



Devine Independent School District

605 W. Hondo Ave., Devine, Texas 78016

(830) 851-0795 Fax (830) 663-6706
Dr. Todd Grandjean, Superintendent

Parent Town Hall Meeting
7/28/2020

As new guidance, required procedures, and protocols become available to us, it is the goal of Devine ISD to provide you with access to as much information as possible. We appreciate your patience as we've worked hard to research answers to the many questions you all have regarding the impact the pandemic will have on our district and its students this school year. Please keep in mind that guidance is continually changing from federal, state, and local authorities and that any information that is released by the District at this time is subject to change. In those cases, Devine ISD will update the posted FAQs with any changes and note the date.

Covid-19 symptoms as identified by The Center for Disease Control:

Symptoms include: cough, runny nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees, loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, shaking or exaggerated shivering, significant muscle ache or pain, diarrhea.

Instruction Delivery Method

We continue to monitor updated TEA guidance and amend our instruction plan accordingly. However, based on current TEA guidelines, when school begins on August 24, 2020, we will offer both in-person and remote instruction opportunities on each campus so that every family can choose the instruction delivery model that best serves their needs.

OPTION 1- In-Person Learning:

Students will attend class daily on their campus. Our upcoming back-to-school plan will spell out the updated rules, routines, and procedures that will be put in place in order to comply with TEA/CDC guidelines. Considerations include reduced class sizes, revised cafeteria, hallway and transportation routines, additional cleaning protocols, and personal protective equipment.

Each classroom will have hand sanitizer available at the classroom entrance. Students will be spaced as far apart as possible in classrooms given the size of the classroom

Parents, students, and staff entering any campus will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, and individuals requiring quarantine will not be allowed on campus. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Any staff member or student exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be handled in accordance with the Devine ISD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, which is currently in development. TEA requires that each district “post a summary of the plan they will follow to mitigate COVID-19 spread in their schools for parents and the general public, one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction.”

Per the TEA and the CDC, individuals are expected to quarantine and therefore will not be allowed on campus for a specified time period if they:

- Exhibit a COVID-19 like symptom such as:
 - Cough
 - Runny Nose
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Headache
 - Sore Throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle ache or pain
 - Diarrhea
- Test positive for COVID-19
- Are a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Any student who is quarantined will be transitioned to remote learning until they meet qualifying protocol to return to school.

****UPDATE 7/30**** With regards to the symptoms of COVID-19 and quarantine, please remember that according to CDC guidelines, if a person has a headache, runny nose, etc., the key phrase is “that is new or not normal for him/her”, then that person must report those symptoms to the campus administration.

Face masks/coverings- As mandated by Governor Abbott, face masks must be worn at school by students 10 years of age or older. In order to follow this directive and to remain consistent across all campuses, Devine ISD is planning, at this point, to require all students, faculty, and staff to wear face coverings at school and in face shields in some cases for our very young students or other specific circumstances. Lunch and physical education protocols will vary based on each campus, as these are the obvious times when a face covering is not practical.

We feel that requiring the use of face coverings is an important step to take in ensuring that no child becomes a “close contact” to someone at school who may subsequently test positive for COVID-19. For clarity, close contact is defined as: being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield or being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes while not wearing a mask or face shield).

Per the CDC, close contact is considered to have occurred if an individual is around someone (as explained above) in the two days prior to the onset of COVID symptoms or (in the case of someone who is asymptomatic), in the two days prior to the test.

OPTION 2- Remote Learning:

Students will remotely complete a rigorous curriculum provided by your child’s teachers on a daily basis. Attendance will be taken for each class/subject, and daily participation will be required. Numeric grades will be calculated for remote learning courses in the same manner as grades are calculated for in-person learners. DISD will communicate dates and times of remote learning information sessions for parents in the coming weeks. Details regarding student, parent, and teacher responsibilities, programs students will be required to use, procedures for taking daily attendance, and other essential information will be covered in these sessions. A parent of any student whose child will participate in distance learning will be required to attend at least one session. Students who start the school year with the remote instruction option may change to in-person instruction, but that change can only take place at the end of a six weeks grading period.

Classrooms and Common Areas

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day. Additionally, each classroom will have hand sanitizer available at the classroom entrance. Students will be spaced as far apart as possible in classrooms given the size of the classroom, and will be expected to wear masks or, in some cases, face shields. Appropriate safety protocols will be utilized for hands-on coursework and small-group lab work. We will be

posting signage on hallway procedures and reminders. In addition to the hand washing sinks in restrooms, hand sanitizer will also be available. Restrooms and all frequently touched surfaces in schools will be sanitized regularly during the school day, as will classrooms and playground equipment.

Transportation

Bus transportation will be provided to those students who qualify for transportation. Because of the need to space students apart on buses, parents must register students for bus service. Students will be required to wear masks on buses and will apply hand sanitizer to their hands when entering and exiting the bus. Buses will be sanitized after each route. Efforts will be made to limit seating to one student per seat. However, students may have to sit two per seat on routes with higher ridership. Morning routes will have students load from the back of the bus to the front.

For car pick up and drop off, parents will remain in their cars. Walk-up pick-up and drop-off will be limited to those parents who physically walk to campus and those parents who have children that require assistance in buckling or unbuckling themselves in a car seat or booster seat. Walk-up pick-up is only available at elementary campuses and parents may not line up at the school entrance until 3:00 pm.

Cafeteria

We will be arranging seating in our cafeterias to allow appropriate student spacing. Dividers may be used in order to meet seating capacity needs of a campus. Additional lunch periods may be added as needed. Students will use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the cafeteria and will wear face masks, except when eating. Our lunch periods will be closed to visitors due to limited seating capacity and safety concerns. As with every aspect of school operation during this pandemic, transportation and food service operations change at any time due to changes in the Covid environment. These changes will be relayed to you as soon as possible.

UIL/Extracurricular Activities

Both remote learners and in-person learners will be eligible to participate in UIL sponsored activities. We received guidance last week on athletic schedule adjustments for fall sports. Workouts will continue for the remainder of the summer, and adjusted schedules will be released as they become available. Safety protocols will remain in place and continuously be revised to stay compliant with CDC guidelines.

Start of School

All of our campuses are currently scheduled to open for both remote and in-person instruction on August 24. If any of this changes, the information will be sent to you as soon as possible.

It is possible that our district may have to switch to only remote instruction at some point during the 2020-2021 school year. This would occur if the Governor or another authorized official was to order a full school closure or a closure to in-person instruction. Devine ISD and our staff is prepared if this happens and will be able to support all students and staff in a completely remote scenario.

Registration

Registration will be held during the first week of August, 2020. This process is planned to be conducted electronically, and the district is still fine-tuning this process. Detailed information will be communicated in the next week. You will soon be asked to select your learning mode preference for the coming year during registration. After a full grading period, you can change your preference. DISD instructional staff firmly believes in the value of returning to school in person. We also recognize the social and emotional benefits for students in attending school. However, we recognize that a variety of factors make it essential that parents and students have the ability to choose the option you feel is optimal for your student to get the safest education possible.

As we navigate these unprecedented challenges, we value and appreciate the support of parents and the community. The majority of the decisions that need to be made during this time revolve around direction and guidelines from government agencies and health officials outside of the district. It is the responsibility of Devine ISD to follow these completely in order to comply with both state and federal laws. Further challenges that await us may require that additional guidelines be adopted, and we are grateful for your flexibility as we strive to accommodate and prioritize the needs of each student in our district. Please contact your student's campus principal to discuss any specific concerns you have for your child/children. Devine ISD strives to make the most informed decisions possible for our staff and students, and we appreciate the opportunity to educate the children of this wonderful community.

Q&A

All submitted questions will be answered and posted on the Q&A section as soon as we get them answered-

Will on-campus learners have to wear a mask?

Yes. Anyone entering a school building will be required to wear a mask. On July 2, Governor Abbott mandated that everyone over 10 years of age must wear a mask in Texas counties that have over 20 active cases. Medina County continues to have over 20 active cases, so students and staff will be required to wear masks. The district is also making a local decision to require students 10 and younger to wear masks. The mask prevents many cases of close contact. As will be explained later in this FAQ, when close contact is carefully avoided, fewer instances of quarantine occur. We will be providing a limited quantity of disposable masks, so students are encouraged to wear their own masks. Guidance regarding what is allowable will be available soon. Also, there will be guidelines on students' masks- ****UPDATED 7/30**** students may wear masks of any color and pattern/print. However, no writing will be allowed. The exception to this is any DISD spirit-related writing. Examples include "DW", "Warhorses", "Arabians", "Devine Strong", "Warhorse Nation", etc. Any campus name or mascot will be acceptable. Masks with the clear piece over the mouth are allowable. If you have questions about acceptable writing, please call the campus principal. Masks should follow the guidelines of the Dress and Grooming section of the Student-Parent Handbook: Masks should not lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming will disrupt, interfere with, disturb, or distract from a school activity. Students shall not wear articles of clothing, including masks, that advertise or promote alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, drugs, or violent behaviors/actions (wrestling, movies, music groups, etc.)

Can a neck gaiter be worn instead of a mask?

Yes, with the same guidelines as masks.

Will my child have to wear a face shield?

Maybe. The shield does not take the place of a mask however.

Students can wear:

1. A mask
2. A mask and a shield

Guidance from the CDC regarding face shields:

"It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend the use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings. Some people may choose to use a face shield when sustained close contact with other people is expected. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin. Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use. Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Plastic face shields for newborns and infants are NOT recommended."

Will students be provided with personal protective equipment?

We have received some personal protective equipment (PPE) from the state, but not nearly the amount we will need for this school year. We are asking students to bring their own. We will have guidance on allowable masks and shields coming soon.

Will extra masks be available in case my child loses theirs or it rips?

Yes.

Will my student be asked to participate in cleaning and sanitization efforts?

There will be deep cleaning each afternoon after students and staff leave for the day. It will take a group effort to maintain throughout the day. TEA is requiring lessons on hygiene on the first day of school. Some type of wipe down will be necessary between periods and activities. At some levels, students are likely to clean their own spaces with disinfecting wipes, etc. supplied by the campus.

Will there be plexiglass dividers?

Maybe. Where social distancing isn't possible for an extended period of time, some type of shield is being considered. Masks will still be required.

How many students will be in a classroom?

It depends on the physical size of the classroom and the ability to socially distance within the space. Some may accommodate a fewer or greater number of students depending on classroom size. The actual number will be determined once parents make selection of remote or in-person learning.

If a Devine ISD employee or student is positive, will we close the entire district and transition to online learning?

No. If there is a positive, we will begin "Contact Tracing Protocols". The positive case will be quarantined for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and/or test and must be symptom-free for 24 hours upon return. Any "Close Contacts" will be quarantined for 14 days from the date of symptoms of the positive person. Everyone who is quarantined will immediately begin remote learning, but students who are learning in-person and teachers who have not been in "close contact" will continue to report to campus.

If there is an outbreak (as deemed by local health officials) at a particular campus, the campus can be shut down for 5 days at a maximum for cleaning purposes. In that case, learning will continue remotely. According to TEA, long-term closure beyond the 5 days will result in either having to make time up or a loss of state funding.

Will I be notified if a student or staff member tests positive?

Yes. We are required to let parents know when we have a positive test. Due to privacy laws, public schools are not able to disclose the name of any individual teacher or student in this situation. However, we will report cases in general, and families will be specifically notified if, through tracking, it is confirmed that their student has been directly exposed to a positive case.

In the case of a close contact, will my student have to quarantine if he/she previously tested positive?

As of the newest information from the CDC, a person is not considered to be a close contact if they have had COVID within 3 months of the other person's initial symptoms. After the 3 month time period, a person would again be considered close contact and would have to quarantine for 14 days.

What if a student in my child's class is positive?

DISD will begin its tracing protocols to determine if there are any "Close Contacts". Per CDC guidelines, anyone who is traced to have close contact will be quarantined for 14 days from the date of the test (or from the onset of symptoms, if known). The student who tested positive can return 10 days after the onset of symptoms and/or test and must be symptom-free for 24 hours. As previously stated, if your student tested positive within the last three months and has recovered, your student will not have to be quarantined. The same applies for staff. This is one reason why it is of utmost importance that students wear masks due to the definition of close contact described below.

What is deemed close contact?

Per the TEA, **ALL 3** of the following has to occur for an encounter with a confirmed positive person to be considered close contact:

1. Within 6 feet
2. For a period of more than 15 minutes
3. Without a mask

This is why it is so important that we are diligent in wearing our masks. Many quarantines can be avoided if a mask is worn.

What if my student tests positive but has no symptoms?

A positive test for an asymptomatic case requires 10 days of quarantine from the date of the test. An asymptomatic student who tests positive will be moved to distance learning during their quarantine period, and all instruction and assignments will need to be completed on a daily basis until the student is able to return to in-person learning. According to current CDC guidelines, a student who tests positive will not have to be quarantined again for 3 months.

Will the school district pay for testing if my child may have been exposed at school?

No. Similar to strep throat or flu testing, COVID-19 testing is administered by health professionals outside of the school setting.

Will the school limit volunteers/visitors/guests on campus to reduce possible exposure?

Yes. Per TEA guidance, we are expected to limit visitors to all campuses to reduce exposure. Appointments will need to be made if one needs to come to the campus.

Will Devine ISD require that any student be tested for COVID-19?

Not at this time. In the absence of a positive test result, any student who has symptoms or was in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 will quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, even if they display no symptoms. A negative test result is not required to return to on-campus learning.

Are there benefits to obtaining a positive test result if my student contracts the virus?

There is a benefit to testing in that a positive test result can shorten a student's quarantine time to 10 days from the test date of the positive result if they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours. Based on recent CDC guidance, another benefit to obtaining a positive test result is that individuals will not have to be quarantined for three months after testing positive, regardless of possible exposure. It is important to note that, because the virus is capable of a 14-day gestation period, a negative test result will not shorten a student's 14-day quarantine period.

Is it possible to be quarantined more than once?

Yes. If a person has not contracted the virus, and is found to be a "close contact", they could be quarantined more than once.

Do I/ my student have to report close contact outside of the school setting?

Yes. Any deemed close contact must immediately be reported to your student's campus.

What if I/ my student is hospitalized due to COVID?

It is our sincerest hope that this does not happen to any of our students; however, if this were to be the case, please have someone contact your student's campus as soon as possible.

If my student's symptoms may be due to allergies, can they still come to school?

No. Below is a list of symptoms per the CDC (Center for Disease Control). These symptoms must be reported to your student's campus. ****UPDATE 7/30**** With regards to the symptoms of COVID-19 and quarantine, please remember that according to CDC guidelines, if a person has a headache, runny nose, etc., the key phrase is "that is new or not normal for him/her", then that person must report those symptoms to the campus administration.

Watch for symptoms:

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Will my student's temperature be taken every day upon arrival at school?

No. We have purchased additional thermometers; however, we will not be taking temperatures each morning at this time. We are in the process of developing an attestation process for each child in regards to symptoms and notification of administrators of possible concerns.

What is symptom screening and does CDC recommend it for students and staff?

Based on the available evidence, CDC does not currently recommend universal (widespread) symptom screenings be conducted by schools. Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness, and students who are sick should not attend school.

Why does a confirmed positive person only have to be out 10 days from symptoms and/or test while a person who has been in close contact has to be out for 14 days since close contact?

The possible gestation of the virus is 14 days per the CDC.

How, specifically, will the safety of in-person learners be prioritized? What routines and procedures, specifically, will be followed?

There will be daily cleanings of the classroom and campus.

Will the bus pick up/drop off my child, and how many kids will be on the bus? Will there be social distancing?

At this time, there will be bus services. The number of students on the bus will be determined when we find out which students will be returning to the classroom for face-to-face instruction to start the year. Based on those numbers and where students reside, we will determine what our needs are to provide safe bus travel for our students.

How will students social distance in restrooms and while using lockers?

Campuses are working on plans for restrooms, like having only a grade-level of students using a certain set of restrooms. For lockers, the use of masks will be the most important piece to staying safe.

Can in-person instruction occur outside?

At the discretion of the campus principal and the teacher, in-person instruction may occur outside in a safe area, weather permitting.

How will my student be graded if they choose remote learning?

Remote grading guidelines will mirror the expectation of in-class learners.

If my student chooses remote learning, how can they get one-on-one help from his/her teacher(s)?

Teacher will have posted online office hours.

What if I'm not comfortable sending my student to school, but I cannot supply him/her with the technological equipment and/or wifi access that is needed to learn remotely?

We will again have the technology lending program, along with Wifi.

How will remote learning be different in 2020-2021 compared to what was offered in the spring of 2020?

There will be a lot more teacher-student interaction through GOOGLE CLASSROOM on a daily basis, and new material will be covered with students.

If I chose remote learning for my child, do they have to do their work during the school day or can they complete the assignments in the evening when parents can help?

Yes.

If my child is participating in remote learning, how will attendance be taken? Does he/she have to be logged in at a certain time of day?

One of the following must occur for your child to be counted present.

1. Daily progress is made in the remote learning system.
2. An assignment is submitted through the remote learning system.
3. Daily progress via teacher-student interaction

Why isn't Devine ISD taking advantage of the remote "transition" back to school period that is offered by the TEA?

Although the state allows for a transition period of remote learning, according to the recent DISD Return to School Parent Survey, about half of the parents who responded indicated that they prefer to send their students to campus for in-person learning, and no local health agencies have prohibited the return of Medina County students to school. Per TEA guidance, it is the goal of Texas public schools to re-open in the fall with both on-site and remote learning options for students.

Will my student still be responsible for their coursework if they are ill with COVID-19?

If your student is home ill, he/she will be moved to online learning if they were not already learning remotely. As with any illness, the student may complete work from home if he is able; however, the campus policy for submitting work after an illness will be followed. Campus policies allow for flexibility in the case of student illnesses. Whether your student is learning in-person or remotely, it is very important that you contact the campus immediately if he or she is unable to participate due to illness.

Why can't we push back the start of school?

Any delay of the first day of school will require an adjustment to our academic calendar. Unlike last school year, these days would be made up throughout or at the end of the year. TEA is still holding districts to the minimum number of minutes requirement.

**Will the remote instruction curriculum be the same as the in-person curriculum?
Electives too?**

Yes. This is what the teachers will be working toward.

What about my student's mental health? Will there be additional counselors available?

DISD is working to find a district counselor to help at all levels.

Will the length of the school day be the same for remote and in-person?

Yes

Will the school go above and beyond recommendations by TEA/CDC, etc to ensure the safety of students?

Yes.

Can I still walk up to pick up my child?

Parents will be required to stay in their vehicles when dropping off and picking up their child.

Will the district provide COVID data daily/weekly?

We are only required to notify the families on a campus if there is a positive case. All will be done to protect the privacy of those directly affected.

Do I have to tell the district if my child tests positive or is deemed a close contact outside the school setting?

Yes. For the health and safety of all of our students and staff, we are asking that all close contacts and positive results be reported to the district.

Will there be a meet the teacher night?

Potential virtual meetings

Will library books still be checked out?

Yes. All books will sit quarantined for 48 hours upon return.(?)

Will laptops/chromebooks be available for checkout?

Yes.

Will hotspots be available for checkout?

Yes.

Will I still be able to pick up meals for my child if we choose online learning?

Yes.

Will the bus still pick up my child?

Yes.

Will there be packets mailed out?

No. Packets will not be an option.

Will my child's teacher be available in the evening for help with instruction or questions?

No. Our teacher will be teaching a regular schedule during the day. They will have office hours and/or a conference period during the scheduled day where correspondence via email, phone call, or Google meet will be answered or occur.

Can I come to the campus for ARDs or parent conferences?

No. As we start the school year, all meetings will be held virtual or over the phone.

What is tracing?

A district representative will contact the positive person or caregiver. They will ask who they have been in contact in the last 14 days from the test and ask the three close contact questions.

If I choose remote learning for my child will they have to purchase school supplies and will they have to be in dress code during online instruction?

No, on school supplies. The second half of the question, Yes. The only difference between remote and in person is that the student is not in the classroom physically. All student code of conduct and student handbook regulations and guidelines must be followed

Will school supplies be shared in the classroom? Here is CDC's guidance on Shared Objects

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

Will the dress code be relaxed for in-person instruction?

Somewhat. In addition to the maroon or white polo, a spirit shirt has been added to the standardized dress code. The spirit shirt must support Devine ISD and may be in the following colors: maroon, gold, black, white, and gray.

Will I be able to eat lunch with my child?

For the safety of our students and staff, not at this time.

Will I be able to volunteer in my child's class?

For the safety of our students and staff, not at this time.

Does my child have to turn in work if he/she is quarantined?

Yes. Daily contact via email, video, or google classroom will be required to count a student present.

Can I choose a combination of at home and in school instruction?

No. Remote or in school instruction will have to be chosen. (Potentially this choice could be changed at the end of the six weeks.)

Will there be recess?

Yes. As we continue to receive guidance, if Playground equipment is able to be used, it will be sanitized each day. CDC says "Close communal use shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use."

Will there be social distancing during recess? If so, how?

We will be working on schedules and routines that teach children to maintain safe distances from each other. Children will sanitize their hands at the beginning and the end of recess.

Will there still be specials? If so, will there be social distancing and how?

We are planning specials into the regular schedule for remote and in-person, social distancing will be implemented in a manner consistent with the rest of in person procedures of the campuses. Right now, that plan is being refined

Will there be athletics? Can students play sports if they choose virtual learning?

The district will follow UIL guidelines as they are updated and released.

Will there be academic UIL?

We are preparing for this, but will be awaiting further guidance from UIL.

Will grades be taken?

Yes. The pre-COVID grading policy will go back into effect.

Will my child receive special services?

Yes. Without falter. Mrs. Dykstra and her staff have policies in place to meet the needs of remote and in person students who receive services.

Will there be tutoring?

Absolutely. Whether the student is remote or in person, each campus will have tutoring procedures designed to best fit their student groups

Will homebound services still be provided?

Homebound students will be using the remote learning platform.

Can I deliver food for my child every day?

No. Based on guidance from TEA and CDC, this is not recommended.

If it's safe to reopen schools why are we holding virtual meetings and not in person meetings?

We are holding in person meetings using the guidelines identified by the CDC. Based on the district survey to parents, we have over 50% of the families in our district that choose in person instruction with safety protocols in place. It is our responsibility and duty to provide this. The reason we are holding virtual meeting is to accommodate those families not comfortable in meeting in person at this time

Why don't you just do the distant learning for the first few weeks like every other school around us is doing?

On the Devine ISD Return to School Survey, around 50% of Devine ISD's parents indicated that they were most likely planning to send their students to school in person. Local health authorities have not mandated that Medina County schools go fully virtual. Additionally, it is the goal of the TEA that parents who want their students at school in person have that option to the greatest extent possible.

Will or can the district prevent students who are at risk from attending face to face instruction? I will address this as a student as an identified close contact to a positive or a lab confirmed positive student

What are the technology requirements if parents choose virtual learning? Is there any internet speed requirement or any programs that your device will need to run? Our technology department recommends an internet speed no slower than 20 megabites.

How are ya'll going to handle the needs for kids in life skills?

All of the protocols outline by the campus as well as use of barriers and sneeze guards.

What about no practice to play? Will the kids that don't come to the athletic period have to make that time up?

Kids at school will be putting in an additional 5 +/- hours more a week than no show kids.

Are special education students required to wear masks?

If possible. More involved students will be evaluated individually

How do you sign up for remote learning?

You'll be able to indicate whether you desire for your student to attend remotely or in-person when you register your child for school by completing the return student's forms packet online. Details will be sent out to parents the first week of August.

So y'all want the kids to wear a mask all day at school but take it off to eat?

Yes, while following social distancing and safety protocols.

What about the STAAR test, will students be required to take it? They are already so behind due to last school year and COVID-19.

At this time, TEA has advised that state testing and accountability will apply during the 2020-2021 school year.

If an in class student has to quarantine, can they return to school at the end of the 14 days or must they remain in remote instruction until the end of the six weeks?

Yes, these students will be able to return to in class learning.

With everyone going back and in the event that my child develops a runny nose or a cough but is negative....with the mandated 2 weeks that she has to be home, will he or she be able to transition to remote learning?

Yes, in class learners will transition to remote learning for the quarantine period.

If we choose to have students study at home, will each student be provided a laptop (have 3) with a hotspot?

The district will continue to lend technology to homes that request it.

What will be the average kids per class?

Until we have specifics as to which students will be on campus, we won't know.

What about a child who has the flu? Will it be treated the same as COVID-19?

A Doctor's note will help in this determination. A person may be under the doctor's care for a time period, and the district will respect the doctor's note if it is the flu.

What about picking up kids for doctor appointments?

We will have procedures in place to accommodate for this.

If remote learning, how is the STAAR test going to work?

According to TEA, the STAAR will still be given. The Governor said that the STAAR at 5th and 8th will not be used as a part of the promotion of those students. Since most of the STAAR testing takes place in the Spring, we will continue to work with our students toward the requirements of the test, and will continue to implement any guidance from TEA.

What if the hotspots provided do not work in areas where we live like Great Oaks?

We realize that connectivity varies across our district. We are looking into several hotspot options to meet the needs of our students.

If my child's teacher tests positive, will that mean an automatic 14 day quarantine for the entire classroom? If not, will they have a QUALIFIED SUB for the 14 days?

If students are wearing masks, they may not meet the standard of close contact. If no close contact is determined, then the student/staff will not need to quarantine.

How will emergency drills (fire, active shooter, etc.) be handled to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines?

Drills will still be required. The Texas School Safety Center is helping with guidance on how to hold these drills. They continue to update information to help make the drills safe.