



Best Practices for Vision, Hearing and Spinal Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Texas Department of State Health Services Vision, Hearing, and Spinal Screening Program follows [CDC Guidelines](#) for COVID-19.

Vision Screening - Best practices for vision screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Reluctant participant– If student is reluctant or upset at a screening, rescreen later (one on one).

- Choose a well-ventilated area when possible.
- Sanitize or wash hands upon entering and leaving should be done by all.
- Do not screen students displaying any signs of illness.
- CDC also always recommends masking in healthcare settings, including school nurses' offices, regardless of the current COVID-19 Community Level. People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should also wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.
- Screen student in their glasses if they wear them.
- Use disposable, single use occluders.
 - Students may hold occluders.
 - Occluders can be construction paper, paper plates, folded paper towels, index card, etc.
 - Plastic, reusable occluders must be sanitized between students.
- Schools and ECE programs should clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces
 - If no one with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been in a space [cleaning once a day is usually enough](#) to remove virus that may be on surfaces. This also helps maintain a healthy facility.

Hearing Screening - Best practices for hearing screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Reluctant participant– If student is visibly reluctant and upset at a screening, rescreen later (one on one).

- Choose a well-ventilated area when possible.
- Sanitize or wash hands upon entering and leaving should be done by all.
- Do not screen students displaying any signs of illness.
- CDC also always recommends masking in healthcare settings, including school nurses' offices, regardless of the current COVID-19 Community Level. People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should also wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.
- Use disposable earphone covers or sanitize earphones after each student.
 - Sanitize earphones, cords, and headbands.
- Student should sit in a chair facing away from the audiometer. The screener should place and adjust the earphones by reaching from the back of the head.
- Schools and ECE programs should clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces
 - If no one with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been in a space cleaning once a day is usually enough to remove virus that may be on surfaces. This also helps maintain a healthy facility.

Spinal Screening - Best practices for spinal screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Reluctant participant– If student is visibly reluctant and upset at a screening, rescreen later (one on one).

- Choose a well-ventilated area when possible.
- Sanitize or wash hands upon entering and leaving should be done by all.
- Do not screen students displaying any signs of illness.
- CDC also always recommends masking in healthcare settings, including school nurses' offices, regardless of the current COVID-19 Community Level. People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should also wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.
- Do not touch students to screen them.
- Schools and ECE programs should clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces
 - If no one with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been in a space cleaning once a day is usually enough to remove virus that may be on surfaces. This also helps maintain a healthy facility.

Special Ed Student Screening

- Screener must follow as many of the recommendations above as possible.
- Students with special healthcare needs may require closer contact with the screener or classroom aide. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to employees who must be in closer contact to complete the screen.
- Parents are encouraged to assist with eye occluders and earphones if the school allows parents on campus.
- Students may be referred to a healthcare provider for screening if the screener cannot successfully screen them.