



Emery School District Back to School Efforts Regarding COVID-19

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

We are very excited for school to begin, and are eager to see you back in school on August 24th. This letter is to explain what you can expect as we welcome students back to school this fall. Emery School District has worked closely with the Southeast Utah Health Department to provide clear guidance to our stakeholders as we prepare for a wonderful year full of opportunities for our students.

The following protocols and prevention efforts will be in effect Starting August 24th:

- **Face masks** – Face masks are not mandatory. Families will need to make individual decisions about when and where to have students wear face masks, with most health officials promoting face masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **COVID-19 vaccination** – Vaccination is not a requirement to enroll in school or join an extracurricular team. Parents should talk to their health care provider when making decisions about vaccinating eligible students (currently those 12 and older). Vaccinations are offered for all staff members. Vaccinations are offered for all students age 12 and older. **NOTE:** If you are interested in vaccinations, please contact the Southeast Utah Health Department at 435-381-2252.
- **COVID-19 testing** – Testing will not be required in schools, on buses, or for extracurricular activities in most circumstances. *According to state legislation, testing will only be required if a school has more than 30 positive COVID-19 cases. If this happens, students must be tested to remain at the school for their learning and extracurricular activities – unless they have been immunized or have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the previous 90 days. “Test to Stay”*
- **Sanitation and hygiene** – Schools will continue to implement best practices with cleaning, physical distancing, and other actions designed to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- **Feel sick, stay home** – Students who have COVID-like symptoms should stay home from school. Having symptomatic individuals stay home will significantly reduce the possibility of

having to implement “**test-to-stay**.” *Additionally, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted at school or any school activities during their isolation period.*

- We encourage **SMART** guidelines: **Stay** home when sick or when waiting for COVID-19 test results. **Masks** are a personal choice but may prevent sickness. **Advocate** for distancing when possible. **Remember** good hygiene and sanitation. **Talk** to your health care provider about decisions on vaccination eligible students.
- **Test to Stay**: If 30 or more students test positive for COVID-19 in one school, the “**test to stay**” protocol will be implemented.
- **Positive for COVID**: Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 7 days (as per Health Department Guidelines) Students considered directly exposed to COVID-19 will receive a notice from the local health department or school recommending that exposed students remain at home for 7 days, **unless they**: are immunized, or have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days, or **commit** to wear a face mask at school for 7 days after the exposure.
- **Learning options** for students who test positive, or are advised by Local Health Department to remain home will be addressed under the direction of school administrators and classroom teachers.
- Utah Department of Health (UDOH), K-12 recommendations are available here: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/education/>
- We will continue to work with our local health officials to monitor COVID-19 case counts in Emery School District and will keep you informed of any adjustments to these guidelines.

We hope this information helps you make decisions and plans that are best for you and your family. We are confident that we can work together to provide meaningful learning opportunities for our students.