



## Dean of Students Office

### *Covid-19 Policies to Prevent, Respond, and Mitigate*

#### **Prevent: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School**

##### *Screening:*

STH will require students, teachers, and staff to use the Luminare QuickScreen COVID-19 system to self-screen each day before coming onto campus. Additionally, all approved visitors will be required to self-screen prior to entering the building. After completing the self-screen, the Luminare QuickScreen system will provide you with a green, yellow, or red screen. Any individual who receives a yellow or red screen should not come on campus. Students should immediately contact the Dean of Students Office and Faculty and Staff should immediately notify their supervisor and Michael White, HR Coordinator. [Click here for more information](#) about student QuickScreen and log in information. Any student who did not complete the Luminare QuickScreen prior to entering a school building should go directly to the Dean of Students Office upon arrival.

##### *Individuals Confirmed, Suspected, or Exposed to Covid-19:*

Any individuals who are lab-confirmed to have Covid-19, even if asymptomatic, or experience symptoms of Covid-19 but have not been tested, must stay home and cannot return until the following three-step process is completed:

- 1) The individual has been fever-free (temperature under 100.4) without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least seventy-two hours.
- 2) There is an overall improvement in symptoms.
- 3) At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Any individual with symptoms who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for Covid-19 is assumed to have the virus and cannot return until the above three conditions are met.

Any individual with symptoms who wants to return before the above stay-at-home period must present a note from a medical professional confirming an alternate diagnosis, or receive two separate confirmations at least twenty-four hours apart indicating they are free of Covid-19 *via* acute infection tests at an approved site or by their medical professional. PCR tests are preferred; a negative result for an antigen test requires a PCR test confirmation. Information about test locations can be found at <https://abc13.com/coronavirus-testing-houston-covid-19-in-covid-test/6260182/>

Any individual who has had close contact with someone confirmed to have Covid-19 should stay at home for fourteen days. The school will then screen the individual. If the screening reveals symptoms, the individual must go through the three-step process above.

***Close contact is being directly exposed to a person's infectious secretions who has been lab-confirmed to have Covid-19 OR being within six feet of that person for fifteen minutes or more while not wearing a mask or face shield (both parties).***

*Possible Covid-19 Cases on Campus:*

Students who are feeling ill should report directly to the Dean of Students Office. If the student is in class, the teacher should send the student, with their belongings, directly to the Dean of Students Office. An immediate temperature check will be performed on any individual feeling feverish to determine if they are symptomatic. Symptomatic individuals will be separated from contact with others and sent home. The school will clean any areas used by the individual as soon as is feasible. The area will be closed off if cleaning cannot be done immediately.

#### **Respond: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

*Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School:*

The local health department will be notified; areas used by the individual will be closed off until disinfected. All teachers, staff, and families will be notified. An attempt will be made to contact individuals who have come into close contact (as defined above) with the lab-confirmed, infected individual.

#### **Mitigate: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of Covid-19 Spread Inside the School**

*Health and Hygiene Practices:*

Hand sanitizer stations/containers will be placed at each entrance and in every office and classroom.

All individuals will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently and to cover all coughs and wash hands afterward.

The school will be cleaned and disinfected each day after school.

Teachers may require students to clean their desks between class periods.

Teachers who share a classroom or office space should establish cleaning and disinfecting protocols between or among those sharing the space.

Teachers/staff should open windows where possible.

All water fountains will be disabled.

The Dean of Students' Office personnel will provide hygiene instruction to students at the beginning of the school year, and throughout the year.

All individuals will be required to wear face masks from the time they exit their vehicles upon arrival to the time they enter their vehicles to leave campus. The only exceptions are when a student is eating, drinking, or engaged in physical activities in athletics or P.E.

Teachers and staff will encourage students to practice social distancing when not in class. In the hybrid model of instruction, desks will be placed six feet apart. Where social distancing cannot be enforced, more hand sanitizing and increased flow of outside air should take place.

*Use of Non-Classroom Spaces:*

A separate policy addressing meetings and events will be promulgated.

Participation in extracurricular activities will be determined by the administration at a later date.

The Dean of Students Office will work with other departments to plan for campus entry and exit supervision, lunchtime procedures and supervision, and before and after school policies and supervision. The goal throughout this planning and execution process will be the maintenance of standards of social distancing, personal hygiene, and disinfecting after use.

There will be a transportation plan to facilitate and require social distancing, personal hygiene practices, the wearing of face coverings and the cleaning and disinfecting of buses.

*Visitors to St. Thomas:*

Visits will be restricted primarily to those essential to the operation of the school, as determined by the administration. Approved visitors will follow all of the virus mitigation and prevention policies of the school.