

**Local Health Authority Order  
For Independent School Districts in Nueces County delaying On-Campus Instruction**

WHEREAS, the situation regarding COVID-19 in Nueces County, Texas is rapidly evolving with observed rapid rate of transmission through community spread as demonstrated by a sharp increase in new cases and increased hospitalizations and ICU admissions;

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”) does not have general authority to close schools due to public health, and TEA acknowledges that such authority lies with the local health authority, the Department of State Health Services, and the Governor;

WHEREAS, data indicates that if schools open for on-campus instruction on the currently scheduled date, multiple students and staff will probably arrive at the campus already infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this order includes appropriate control measures based on the higher risk for spread of COVID-19 in schools due to the necessity of large groups gathering in indoor spaces and the difficulty for children to follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

THEREFORE, due to the current evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nueces County, and pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code §§ 81.082 and 81.084, Dr. Srikanth Ramachandrani, the Health Authority for Corpus Christi/Nueces County, hereby issues this order imposing specified control measures and restrictions on all independent school districts within Nueces County (hereinafter described as “public school systems”).

The following restrictions are effective as of the execution of this Order:

- Public school systems shall not re-open schools for on-campus, face-to-face instruction until after September 7, 2020;
- Virtual instruction shall be permitted as per each public school system’s own plan;
- At least two weeks prior to re-opening for on-campus instruction and on-campus activities, each school or public school system shall develop a plan to be submitted to the Corpus Christi/Nueces County Health Authority for re-opening on-campus activities and instruction and make the plan available for parents and general public.

This order is issued under my authority as Health Authority for the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County, on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020. This order may be renewed or extended by further action pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code §§ 81.082 and 81.084.

  
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