



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

SCHOOL SCALE BACK RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to provide ongoing public health support to all school districts, public and private, and to all unincorporated schools in El Paso County and additional guidance for the 2020-2021 school year as in-person instruction evolves.

While there is not a single parameter that with high degree of certainty could tell the right time to safely return to school for in-person instruction, or scale back on those plans, few indicators will shed some light as how the pandemic is evolving in our community. The listed parameters below may serve as official guide for school districts to request extension of waivers to the Texas Education Agency for the continuation of funding for school activities.

The following parameters indicate a **moderate** community-wide spread.

- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: Between 15 to 25 cases per 100,000 for ≥ 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 7.5\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for 7 days

When the majority or all of the above-mentioned indicators are met, county-wide preventative measures to prevent further spread of the disease should be made in an effort to protect the health and well-being of students, teachers, and staff.

The suggested preventative measures to implement can include, but are not limited to:

- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities
- Pause the reopening school plans and avoid bringing more children to schools for in-person school instruction.
- Follow other DPH guidance and recommendations for COVID-19 positive cases at schools that have children for in-person instruction.

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The following parameters indicate a **high** community-wide spread of the disease and warrant further, stricter preventative interventions:

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- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: ≥ 25 cases per 100,000 for more than 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 10\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for ≥ 14 days

The recommended preventative measures when the majority or all the above indicators are met are as follows:

- Scale down in-person instruction, switching to virtual school instruction model.
- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities.
- No sports or extracurricular activities that may pose a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission.

More evidence-based guidance and recommendations will be provided as they become available. Rest assured that the DPH will stand by its commitment to preserve health by partnering with institutions like yours.

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

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Local Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

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