

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs

In an effort to keep our SWISD community informed, we want to notify you that after a discharged patient who tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) visited North Star Mall over this past weekend, concerns were brought to our attention that many people in San Antonio, including SWISD staff and community members, may have been at North Star Mall during that time. We have been in contact with San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, and we have been assured that the risk of exposure for any North Star Mall visitors over the past weekend is low. No action is required on our part; however, we are being proactive and ensuring that our campuses are cleaned and disinfected appropriately and routinely. We have provided some Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 for your reference.

Please visit <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus> for updated information. You can also contact the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's coronavirus hotline at (210) 207-5779 for any COVID-19 questions.

1.) What is the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals. The novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. It was first detected in Wuhan City in China.

2.) How does COVID-19 spread?

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands, and touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

Currently, there are no identified cases of community spread COVID-19 in San Antonio. SWISD continues to monitor this evolving situation and will continue to keep our SWISD community updated.

3.) What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other common respiratory illnesses like the flu. Symptoms may appear up to 14 days after exposure and include mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, fatigue, cough, and shortness of breath. Just because a person experiences these symptoms does not mean they have COVID-19. According to SAMHD, it is far more likely that anyone with these symptoms is suffering from a cold or flu. The

response to someone exhibiting these symptoms at school will follow the communicable disease guidelines set forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Administrative Code Rule §97.7. SWISD will work diligently with our local, state, and national health authorities to ensure appropriate recommendations are followed.

4.) Should I be concerned if I visited North Star Mall over the weekend (2/29-3/1/2020)?

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) has determined that the discharged individual was not exhibiting symptoms, and the risk of exposure at North Star Mall is low. If you are concerned about potential contact at North Star Mall, you may contact your healthcare provider or SAMHD Coronavirus Hotline at (210) 207-5779.

5.) When should I keep my child home from school?

SWISD follows the Texas Department of State Health Services exclusion criteria and the Texas Administrative Code Rule §97.7. Students should stay home when exhibiting signs and symptoms of a communicable disease. Most commonly, students experience the following:

Fever-A student has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher must stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

Vomiting-Students who vomit 2 or more times should stay home until they have not vomited for 24 hours and have not used medication to suppress vomiting.

Diarrhea-Diarrhea is defined as 3 or more episodes of loose stools and students should be diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medication.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's illness, we encourage you to contact your child's healthcare provider and your campus nurse.

6.) Should my child wear a mask to school?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that people who are well do not need to wear masks. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, surgical masks are not designed to protect the individual from inhaling small airborne particles. The District will not provide masks to students. If your child must wear a mask due to a medical condition, please talk to your school nurse.

7.) What preventative measures are being taken in SWISD?

SWISD is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and will continue to follow the guidance of our local, state, and national public health authorities. The following actions have been taken to ensure our students have a safe environment to learn:

- Communication with SWISD families will continue as new information becomes available.
- Staff & students are encouraged to stay home when ill. SWISD abides by the DSHS communicable disease exclusion criteria to prevent the spread of illness.
- Custodial staff are disinfecting all high-traffic/high-touch areas daily (doorknobs, handrails, light switches, water fountains, desks, etc.).
- Hand sanitizer with an alcohol concentration of at $\geq 60\%$ per CDC guidelines is being provided in designated high-traffic areas on our campuses.
- Hand-washing posters are up in restrooms on our campuses.
- Custodial staff are checking all soap dispensers frequently and routinely to ensure students have access to hand soap.
- SWISD school nurses, teachers, and staff continue to encourage and emphasize the importance of covering coughs and sneezes with the inside of the elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, and washing hands for 20 seconds frequently.
- Deep cleaning of all campuses will take place over the spring break.