



MEMORANDUM

TO: AVANCE-Houston, Inc. Families

FROM: Antionette Montgomery, EdD, Chief Administrator of EHS/HS & PCEP

CC: Luz Flores, Executive Director

DATE: March 9, 2021

RE: Transition to In-Person Instruction & Mask Mandate

As you are aware, since the COVID-19 pandemic started, we have been monitoring Harris County's data and guidance. Subsequently we have been in consultation with other sources to assist us in deciding to re-open the Early childhood centers for in person instruction. We are following the recommended health protocols from Harris County Public Health, City of Houston, and our local Department of Health and Human Services (child care licensing). Based on the current transmission rates in Harris County, CDC advises that schools can offer hybrid instruction models for young children.

Early Head Start & Head Start

With the additional resources for reopening, we will follow this guidance and continue offering virtual instruction but incorporate in-person instruction for a limited number of Early Head Start/Head Start children only, Monday-Friday.

The following are important dates to keep in mind:

March 15-19th -Spring break for students

March 22-Virtual instruction resumes (Note: Some children will remain virtual and others will start in person instruction.)

-Early Head Start Home Based services will resume virtual services.

Week of March 22- In person instruction starts for all Head Start (3-5 years old) sites will and for the following Early Head Start (0-3 years old): DeKaney, Kruse, Tegeler, and Wesley. You will be contacted by AVANCE personnel for your specific start date.

Week of March 29-The following Early Head Start classrooms will start opening for in-person

instruction: Acres Homes, Jensen, Mt. Houston, Oakwood, Walters, & Mangum. You will be contacted by AVANCE personnel for your specific start date.

Adult Learning Programs

Adult Education and PCEP will continue to be provided in a virtual format. In-person dates will be determined at a later time. Healthy Relationships will begin enrollment for virtual sessions soon. Please look out for the enrollment information.

Mask Mandate

Effective March 10th, Texas Governor lifts mask mandate, as well as the reopens businesses to 100% capacity. AVANCE Houston will continue to require face coverings/masks at times for all individuals 2 years and older at each location. The following health and safety protocols will also remain in effect: daily temperature checks, COVID-19 symptom questionnaire, face coverings/masks, social distancing, sanitations stations, and proper hygiene and frequent handwashing. Parents of EHS/HS children returning for in person services will receive an orientation about center safety protocols, prior to March 22, 2021. In addition, parents will receive a handbook with more detailed guidance. Our commitment to providing safety to our participants is OUR PRIORITY.

COVID-19 Updates

Please note the COVID-19 data continues to change daily and we will continue to keep you updated as our efforts to transition in to the facilities evolve. We will provide you with COVID-19 updates as they become available. For further questions about this memo, please contact your program director or center administrator.