Healthy Environment for Learning Plan

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Students and staff members are encouraged to take appropriate measures to safeguard their personal health, and the health of others. This procedure document defines the measures Venus ISD will take to provide a safe learning and working environment. As is necessary, the Superintendent may adjust these procedures in accordance with the ever-changing health risks present in the community.

PREVENTION

Personal Protective Measures/Equipment

Students and staff members may choose to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks. If PPE becomes a distraction in the learning environment, Principals may choose to restrict the wear of PPE. Required immunizations for attending public school are specified in Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 25 Health Services, §§97.61-97.72 as well as by the Department of State Health Service (DSHS). Students and staff members are encouraged to receive any non-mandatory immunization they feel is necessary for their own wellness.

The presence or absence of personal protective equipment or optional immunizations is a personal matter, and as such should remain a private issue.

Self Identification

Students and staff members should stay home when experiencing potential infectious disease symptoms that are not normal for them. Individuals experiencing symptoms should not return to school until they have been symptom free for 24 hours without medication, or have written permission to return from a doctor. Individuals who have knowingly been exposed to an infectious disease should follow their doctor's recommendation.

Arrival and Dismissal

Campuses will minimize and designate entrances available, and:

- Ensure hand sanitizer is available at each student entrance, and encourage students to sanitize their hands

- Ensure each entrance is monitored by campus staff. Staff will monitor the health of students, and, if necessary, direct unwell students to the campus nurse for further assessment.

Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

Custodial staff will:

- Disinfect cafeteria tables and other high touch surfaces before each breakfast/lunch period
- Disinfect water fountains, restrooms, and other high touch surfaces throughout the school day

Teachers will:

- Disinfect classrooms with the district-provided sprayer and solution in between each class period.

A Transportation Department representative will:

- Disinfect buses after each use with the district-provided sprayer and solution

Principals and directors may choose to require more frequent disinfection of buses, classrooms, or work areas.
Hand sanitizer will be available on buses, at the main entrance to the campus, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout the campus. Staff and students are encouraged to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.

Campus Visitors

Visitors are not allowed on campus. For visitors who are essential to campus operations, principals may make exceptions as needed. Parents/Guardians of VISD students are allowed to access campus administration offices.

Testing

Pending availability, Venus ISD nursing staff may provide or facilitate infectious disease testing. Some tests may require a doctor's order. Students will only be tested with parent/guardian permission.

If a test indicates an individual has an infectious disease, the individual will be sent home, and may return to school once they are symptom free for 24 hours without medication, or have written permission to return from a doctor.

Nurses may test students who are absent from school, but parents must call the campus office and make an appointment. Walk up testing is not available.

MITIGATION

Symptomatic at School

Teachers and other staff members will pay close attention to the health of students. If a student appears to be unwell or exhibiting a common symptom of an infectious disease not normal to the student, the staff member will direct the student to see the campus nurse for evaluation.

Students found to have a temperature of 100F or higher, or who are experiencing another common symptom of an infectious disease not normal to the individual will be sent home. The campus nurse will determine if the exhibited symptom necessitates sending the student home.

Staff members who are exhibiting a common symptom of an infectious disease not normal to the individual should alert their supervisor, and be prepared to make arrangements to go home. The supervisor may send the staff member home if they deem it necessary.

Individuals sent home due to exhibiting common symptoms of infectious diseases not normal to them must remain away from school until they have been symptom free for 24 hours without medication, or have written permission to return from a doctor. If a doctor prescribes antibiotics to treat an illness, individuals may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics.

Diagnosis Reporting

Campus and community wellness is the responsibility of everyone. Venus ISD requests that parents report student diagnosis of infectious diseases to the campus nurse. We also request that staff members report diagnosis of infectious diseases to the campus nurses, or the district nurse.

Infectious Individuals at School

If it is determined that an individual with an infectious disease was on campus while contagious, Principals will take reasonable actions to prevent the further spread of the disease. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Disinfecting areas occupied by the contagious individual
- Communicating with parents and staff members about an increased risk of contracting the infectious disease
- Contact the local health department

COVID-19 Specific Guidance

Venus ISD will comply with Texas Education Agency's August 5, 2021 Public Health Guidance, and the Department of State Health Services' application of 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7. as detailed below:

School systems must exclude from in-person attendance any individual having (have tested positive for or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

- If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met.
- *Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

Students and staff will practice physical distancing as appropriate and practical to the activity.

All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading and unloading.

Venus ISD will communicate directly to parents of children suspected of being in close contact with someone who has tested COVID positive. We will also communicate campus and district positives through our COVID Dashboard.