

**Texico Conference
Re-opening & Operating Plans
2020/2021 School Year**

Given the on-going challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texico Conference has developed the following school opening/operating plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Instruction for all schools will begin on August 12, 2020 and will employ a dual platform approach that includes both **'In-Person'** and **'Online'** learning models to meet our goals for the academic and spiritual needs of our students. This guidance is based on our understanding of the requirements in place for operating schools in both Texas and New Mexico and may be modified to maintain compliance with the public health orders as they may be issued by the respective governors.

As we are endeavoring to teach in the COVID-19 environment, we solicit ongoing prayers for our teachers, students and parents that all will be safe and healthy. However, we remain committed to best practices as we take the necessary precautions to keep our classrooms safe.

Instructional Models:

In-Person Learning:

- Students will attend live, 'in-person' classes five days a week, following and adhering to the school calendar.
- Social distancing will be practiced throughout the school where and when possible.
- Students 10 years and older will need to wear a mask on school property except when eating, physically active or when it is not feasibly possible given a specific situation.
- Individual student desks will be used and positioned to maintain social distancing.

Virtual Learning/Distance Education:

- Texico Conference Schools also will provide distance education primarily in a virtual format (Zoom, Google Classrooms, etc.) for students who are unable to attend due to sickness or quarantine requirements.
- Instruction will be provided synchronously with students attending 'in-Person' class.
- Student attendance will be recorded for each subject area class.

Sanitation:

- Each classroom will have disinfectant and / or sanitizing spray bottles available to clean necessary areas throughout the day.

- Hand sanitizer will be available by the door of each classroom as well as throughout the school. Students will be trained to either use sanitizer or wash hands properly when going in and out of the classroom.
- School facilities will be thoroughly cleaned daily.

Mitigating the spread:

- Students, teachers, staff and visitors will use hand sanitizer when entering any room.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands each morning and frequently throughout the school day.
- Teachers will instruct students regarding good handwashing techniques.
- Teachers will inform and instruct students how to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or, if not available, to use their elbows. Tissue should be disposed of properly after each use and hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer may be used if water is not immediately available.

Screening Protocols:

- Staff
 - Every teacher and staff member will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day.
 - Every teacher and staff member will take their temperature daily to ensure they are free from fever equal to 100 degrees or above.
- Parents/Students
 - Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms until re-entry conditions (defined below) are met.
 - Parents are to inform the school if their child has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - If their child has had close contact (defined below) with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the child must stay off campus until re-entry conditions are met.
 - Student temperatures will be checked at the car during drop-off each morning.
 - Parents will be asked a screening question in a simple yes or no format at drop-off each morning.

- Visitors/Volunteers
 - Must answer COVID-19 screening questions (defined below).
 - Must receive a temperature check with a reading below 100 degrees.
 - Must wash and sanitize hands.
 - Must wear a face mask.

Masks: We currently are expected to follow the statewide mandate to wear masks. We will review these plans when/if they change during our school year.

- Acceptable masks are, non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face covering (over the nose and mouth) or full-face shields that protect eyes, nose and mouth.
- All students 10 years and older, parents, visitors, volunteers and teachers are required to wear face masks per the governor's order.

Sick Students at school:

- When a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 the school staff will isolate the student in the sick room.
- Areas that have been used by the student will be immediately disinfected and cleaned.
- Student will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- Parents or guardians will be called and requested to come pick up the child.
- The school will communicate to parents and guardians of students who came into contact with a student who was lab-confirmed positive with COVID-19.
- Any time a student is not able to attend classes in person, the student is expected to regularly attend and participate in virtual/distance education classes unless their symptoms prevent them from doing so.

Returning to school after sickness:

- Individuals who have been confirmed to have COVID-19 must meet all three of the following criteria:
 1. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery without the use of fever reducing medications.
 2. Improvement in all symptoms.

3. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- Individuals who have symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who have not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19
 - May not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- Students who want to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period must either:
 - Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return to school, or
 - Receive two separate negative test confirmations for COVID-19 at least 24 hours apart or, receive a negative result on an antibody test.

Arrival/Dismissal Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures: Each school will determine the arrival time, pick-up and drop-off procedure.

Screening question for COVID-19 symptoms: This is a question that we will ask you, or your child, each morning:

- (Yes or No): Are you or your child experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

COVID-19 symptoms

- Feeling feverish or having a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100° F.
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache

- Diarrhea

Close Contact: Have you or your child experienced an exposure to COVID-19 in either of the following ways at any time in the last 14 days during the time that an individual was contagious? An individual is presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or two days prior to the confirming lab test:

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.

Conclusion:

The Texico Conference Administration is committed to assisting the local school boards and administrations in responsibly returning to as normal an operation and configuration for our students and teachers as seems reasonable. We believe that it is vitally important to continue a regular, Christ-centered curriculum presented in the most appropriate format is in the best interest of our students. Please join us in regularly lifting this very important ministry, and all who are associated with it, in your frequent prayers. It is our desire that every student have the best opportunity to learn and advance in their regular academic program. May God bless each of them, and all of us, as we work together for Him and His students in the Texico Conference.