

Hello, everyone. In the interest of the safety of our students and teachers, and our desire to participate in the community effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, the teachers and I have developed a set of protocols for the 2020-2021 school year. These protocols are based on recommendations provided by the CDC ([here](#)<sup>1</sup> and [here](#)<sup>2</sup>), the experiences of other schools and childcare facilities, and the Texas mask regulation ([here](#)<sup>3</sup>) put into effect by Gov. Abbott.

We have tried to allow for as much convenience as possible while still adhering to the regulations and recommendations. Teachers will be allowed to add additional requirements for their classes, but the protocols below are the ones that will be followed by everyone sharing space at our South Abilene location.

Thank you for your cooperation in this community effort.

Matthew Lowe  
Tiny School Founder/Organizer

### **Tiny School COVID-19 Protocols**

1. We will comply with all local, state and national regulations regarding COVID-19.
2. We will provide clear communication with parents, teachers and students regarding these policies.
3. Class size will be limited to 10 people (generally 9 students + 1 teacher).
4. Students will be seated at least six feet apart.
5. Sharing of objects and materials will be limited.
6. Students will bring their own water bottle, as we will not be using water fountains.
7. Only one student at a time will be allowed to use each bathroom.
8. Anyone older than 10 will wear a mask (a cloth face covering) at all times, with the exception of outdoor physical activity where teachers enforce social distancing.
9. Masks are also recommended for any younger child for whom they are developmentally appropriate.
10. Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned at least once per day.
11. Air Conditioning fans will be set to ON during the school day, to ensure continuous ventilation.
12. As much as possible, we will be teaching classes in the larger, better-ventilated spaces in the Brook Hollow building, such as the gymnasium, as well as outdoors.
13. Families are encouraged to have the same person pick up and drop off the student each day.
14. During pickup and drop-off, one child will be dropped off at a time.
15. Teachers and children will be temperature screened before they enter the classroom. A temperature of 100.4F or higher will mean the child cannot attend class, and parents should contact their doctor about receiving a COVID-19 test.
16. Parents will wait in their vehicle until their child has been screened. This means late arrivals will be especially disruptive, so please arrive on time.
17. Students will be regularly educated and encouraged about good hygiene.
18. If a teacher or student has any COVID-19 symptoms (see below), they will contact their doctor to arrange for a COVID-19 test, and will not return to class until they have received the results of that test.
19. If a student receives a positive test result, or is presumptive positive, the student's parent or guardian will notify their student's teachers, who will communicate with the Tiny School organizer and other parents regarding the situation, adhering to all applicable

privacy regulations. If a teacher receives a positive test result or is presumptive positive, he or she will communicate with the Tiny School organizer and parents regarding the situation.

20. Per CDC recommendations, if a teacher or student contracts COVID-19 (positive or presumptive positive), they will not return to class for 10 days.
21. Per CDC recommendations, if a teacher or student has close contact with another person who is positive or presumptive positive for COVID-19, they will not return to class for 14 days.
22. Teachers will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
23. If a student reports feeling feverish, they will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
24. If a student shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school, areas used by that student will be cleaned as soon as possible.

These procedures may be changed at any time during the school year. Parents will be notified regarding any changes.

Our list of COVID-19 symptoms is taken from the [TEA guidelines](#)<sup>4</sup>, and is as follows:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

## Recess

During our longer classes, it's extremely important for kids to have periods of unstructured time. This gives them opportunities to interact with other children and is important for their social development and mental health. Our policies for recess will be exactly those listed above, including the need for masks, and the use of larger and outdoor spaces. However, it is important to understand that just as students may pass within a few feet of each other while moving around the classroom, they will sometimes be closer than 6 feet during recess.

## Masks

Our understanding of the Texas mask regulations -- both from reading the text of the regulation and analyses of the regulation -- is that during Tiny School classes, anyone older than 10 must wear a mask at all times, except during outdoor activities that can be social-distanced. In addition, TEA recommends that younger children also wear masks where it is "developmentally appropriate". Children who forget to bring a mask to class will be provided with one, but we have a limited supply of masks, so please help your children remember! We encourage parents to actively and enthusiastically involve their children in selecting masks with fun colors or patterns, and to help us ensure that mask policies are followed, just like any other class rule.

## Class Closures

Based on the guidelines above, when a student in a class is found to have COVID-19, this will probably mean that everyone else in the class has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19, and that class will effectively be closed for two weeks.

Also, it is possible that we will have to close all Tiny School classes temporarily if infection rates spike in Taylor County. As has been the case in the past, if AISD stops in-person school, we will stop meeting at Brook Hollow. As the TEA guidelines note, we should all be prepared to deal with this situation if it occurs, while actively working to prevent it by following prevention practices both at school and at home.

In classes where remote learning is an option, online class may be used as an alternative to in-person class during the closure. If classes must be closed, teachers will work with parents to provide in-home activities or alternative class arrangements that allow the child to continue learning.

Nobody wants classes to be closed. However, if this becomes necessary due to COVID-19, parents will receive a refund of 50% of the tuition they have paid for the closed period. We think this tuition split is the most equitable way of sharing the burden of a covid closure: while parents are not receiving the services they were expecting, teachers have prepared for classes and are depending on the income from their work.

#### To Conclude

Please understand that these changes are not what anyone wants. We would prefer for our children to go without face coverings, sit side-by-side and not have to worry about any extra rules. But we believe these policies are what our community needs in order to follow state regulations, keep all of our constituents safe, and do our part to contain the virus in Abilene. It is our hope that by working together to follow these policies, we will speed the time when we can fully recover our collective freedoms as well as our peace of mind.

By signing below, I affirm:

- I have received, read and understood this policy, and I agree to follow all the guidelines contained herein.
- I agree to encourage my students to follow these guidelines.
- In the event of a COVID-19 infection, I will hold harmless Tiny School, its teachers and organizers, and Brook Hollow Christian Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
3. <https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-29-use-of-face-coverings-during-COVID-19-IMAGE-07-02-2020.pdf>
4. <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>