

TPSD Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools

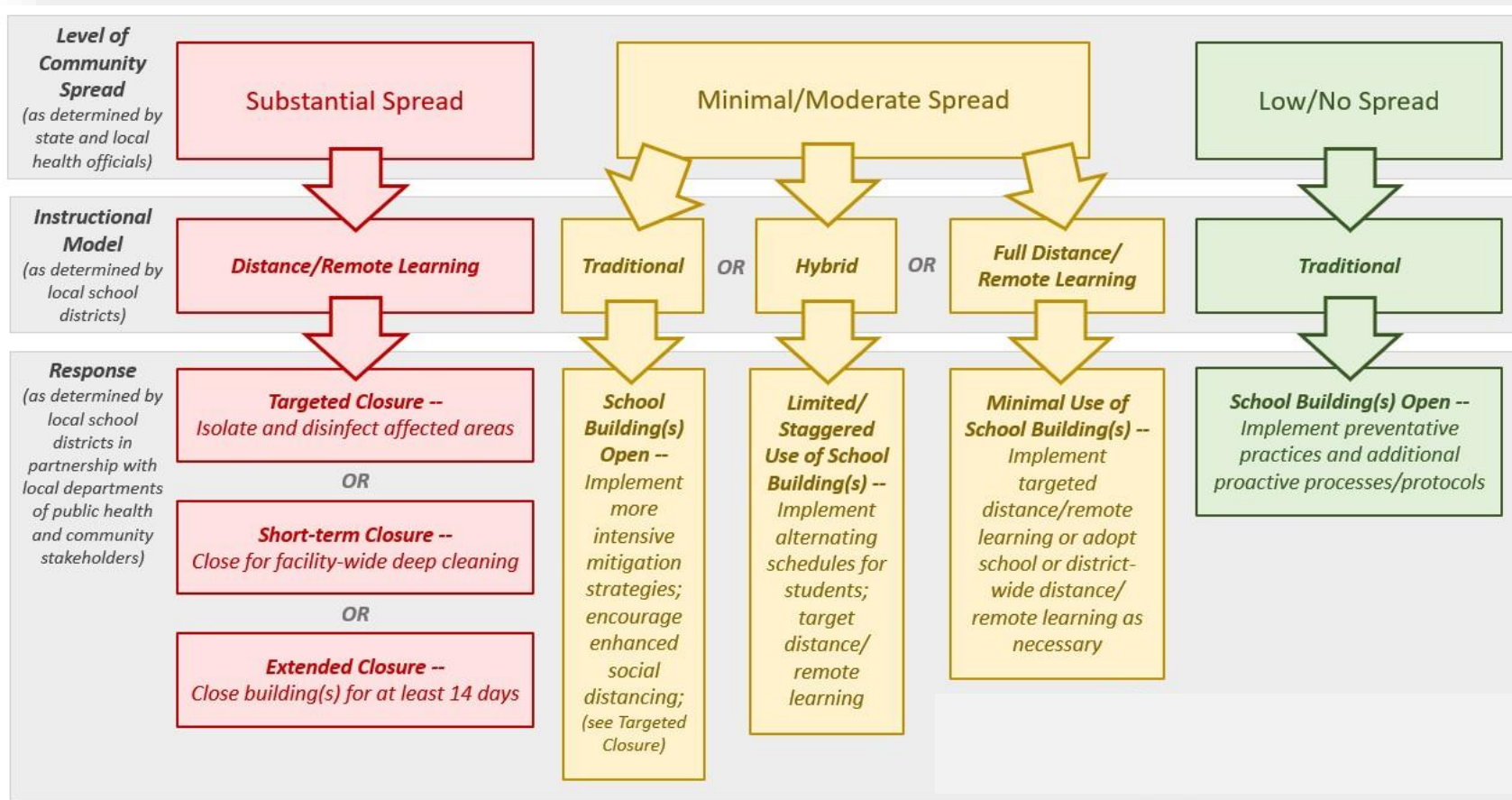
The TPSD team will do whatever it must to implement effective safety protocols while providing in-person classroom programs concurrently with distance learning programs 5 days a week for all students. We are committed to the health, academic, and social/emotional needs of our students and staff. Our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe. We will strive to meet our goal by following CDC guidelines, recommendations from the Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Education, and local medical experts at North Mississippi Health Services. **We ask that you monitor your own health and your children's health throughout the school year and that you do not send your children to school if they are sick.**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this document. We expect there to be changes as the conditions of the virus change and guidance from the state and federal authorities change. We also expect there to be adjustments as the principals and teachers return and match this guidance with the day-to-day reality of life in a school.

The Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Health will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to school districts as we navigate the health, academic, and social/emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.

Dedicated COVID-19 Points of Contact Districtwide: School Principals and School Nurses
Kim Britton, Deputy Superintendent
(662-841-8850)

TPSD's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools District Decision Tree



School District Decision Tree

TPSD's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools provides a flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the above *District Decision Tree* provides a menu of instructional models and responses districts and schools can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members. All decisions regarding the closure of schools will be made in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Health. The level of community spread is determined by the Mississippi Department of Health and based upon data obtained from medical experts in Tupelo. **Currently, we are in Minimal/Moderate Spread.**

Regulations

Face Coverings



TPSD will provide one mask and shield for all students and staff. We will follow the City of Tupelo Executive Order. The Executive Order stipulates children under the age of 12 will not be required to wear a mask. However, TPSD will expect and highly encourage all students to wear a mask or a shield when not able to socially distance themselves from other students or staff. For example, when students are working at their desks and socially distanced, they will not be expected to wear a mask or shield. However, if students are asked to work in close proximity to other students or the teacher, face coverings will be necessary. Any policy regarding face coverings will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering inadvisable. Students and staff will be expected and highly encouraged to wear masks or shields where applicable and feasible. Face coverings are applicable when social distancing is not possible, and it is not feasible for a young child to wear a mask all day. While we expect and highly encourage our students and staff to wear masks/shields when social distancing is not possible, it is absolutely necessary to wear masks or shields in the following situations:

- Arrival and dismissal
- Transitions in the hall
- Small group sessions or individual time with a teacher

> [CDC Guidance](#)

Hand Sanitizer



TPSD will provide increased access to hand sanitizer stations throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will only be used with those children who can safely use hand sanitizer. Hand soap will also be provided. Increased hand sanitizer units will be installed throughout all buildings. Proper hand hygiene will be built into all daily routines.

> [CDC Guidance](#)

Clean/Disinfectant



Disinfectants will be correctly applied and kept out of reach of children. Frequent sanitization will take place in all high touch areas in classrooms and in other communal spaces such as in bathrooms and in hallways.

> [CDC Guidance](#)

Regulations (Cont.)

Conducting Large Group Gatherings



TPSD will conduct virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 6 feet between people where feasible if events are held in person. We will limit group sizes both indoors and outdoors in accordance with guidance provided by the Mississippi Department of Health. We will limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations—especially individuals who are not from the local geographic area. We will conduct sporting events and participation in sports activities in ways that minimize the risk of transmission of COVID—19 to players, families, coaches, and community members in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Education, and Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA).

> [CDC Guidance](#)

Modified Schedules



We will stagger arrival and drop off times. TPSD will adopt a six-hour school day at all levels to accommodate controlled arrivals and dismissals, to give teachers more time to prepare for the next day, and to prepare for distance learning. The schedules are as follows:

ECEC	7:45 – 1:45
K-2 Schools	8:00 – 2:00
3-5 Schools	8:15 – 2:15
Milam	8:00 – 2:00
TMS	8:00 – 2:00
THS	8:30 – 2:30

> [CDC Guidance](#)

Practicing Prevention



TPSD will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as washing hands, covering coughs, and wearing face coverings. We will provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and areas of high/frequent traffic. Signs will be posted in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Ventilation systems will operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.



> [CDC Guidance](#)



Classifications of and Responses to Covid-19 Spread

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (AS DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS)

Substantial Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Low/No Spread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreak ≥ 3 cases within any group with multiple outbreaks across the district. • Coordinate with local and state health officials. • Schools closed by Governor’s Executive Order or TPSD Board of Trustees • Schools that are closed remain closed until Executive Order is lifted or given the clearance from local and state health officials. • School Closure Decision Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multiple simultaneous outbreaks of affected groups (e.g., ≥ 3 separate groups impacted). ○ Difficulty operating schools due to staff absences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated ≤ 3 cases within any group, e.g., class, team, or staff. • Follow policy JGCC. • Coordinate with local and state health officials. • Reevaluate social distancing measures and modified schedules to facilitate greater social distancing measures as needed. • Infected area will be closed for deep cleaning and disinfectant. Students may need to stay home during this period of time. Students will be allowed to participate in virtual learning during any absence. • Students determined by Department of Health directed contact tracing to have been exposed will be required to quarantine for 14 days or get tested before returning to school with a negative test result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random to 0 cases throughout the community. • Follow policy JGCC. • Coordinate with local and state health officials. • Infected area will be closed for deep cleaning and disinfectant. Students may need to stay home during this period of time. Students will be allowed to participate in virtual learning during any absence. • Students determined by Department of Health directed contact tracing to have been exposed will be required to quarantine for 14 days or get tested before returning to school with a negative test result.

Mitigation Factors

<p>Transporting Students</p> 	<p>Substantial Spread</p>	<p>School buildings are closed. Buses may be used to deliver meals to families at pick-up destinations throughout the community.</p>
	<p>Minimal/Moderate Spread Low/No Spread</p>	<p>TPSD will run double routes to facilitate social distancing on the buses. Students will be assigned seats. Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and bus drivers. There will be no bus field trips until further notice. High touch surfaces will be frequently cleaned and disinfected. Protocols will be established for bus stops, loading/unloading in an effort to minimize congregation of children from different households. The school day will be reduced by one hour, so buses can run double routes.</p>
<p>Entering School Buildings</p> 	<p>Substantial Spread</p>	<p>School buildings are closed.</p>
	<p>Minimal/Moderate Spread Low/No Spread</p>	<p>Signage will be posted in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Lines will be marked to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow patterns. Temperature screenings will be conducted in classrooms with handheld screening devices by administrative designees or school nurses. Students with an internal temperature over 100.0°F (38°C) will be isolated and sent home. Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained while conducting and responding to temperature screenings. Processes will be established for visitors which will include temperature screening, wearing a mask or shield, and calling the front office before entering. We will limit any nonessential visitors or volunteers.</p>

Mitigation Factors		
Serving Meals 	Substantial Spread	School buildings are closed. Buses may be used to deliver meals to families at pick-up destinations throughout the community.
	Minimal/Moderate Spread Low/No Spread	Social distancing protocols will be followed while students are picking up meals in the cafeteria. Meals will be eaten in classrooms. We will use disposable plates, utensils, etc. There will be marked spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines to designate entrance and exit flow patterns. We will conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day. Students will be allowed to bring lunches. Pre-packaged lunch and breakfast boxes or bags will be provided to avoid traditional serving lines. Students will be discouraged from sharing food or utensils.
Transitioning 	Substantial Spread	School buildings are closed.
	Minimal/Moderate Spread Low/No Spread	Additional time for transitions will be provided. Lanes will be designated in the hallways as flow paths to keep students separated and to minimize congregation of students where practical. Dismissal of classes will be staggered (e.g.: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/ discipline) to decrease the number of students in hallways at one time. Students will be discouraged from congregating in large groups before, during, and after school. The school day will be shortened by one hour to facilitate controlled arrival and dismissal times. Schedules and additional details are provided on each school's website.

Mitigation Factors

Supporting Teaching and Learning



Substantial Spread

School buildings are closed. All instruction is provided via distance learning. A distance learning handbook will be on the TPSD website and will be sent out to all parents. A special education handbook will be on the TPSD website and sent out to all parents of special education students. An ELL handbook will be on the TPSD website and sent out to all parents of ELL students. Individual school distance learning plans are on the school websites.

**Minimal/Moderate Spread
Low/No Spread**

We will offer a concurrent model of traditional classroom instruction and distance learning instruction for those parents who are not able to send their children back to school. In the traditional model, the master schedule will be adjusted to balance classroom numbers as much as possible and facilitate the greatest degree of social distancing. All desks will be facing forward and spaced to the extent practical. Partner and group work will be limited to an online format at the secondary level. At the elementary level, it will be necessary to wear shields/masks when participating in small groups. We will target interventions and supports for students who are at risk of not graduating on time, students with disabilities, and students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning experience. To mitigate the learning loss due to the recent school closure, we will assess students at the beginning of the school year to establish a baseline. Instruction and Interventions will be individualized and targeted to specific learning needs.

In preparation for potential future school closures, we will:

1. Develop a digital learning plan.
2. Require a specific number of online assignments for each grading period in the traditional model.
3. Implement a CANVAS learning management system (LMS)
4. Staff development in virtual learning and CANVAS will be provided for parents and teachers.

All other details are included in the school plans on the school websites.

**When a Child,
Staff
Member, or
Visitor
Becomes Sick
at School**



District/School Considerations:

- Work with school administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use *Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions* when caring for sick people. See: [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID19 Infection.](#)
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.
- Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Safely and correctly apply disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state Mississippi Department of Health criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow state Mississippi Department of Health guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, follow appropriate state Mississippi Department of Health guidance for home quarantine.

CDC Guidance

- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection](#)
- [Standard Precautions](#)
- [Transmission-based Precautions](#)