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General Safety Guidelines for Self-Contained Classrooms

1. As in all other situations, ensure six feet of separation between all individuals which is 45 square feet per student.
2. In instances where six feet of separation cannot be maintained, ensure that proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn/utilized. PPE equipment (Facial covering and Face Shield) can be obtained from Campus Nurse (Please refer to school nurse's training materials. If training has not yet occurred, it will in the near future).
3. Space chairs, tables, and desks in room in order to maintain six feet of separation. When possible, ensure that students are not sitting face to face.
4. Communicate with parents that if students are ill, or are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID, for their safety and that of all others they should remain at home.
5. Staff must self-screen every day and must stay at home if they are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID that are not normal to them.
6. Staff must wear facial coverings at all times when in the presence of students. When within six feet of students, staff must wear facial coverings as well as provided face shield.
7. TEA writes that it is most likely not developmentally appropriate for some students with disabilities to wear masks or wear face coverings. This does not mean that we cannot request, encourage and teach students to do so.
8. The washing of hands of staff and students must occur frequently throughout the day.
9. In instances where students become ill or begin experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID, the classroom teacher will consult with the school nurse.
10. In instances when students must be fed by staff, if possible, staff will position themselves to attempt to feed from the side of the student instead of being positioned directly in front of the student. While feeding students staff should wear their facial cover, and face shield, or be behind a barrier.
11. In instances when students need to be re-positioned, ensure that proper PPE equipment, to include gloves are being worn by the person(s) who are doing the transferring.
12. When students are being changed for diapering, students must be placed on a vinyl surface, as cloth surfaces cannot easily be disinfected. The entire surface on changing table must be disinfected after each changing.
13. In instances when students need to be assisted with toileting, ensure that staff utilize proper PPE equipment. (Please refer to school nurse's training materials)
14. Sanitizing supplies will be provided by custodial staff. At the end of the day, staff must to the best of their capabilities, utilizing supplies provided by custodial staff, sanitize their rooms.
15. To the extent possible, ensure that students do not share items/materials.
16. To the extent possible, restrict the mixing of different students throughout the day. This will help to contain the virus if a student gets sick
17. Staff must examine everything that they do and ask themselves, "Is there a different way to do this so that we can maintain proper distancing?"
18. If presented with scenarios or questions that you are uncertain about please contact your school nurse, campus administration and/or Special Education Administration.

These general guidelines were completed with the input and collaboration of Susan Coffman (District Nurse Manager) and are fluid as the information regarding COVID is frequently changing. Additionally, Ms. Coffman strongly encourages that all staff review the CDC guidelines for Re-opening of schools. The link to this site can be found below. Your school nurse has been instructed to work closely with you as we prepare to welcome and continue servicing our students. Please share this information with the instructional assistants assigned to your classroom.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

