



# Panola Schools

We know that there is concern regarding the opening of school and with the current state of COVID 19 virus case spikes. We did not intend to require the wearing of facemasks or coverings during school, but for now, with the Governor Greg Abbott, Executive Order on July 2, 2020, and TEA Commissioner, Mike Morath, issued additional guidelines for schools regarding face masks at school. Panola Schools campuses (Panola Charter, Panola Early College High School, and Texas Early College High School) has the following protocols for staff, students, and visitors with regard to face masks.

1. Neck gaiters may be worn in place of regular face masks.
2. If parents or students prefer regular face masks, the Texas Education Agency will deliver these to the district for distribution after August 1st.
3. All Panola Schools employees are required to wear face coverings consistent with guidelines issued by TEA Commissioner, Mike Morath.
4. All Panola Schools students are asked to wear face masks when inside Panola Schools facilities or vehicles.
5. UIL Extracurricular guidance regarding face masks will be followed for all organizations.
6. All visitors to and Panola Schools campus are required to wear face masks before entering any Panola Schools facility.
7. Exceptions to this policy are listed in the Governors executive order. Are the following:
  1. any person younger than 10 years of age.
  2. any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
  3. any person while the person is consuming food or drink or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink.
  4. any person while the person is (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household.
  5. any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience; or
  6. any person in a county (a) that meets the requisite criteria promulgated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) regarding minimal cases of COVID-19, and (b) whose county judge has affirmatively opted-out of this face-covering requirement by filing with TDEM the required face-covering attestation form—provided, however, that wearing a face covering is highly recommended, and every county is strongly encouraged to follow these face-covering standards
8. These guidelines are subject to change, if and when different guidance from national, state or local authorities is received.

If your student chooses to do their course work from home, it will be for a six-week period at a time. On an as needed basis we will provide Chromebook and hotspot if necessary, for students without internet access for that time period.

Our priority is for our students to be safe, and for us to do all we can provide a safe environment for our students and our staff. We have new cleaning equipment for disinfecting our building, and also our vehicles transporting our students, ordered for the upcoming school year. Thank you for being understanding and patient while these changes and others are made for the starting of school. We look forward to seeing each of our students back on August 11, 2020.