

The El Paso/ Las Cruces PedsStrong Group

Delta Variant Concerns

To: El Paso & Dona Ana County Schools, Public & Private

We are a coalition of providers that serve the children of the Borderland. As a collective we are extremely concerned about the new Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus. In particular, the CDC has indicated this variant is more contagious and highly transmissible to younger persons. We are recommending as a group, the following safety guidelines in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations. These guidelines are to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to guide the schools with possible/and or positive cases. The priority is to continue in-person learning and not have to resort to 100% virtual learning.

Prevention:

1. Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
2. Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, AAP recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks should also be worn on school buses.
3. In addition to universal indoor masking, AAP recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. This physical distance should also be implemented on school buses.
4. Consider adding Plexiglas dividers on student's desks, mainly those who are 12 years and younger, who do not qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine.
5. Symptom screening, on campus testing, ventilation, hand-washing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, disinfection, staying home when sick, testing when symptomatic or if exposed, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
6. Students are required to quarantine if they are COVID-19 positive, awaiting test results or have been exposed to COVID-19 (if not fully vaccinated). They should also have access to virtual learning during their period of quarantine.
7. We also encourage virtual learning options for students who are immunocompromised or with special needs.

Steps to take if there is a positive COVID-19 case or possible COVID-19 positive case:

1. The student (and/or responsible caregiver) should contact their healthcare provider in case of concerns or questions. *Staff and school nurses - please feel free to contact us in the case of questions or concerns.*
2. Members of the ill student's household and those who had close contact with the student, to include staff, are advised to quarantine. Unvaccinated household members (e.g. siblings) should stay home and obtain a PCR test for COVID-19, ideally on day 5-7 after exposure, or before if symptoms develop.
3. Members of the household who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine, but should get tested after exposure and/or if they become symptomatic.
4. The ill student can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:
 - 10 days from the start of the symptoms AND
 - Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND
 - Symptoms have improved

The most common symptoms for COVID-19 in children include:

-Fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste and/or smell, shortness of breath, vomiting or diarrhea, stomachache, fatigue, headache, muscle or body aches, poor feeding/lack of appetite.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We must continue to be cautious and safeguard our most precious resource, the children of the Borderland.

Testing Sites in the City:

We would like to remind you that the ER is NOT a testing site. It should be used for medical emergencies only. Please contact your pediatrician's office for guidance of where to obtain a COVID-19 test.

The following are some testing sites/resources in El Paso county:

1. Epstrong.org - general information about COVID-19 19.
2. UTEP's testing site: 3333 North Mesa at Kern Drive, (10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday)
Utep.edu/covidtesting
3. County SportsPark, 1780 N. Zaragoza Road
(10:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m. Monday through Sunday)
4. Judson F. Williams Convention Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza
(12:00 noon - 6:00p.m. Monday through Friday. 8:00 a.m.-5:00p.m. on Saturdays)
5. Marty Robbins Recreation Center, 11620 Vista Del Sol
(10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 8:00 a.m. -5:00p.m. on Saturdays)
6. Don Haskins Recreation Center, 7400 High Ridge Drive
(12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 8:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays)
7. Walgreens for those 3 years of age and over.
8. CVS with appointment. (https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing/?icid=mc_homepage2_covid_19_testing)

Timestamp	Name & Credentials
8/21/2021 9:34:56	Akintoluwa Akinjaiyeju , MD
8/21/2021 7:16:29	Alejandra Valenzuela PNP
8/21/2021 8:08:36	Alex Yee, RN
8/21/2021 8:17:44	Alfredo Maldonado, MD
8/21/2021 7:49:32	Alison L. Days, M.D.
8/21/2021 9:06:41	Ana Mena , MSN, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 7:05:31	Andrés Aristizabal MD- Pediatrician
8/21/2021 10:24:35	Andres Boadella, MD
8/21/2021 9:41:41	Angelica Baylon Andrew MD FAAP
8/20/2021 22:40:19	Audriana Apodaca, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 10:57:43	Belen Terrazas, CPNP
8/21/2021 8:15:01	Bertha Vasquez FNP-C, RN
8/21/2021 7:40:37	Brenda Simpson, MD, FAAD
8/21/2021 7:49:02	Carla L Mora CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 9:49:01	Carmen Prieto MD
8/21/2021 9:38:07	Cathy Hermosillo CPNP
8/21/2021 10:47:10	Cenan Antowan , MD
8/21/2021 9:51:50	Deanna Vilardell, MSN-RN, CPN
8/21/2021 16:09:37	Deepak Yadav , MD
8/21/2021 11:31:11	Destiny Dubrule, RN
8/21/2021 10:44:52	Eddie Nassar, M.D.
8/21/2021 10:46:50	Edna Vazquez CPNP
8/21/2021 8:13:42	Eduardo Covarrubias MD
8/21/2021 8:45:53	Eduardo D. Rosas-Blum,M.D.
8/21/2021 11:21:24	Endy A Dominguez MD / Pediatric Pulmonologist
8/21/2021 9:39:17	Evelyn Acosta, CPNP
8/22/2021 8:16:46	Francis idada, MD
8/21/2021 8:09:01	Francisco Hernandez CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 7:11:19	G. Alfonso Latiff, MD
8/21/2021 8:43:09	Gilberto Gomez, MD
8/21/2021 7:10:44	Gretchen Struempfl, MD
8/20/2021 22:54:04	Gustavo Gutiérrez MSN, RN, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 9:05:42	Hasan Adnan, MD, Mountainview children center

8/21/2021 7:11:17	Hector Granados MD
8/21/2021 14:18:26	Indu Pathak MD
8/21/2021 9:11:17	Isabel Cristina Zuniga, DNP,APRN, AGACNP-BC
8/21/2021 10:27:54	Isela Ibarra, MD
8/21/2021 8:20:30	Ittay Moreno MD
8/21/2021 7:41:24	Jagdish patel,MD,pediatric health center
8/21/2021 10:05:30	Jessica Garcia, RN
8/21/2021 9:10:09	Jessica Ortiz AGACNP-BC
8/21/2021 10:36:21	Jolande Aguilar RN
8/21/2021 11:41:47	Jose Luis De Anda MD
8/21/2021 7:20:31	Kristyn Ingram, MD
8/21/2021 12:28:07	Laura Batres CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 8:41:10	Lisa Ayoub-Rodriguez MD
8/21/2021 8:55:59	Lizabeth Holguin, DDS
8/21/2021 7:05:01	Lourdes Asiain MD FAAP diplomate ABOM
8/21/2021 11:09:50	Luis F. Vásquez, MD
8/21/2021 10:45:29	Luis Muñoz Md
8/21/2021 7:30:08	Manuel F Valenzuela, MD
8/21/2021 11:19:52	Marcella A Frausto MD FAAP
8/21/2021 10:38:37	Marco Zuñiga CPNP
8/21/2021 15:29:18	Maria Prodanovic Nutis MD
8/21/2021 9:33:36	Maria Theresa Villanos, MD
8/21/2021 8:50:16	Marisol Valdes, M.D
8/21/2021 7:27:01	Melissa Barnes, RN
8/21/2021 9:21:32	Mercedes Martinez, CPNP
8/21/2021 6:58:47	Nicolo Geralde, DO. Founder EP/LC PedsStrong
8/21/2021 9:10:48	Nilda Martinez, AGACNP-BC
8/21/2021 10:33:19	Norma Lanahan RN
8/21/2021 13:34:15	Pamela Bendickson AGACNP
8/21/2021 10:58:40	Patricia Azarcon Samonte , MD
8/21/2021 10:03:26	Priscilla Lemus, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 10:55:49	Rahul Kataria MD
8/21/2021 8:57:50	Remi Trien MD
8/21/2021 7:40:43	Riddhi Patel, MD

8/21/2021 7:42:06	Rini Sahewalla, MD , Pediatric Cardiology
8/21/2021 12:42:02	Rodolfo Fierro-Stevens, M.D.
8/21/2021 8:15:45	Rodrigo Saenz, MD
8/21/2021 19:03:34	Sadhana Chheda MD
8/21/2021 10:25:40	Sandra Nungaray CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 9:04:11	Shauna Goldman, MD
8/21/2021 8:42:14	Sondie Skory, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 9:03:16	Stacey Adams DNP, CPNP-PC
8/21/2021 8:08:15	Suzy Yee, RN
8/21/2021 9:05:25	Tanya Marin, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC
8/21/2021 6:20:52	Vanessa Ruiz MD
8/21/2021 14:41:12	Victoria Vega CPNP-PC
8/22/2021 7:32:43	Yezika Delgado MD
8/21/2021 8:55:04	Zoe Tullius MD