campus nurse of any confirmed virus diagnosis.

Our campus staff reinforce healthy habit messages as a general practice. In addition, our custodial crew is diligent about keeping our schools as clean as possible, using disinfecting products on a greater frequency.

Below are some resources for up-to-date information on COVID-19:

CDC (Centers for Disease Control): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Texas Department of Health Services: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

A fact sheet from the CDC also is attached with this posting.

Thank you for everything you do to support our district, schools, students, and staff. Follow proper hygiene measures during spring break and enjoy your current travel plans.

Robert O'Connor
Superintendent of Schools

Edna ISD: Offering small town values, while preparing students for global expectations.

What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

