

PROPOSED: 8420.1 - PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS (COVID-19)

Tell City-Troy Township School Board of Trustees suspends any and all such policies or provisions within board policy which reflect legal and/or regulatory requirements that have been waived or extended by the Governor, the Indiana Department of Education, or other state agencies. The suspension of policies or provisions within policies of the Tell City-Troy Township School Board is in effect for the duration of time that the waiver of laws and/or regulations reflected in the policies are waived.

The superintendent is directed to inform the School Board of any regulations that are suspended by the superintendent and the duration of such suspensions. The Tell City-Troy Township School Board will comply with temporary laws and regulations without enacting further policies to implement those laws and regulations.

MASKS AND PREVENTION

When the emergency plan for pandemics or epidemics including provisions for continued or returning instructional activities wherein students and staff will be in school buildings, the plan's provisions concerning the use of face masks by students and staff will be followed. To the extent it can obtain supplies, the School Corporation will provide face coverings or masks to students and employees who do not have their own face covering or mask.

When face masks or face coverings are provided for through state or federal agencies, the students will not be charged a fee for use of the face masks.

Wearing Masks and Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Non-students
Mask-wearing is allowed for prevention of illness and requirements or recommendations in schools should be consistent with state and local guidelines.

- Some non-students may be required to wear additional PPE (i.e. health-related, custodial staff, specialized positions, etc.) when directed to do so by district/school protocol or the employee's supervisor.
- Additional accommodations may be made for staff based on their individual health plan.

Wearing Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Students
Mask-wearing is allowed for prevention of illness and requirements or recommendations in schools should be consistent with state and local guidelines.

- Some students may be required to wear additional PPE (i.e. health-related, special conditions, etc.) when directed to do so by student health plans.
- Additional accommodations may need to be made for students based on their individual health plan.

ATTENDANCE

State statute gives Tell City-Troy Township district the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). All immunization requirements remain in place.

Students and employees shall be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 **that is not otherwise explained.**

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Sinus issues (Runny nose, congestion, ect)

Ill persons must stay home for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to school. Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the following guidelines:

Untested- Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following conditions are met:

- Fever free for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Tested Positive- Symptomatic- Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic- Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

IMPACT ON SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation may implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building and in cooperation with the local department of health.

CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

1. Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in the school, immediately notify local health officials.
2. The corporation may dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days (e.g., a single school, multiple schools, the full district) to Clean/Disinfect/Contact Trace in consultation with local health officials
3. Cancel extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events).
4. Discourage staff, students, and their families from gathering or socializing.

During the pandemic, the corporation reserves the right to restrict visitors to the school and community use of the facilities. Any group requesting use of the corporation facilities must (in addition to providing the appropriate building use forms and waivers) must complete an additional form acknowledging the increased risks during the pandemic [CLICK HERE](#)

WEB-BASED OR VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation may provide eLearning or web-based instruction for those students unable or unwilling to physically participate. Students and their parent/guardian participating virtually must agree to adhere to all confidentiality laws. [CLICK HERE](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Preparation and Cleaning

Inspect all buses and transport vehicles for cleanliness and safety.

- Drivers shall conduct worksite hazard assessments to identify COVID-19 prevention strategies, such as appropriate use of cloth face coverings or personal protective equipment (PPE), and follow the prevention strategies.
- Employees should wear masks.
- All buses and transportation vehicles shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after routes.
- Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting a bus/transportation

vehicle that transported a passenger or had a driver who tested positive for COVID-19 or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Affected buses can be used immediately after cleaning and disinfection.

Modifications for School and Extracurricular Transportation Situations

- Students will be assigned to a single primary bus and to a specific seat.
- Parents are encouraged to have students on only one route. Regular patterns of student drop off will be considered due to divorce, after-school care, and athletic practices. If there are multiple unscheduled changes, the school may deny the changes and require student pick-up from the after school program.
- Students will not be allowed to go home with other students for non-after school care reasons.
- Additional bus stops and routes may be assigned.
- Social Distancing may not be feasible on a school bus. Parents and students will assume all liability of riding the school bus for any event or trip. Students and drivers should follow CDC guidelines recommending the wearing of masks on buses. Students who fail to comply may be denied transportation after consultation with the administration.
- Parents must sign a waiver for students to ride corporation vehicles [CLICK HERE](#)

Training

Drivers and maintenance/cleaning staff shall be properly trained. (Eight hours of annual training required.) Training topics should minimally include:

- Correct information about COVID-19, how it spreads, symptoms, and risk of exposure.
- Who to contact if a student or the driver exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- The requirement that PPE is worn (disposable masks, gloves, clothing, etc.), how to wear them correctly, and maintain and dispose of the equipment.
- The appropriate methods, tools, and products for cleaning buses, including opening doors and windows for effective circulation and to avoid extensive exposure to cleaning fumes.
- The location of and how to use eye wash stations in the case of chemical contact with eyes.
- The hygiene expectations of staff.
- Using gloves when handling and disposing of trash.
- Avoiding touching surfaces often touched by passengers.
- Universal precautions when handling bodily fluids.