



August 2, 2021

District 49 Protocols for Masking, Reporting, Tracing, and Quarantining

Given that all state and county health orders are expired or rescinded, we are not under any mandatory conditions or requirements related to public or individual health. So, the following protocols and commitments restore us to a more “standard” posture about health conditions and health privacy.

Our first, and most basic commitment is this: We expect sick people to stay home until they are fully recovered, and we expect healthy people to come to school and work.

The D49 BOE has made it clear that D49 staff will not act as enforcement agents for public health recommendations.

We will not treat people who have been exposed to illness as if they are sick.

If individuals have symptoms of illness, then they should stay home. We do not need to know the specifics of their illness, so we will not suggest or expect that they test for any particular condition.

When students present in the health room with any illness, we will follow normal procedures for hygiene and sanitation. We respect that some individuals may choose to wear PPE such as gloves or masks in those settings.

If individuals decide to test (for COVID, influenza, norovirus, etc.) the results of that test are their personal medical information, and we will not ask or expect them to divulge that information.

The decision about whether to report and to whom to report rests with the individual and their medical provider.

Because disclosure of COVID infection status and COVID vaccination status has become more of a social norm, we will inform staff, students, and families that we do not expect or want to know about any personal medical status.

If an individual voluntarily discloses a medical condition, we will not report that condition to a third party (including El Paso County Public Health).

If our county health department requests us to provide the medical status of an individual, we will politely decline.



If our county health department requests us to participate in contact tracing because they have informed us about a COVID-positive individual, we will politely decline.

If we become aware of a COVID-positive individual, either through voluntary disclosure or EPCPH report, we will send a courtesy notification to students or other individuals who may have been in close proximity.

We will not direct the duration or location of any exclusion or quarantine.

Quarantines and exclusions will not be the default response to symptomatic individuals, or a single voluntary COVID positive report. If we observe a cluster of cases of any illness or communicable condition, we will evaluate and respond to that situation on a classroom-by-classroom and school-by-school basis.

We will make no special accomodation for vaccinated individuals in cases of quarantine, but will expect all of the workforce to revisit the basic commitment if we begin to see cases of illness: We expect sick people to stay home until they are fully recovered, and we expect healthy people to come to school and work.

Finally, we have consulted directly with our county health department, and have studied the regulations and licensure requirements carefully. The protocols and directives in this document do not violate any regulation or require any individual to take on any licensure or legal risk. And, the posture described in this message conforms with clear direction from our board of education that we are not to act as agents or enforcers of public health recommendations and requirements.

Best,

David Nancarrow
Director of Communications