

TSBVI Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Response Plan

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired understands that each student, family, and employee has unique concerns, due to health or other circumstances, about Coronavirus COVID-19. The TSBVI campus has precautionary measures in place to assist public health officials in their goal of containment. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we are constantly monitoring the information coming from health officials and experts.

TSBVI will continue to follow the recommendations of Austin Public Health, the Travis County Health Department, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are also monitoring independent school districts locally and across the state of Texas, with guidance from the Texas Education Agency, and information from the Governor's Office.

Please note the following new measures we've put in place:

- Parents must report to the health center if their child, or anyone in their household, travels to or through countries with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. As of March 11, those countries were China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. The list is subject to change and may be found at the CDC's "[Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html)" page (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>).
- All TSBVI employees are required to report travel to or through identified countries to our human resources office. The health of students and staff who travel will be monitored in accordance with public health guidelines before they are permitted to be at school. This includes a 14-day self-quarantine regardless of symptoms after returning to the United States, or after a household member has returned to the United States.
- Effective through at least April 5th:
 - Non-TSBVI events, activities, and meetings on our campus are cancelled.
 - Our volunteer program is suspended.
 - Non-essential visitors will not be allowed on campus.
 - Student events are restricted to campus-only participants.
 - TSBVI out-of-state travel is postponed until further notice.
 - TSBVI will not be attending the April SCASB event in Mississippi.
 - Outreach in-person trainings, meetings, consultations and events will be rescheduled, cancelled, or offered online.
 - Short-Term Programs' events March 26-29 and April 3-5 have been cancelled.
 - Comprehensive Programs collaboration, transition, and home visits are being postponed.
 - Community outings such as grocery and restaurant shopping trips may be restricted.



- Staff and students that become sick at TSBVI will be screened using a tool from Austin Public Health.

On-going measures include:

- The TSBVI Health Center continues to identify students with fever or flu-like symptoms and students are picked up by their families when ill.
- TSBVI will continue to educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of frequent hand washing, covering a cough or sneeze, avoiding touching your face, staying home when sick, and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- TSBVI faculty and staff will routinely clean and disinfect surfaces using approved disinfectant cleaners (those cleaners identified as being able to kill flu and cold viruses, including human coronaviruses).
- TSBVI Custodial Services are routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces with cleaners identified as being effective in killing flu and cold viruses, including human coronaviruses.
- Over the spring break, TSBVI will be undergoing extensive cleaning throughout our entire campus with a priority placed on sanitization and disinfection.

Please note that we are in the midst of our regular cold and flu season, so it is important for our community to take preventative measures to safeguard against the spread of communicable diseases. Local and federal health authorities indicate that the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (the coronavirus) are the same recommendations for preventing the spread of the flu.

Parents/Guardians and Staff can help by:

- Parents/Guardians should update contact information, including emergency contacts, with TSBVI.
- Keeping children home who are sick. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or more, he or she should stay home from school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- Staff with a fever of 100 degrees or more should notify their supervisor and stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- Reinforcing frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Reinforcing covering a sneeze or cough with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Since many of our students have complex medical conditions, parents/guardians should contact their healthcare provider, to discuss and get guidance about their student traveling to and attending TSBVI.



- Staff who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, or staff who have tested positive, need to self-report the Cheryl Williams in HR.
- Students who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, or have tested positive, need families to relay that information to the Health Center.

TSBVI is committed to keeping students and staff safe. We will communicate with families and staff if there are any status or plan changes that directly impact our programs and services. If you'd like information or updates from many of the entities we rely on for guidance, please go to the following web pages:

- [Texas Department of State and Health Services](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/): <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- [Austin Public Health](http://austintexas.gov/COVID19): <http://austintexas.gov/COVID19>
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) — Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

