

Dallas County School Decision-Making Protocol for Responses to Multiple Cases

PREVENTION MEASURES

EXPECTED in **ALL** SITUATIONS:



Cloth face coverings



Social distancing



Hand hygiene



Cohort students & staff into small groups that remain together over time *as much as possible*.

District/school representatives should contact DCHHS for guidance, as needed. The school's designated rapid response team (RT) should serve as the initial response command unit, when a positive case of COVID-19 is identified within a school community. The RRT will collaborate with DCHHS to ensure coordinated response and communication efforts.

SPECIFIC STEPS if community spread is:

Low

Close **classroom(s)*** 24h[†] for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **classroom(s)**

- Restrict events & gatherings

Close **building** 24h for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **building, including classroom**

- Restrict events & gatherings

Moderate

Close **classroom(s)*** 24h[†] for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **classroom(s)**

- Restrict events & gatherings

Close **building** 24h for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **building, including classroom**

- Restrict events & gatherings

High

Close **classroom(s)*** 24h[†] for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **classroom(s)**

- NO events or gatherings
- Reduce students/staff present at the same time

Close **building** 24h for cleaning *and* until school has identified close contacts

1. Exclude contacts from the building for 14d
2. Reinforce prevention measures above

Reopen **building, including classroom**

- Restrict events & gatherings
- Consider reducing numbers of students/staff present at the same time

District contacts local health department to assist with tracing contacts. Ensure contacts do not return to the building for 14 days from the last exposure.

For **EVERY** identified case

Has individual been in the **BUILDING** or at school activities since 48h prior to the onset of symptoms?

YES

YES

Can all contacts be easily traced?

NO

NO

*When case has been in multiple locations, each location will need to close for 24H for cleaning and disinfecting

† Wait at least 24H before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24H is not feasible, wait the time needed to remove airborne contaminants based on efficiency as referenced in Table 2 on slide 4

Dallas County School Decision-Making Protocol for Responses to Multiple Cases

PREVENTION MEASURES

EXPECTED in **ALL** SITUATIONS:



Cloth face coverings



Social distancing



Hand hygiene



Cohort students & staff into small groups that remain together over time *as much as possible*.

District representatives should contact local health department for guidance, as needed. School & District Action Teams should be formed to serve as the initial response command unit should a positive case of COVID-19 be identified within a school community. The action teams will collaborate with local health authorities to ensure coordinated response and communication efforts.

SPECIFIC STEPS if community spread is:

Low

Moderate

High

For two or more **unlinked** cases

No common classes, close friends, teammates

Refer to "For Every Identified Case." (prior algorithm)

See section for management of increasing number of cases in 14 days

Two or more **linked** cases within 14 days

Common classmates, friend group, teammates, etc. (excludes siblings)

Refer to "For Every Identified Case." Continue with current plan. (prior algorithm)

Are cases within a physical single **CLASSROOM** space or relatively confined area?

YES

Can all contacts be easily traced?

YES

NO

May need to consider 14 day CLOSURE

of a section of hallway, grade or the entire building depending upon degree of involvement.

May need to consider 14 day CLOSURE

of a section of hallway, grade or the entire building depending upon degree of involvement.

Seriously consider 14 day CLOSURE

of a section of hallway, grade or the entire building depending upon degree of involvement.

Refer to "For Every Identified Case." (prior algorithm)

If exposure is widespread, consider partial or complete building closure for 14 days.

Confident contacts have been identified?

YES

NO

Seriously consider 14-day **BUILDING** closure if extensive exposure

Increasing number of cases identified within 14 days?

Seriously consider 14-day BUILDING closure unless circumstances dictate otherwise

Seriously consider 14-day BUILDING closure unless circumstances dictate otherwise

Minimum 14-day BUILDING closure unless circumstances dictate otherwise

Table 1: Considerations for Different Steps in the Algorithm

Step	Consideration
“Can contacts be easily traced?”	<p>No = No cohorting of students and/or no assigned seating, extracurricular gatherings with large number unknown contacts</p> <p>Yes = Assigned seating in class, on bus, and at lunch and/or cohorts employed</p>
“Classroom closure”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be consequences of closing a physical space used by multiple groups of students throughout the day. There may need to be backup spaces available in the case of classroom closures. Otherwise all other students meant to utilize that space will need to transition to distance learning. • Wait at least 24h before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hrs is not feasible, wait the time needed to remove airborne contaminants based on efficiency as referenced in Table 2 on slide 4.
“Level of Community Spread”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions for high, medium, and low transmission levels are determined by Dallas County public health committee
“Increasing number of cases in 14 days”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each situation will be determined on a case by case basis

Table 2: Air changes per hour (ACH) and time required for airborne-contaminant removal by efficiency

ACH	Time (mins.) required for removal 99% efficiency	Time (mins.) required for removal 99.9% efficiency
2	138	207
4	69	104
6	46	69
8	35	52
10	28	41
12	23	35
15	18	28
20	14	21
50	6	8

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html>