

If any Texas school system has a need to allow students to visit its campuses, it may do so effective **May 5, 2020**, in conformity with the guidance below, for limited non-instructional administrative tasks (e.g. cleaning out lockers, collecting personal belongings, and returning school items such as band instruments, books, etc.) and to allow graduating seniors to complete post-secondary requirements that cannot be accomplished absent access to the school facility and its resources, excluding any activity or assessment that can be done virtually. (Permissible student access to campuses does not include UIL activities, [which have been cancelled through the end of the school year.](#)) This guidance will be **effective through May 31 and will be replaced with guidance on summer school and summer instruction effective June 1** ([https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid19-summer\\_program\\_operational\\_considerations.pdf](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid19-summer_program_operational_considerations.pdf)). Additionally, please note that graduation and end-of-year promotion ceremonies are addressed in separate guidance that has been provided [here](#).

A school visit by a student or parent (or legal guardian) is voluntary, and a school may not require such a visit or make receipt of a benefit conditional upon such a visit.

## General Guidance

For **all student visit scenarios, whether inside or outside**, individuals are encouraged to adopt the [Governor's minimum standard health protocols for individuals](#). Additionally, school systems must follow the guidance below:

- Ensure at least 6 feet separation among individual visitors not within the same household, including when entering and leaving a school facility. Entry and departure must be staggered to allow students and staff to maintain social distancing while entering and departing.
- Screen all potential students and/or parent (or legal guardian) visitors before they access a school facility for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

- Do not allow students and/or parent (or legal guardian) visitors access to the school until:
  - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may visit when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Do not allow an individual with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.
- Ensure that students and/or parent (or legal guardian) visitors appropriately disinfect their hands, including prior to accessing school facilities and after the use of restroom facilities. Hand sanitizer must be provided at regular access points for students, parent (or legal guardian) visitors, and staff.

### **Guidance for Student Visits Inside School Facilities**

In addition to the general guidance outlined above, the following guidance applies:

- Consistent with the actions taken by many institutions across the state, consider having all employees, students, or other visitors wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, they should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.
- Schools/school systems may convene students and school employees together in groups of no more than 5 persons at a time within a confined interior space.
- Parents (or legal guardians) can participate in school visits if their participation is needed. In these cases, parents (or legal guardians) should follow the guidance in this document. School systems and parents (or legal guardians) should consider how to minimize visitors when they are not needed, to reduce the number of individual interactions during a visit.
- School systems should consider allowing students who are high-risk because of other conditions or who live with older family members or other high-risk individuals to visit when there is a smaller concentration of individuals at the school.
- Additionally, schools must clean and sanitize bathrooms, doorknobs, and other commonly touched surfaces prior to and following the visit.

If the visits can be held exclusively outside, that is always preferable.

### **Guidance for Student Visits to Outdoor School Facilities**

In addition to the general guidance outlined above, the following guidance applies:

- Non-UIL sports and other extracurricular practices may be held in accordance with the Governor's [order of April 27, 2020](#), and [guidelines regarding recreation](#), specifically:
  - No contact sports, and no activities involving more than 4 students at a time in a group.
- Regarding allowing general access to exterior facilities (by students and/or the general public), individuals must follow the [same guidance provided regarding park access](#).

**Guidance for school employees working in school buildings for purposes other than supporting student visits can be found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/eoguidance>**