

Support guideline in case of confirmed or suspected Covid-19 infection of students

The DISD sees it as a key priority to support its students on a daily basis through various challenges that they might be facing during the school year.

This guideline outlines the actions the DISD has prepared to support the wellbeing of students with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 through their period of isolation and eventual return to school. It includes 5 core steps:

1. Reach out to parents or caregivers and offer assistance and informative resources – this step is of a great importance, since parents or caregivers are most likely to face the biggest challenges and pressure in this situation. We strongly believe that providing them all possible assistance from our side can be only beneficial for both – parents/caregivers and the affected child.

2. Provide emotional and learning support to the affected students – the way that students respond to the negative impact on their physical and emotional wellbeing can differ significantly. Some may be deeply saddened and distanced, others may feel anxious or angry. They can also get affected by worries parents may have during the situation. As a consequence, the learning motivation may drop significant. To consider all of this, the DISD sees providing of the needed emotional and learning support to the affected students as crucial.

3. Help the fellow students to understand what has happened and allow to express themselves – all of them may have picked up fears about the virus and the possibility that they or someone else might get ill. They may be particularly worried that their classmates with health conditions or disabilities might be endangered stronger. They may also be getting information which is incorrect or distorted from friends or social media. This is why we see the open discussions with students about both facts and emotions as very important.

4. Encourage and create the possibilities for connection with those who are affected by Covid-19 – staying in social connection with classmates and the school community is a crucial part of individual emotional and psychological wellbeing. It can be effectively done with the help of social media as well as hand-written cards and self-made videos.

5. Prepare the affected student as well as classmates for safe return (in case authorized by authorities) - in case of return to school provide social support within the school community to make it as smooth and positive as possible. This involves on the one hand preparing and informing the classmates for the return to ensure that there is no fear from an infection of the affected student. On the other as a subsequent step celebrate it on the class level, put on their side some students from the higher year grade for social support or initiate group activities to boost their belonging feeling.

Side note:

For the implementation of this guideline the DISD has a team of: Medical Director, School Psychologist, Liaison-, Class- and Subject Teachers, who are experienced and trained in supporting students and providing the necessary assistance to parents and caregivers.