



Blueprint for Reopening School 2023-2024 School Year

Introduction

This plan has been developed based upon North Mississippi Medical Center, and the Mississippi Department of Health guidance in accordance with CDC considerations for opening schools at this point in time. Should any changes occur in regard to state and federal guidance or community/school spread of COVID-19, TPSD will make necessary adjustments to this plan.

TPSD will follow all Executive Orders from the Governor's office and monitor community and school spread of COVID-19 throughout the school year. It is our goal to keep our schools open all year and to provide a safe learning and work environment for our students and employees.



Guiding Principles

- Maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for staff and students and keep schools open all year.
- Open schools in August with a return to normal activities.
- Maintain our emphasis on a rigorous curriculum and instruction to increase student achievement.
- Establish clearly defined protocols for students and staff who are sick or who have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Develop expectations for sanitation efforts in high touch areas and janitorial services. [JGCC – Communicable Diseases](#)
- Maintain an emphasis on the individualized learning needs of students with structured systems of support.



Health and Safety

- Retain nurses so each school has a designated medical professional.
- Equip schools and buses with adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene.
- Provide touchless hand soap and hand sanitizer machines and touchless sinks and toilets.
- Include instruction on proper hygiene to minimize virus spread.
- Post signage in high traffic areas to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Create process for parent visits (scheduled office and classroom visits, no walking students to classrooms).
- Parents are requested to take their child's temperature daily prior to sending them to school. If their child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they must be kept home until fever free for 24 hours **without fever reducing medicine**.
- Please do not send your child to school with any COVID-19 symptoms.



Sanitation

- Implement safety protocols in buildings.
 - Clean high-touch areas throughout each school before the opening of school and each day when school starts.
 - Increase hand sanitizers.
 - Maintain janitorial staff and cleaning during the day.
 - Purchase additional equipment for disinfecting classrooms.
- Implement safety protocols in the area of food service:
 - Allow hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer machines before and after meals, using disposable plates and utensils.
 - Create cafeteria procedures to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines where feasible.
 - Designate entry and exit paths in the cafeteria.
 - Conduct cleaning throughout the day.
 - Gloves are required to be worn by staff while preparing and serving food.
 - Food and Nutrition school site staff will clean and sanitize all serving areas and/or serving carts.
- Implement safety protocols in the area of transportation:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for drivers and students.
- Sick Bus Cleaning Procedures
 - Remove bus from service until it has been deep cleaned and disinfected.
 - Sanitize the bus using disinfecting machines.
 - Receive approval from the Director or designee before bus returns to service.



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Intermittent Closures** – Due to possible COVID -19 outbreaks or inclement weather, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread.
- **Masks** – Students and staff are not currently mandated to wear masks.
- **Visitors & Volunteers** – TPSD will establish a protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering and screening visitors where feasible. If the district has mandated masks, visitors will be required to wear masks inside the building.
- **Water Fountains** – Students may bring water from home. Touchless water fountains will be installed
- **Backpacks** – Backpacks will be allowed.
- **Lunch Boxes & Purses** – Lunch boxes and purses will be allowed. All previous rules from school handbooks regarding lunch boxes and purses will apply.
- **First Day of School** – Students will be supported by school staff to get to their classrooms.
- **Recess** – To the extent feasible, each site administrator will develop a plan for recess that allows for a reduced number of students in any one location.
- In accordance with MSDH, vaccinations for staff and students 6 years and older are encouraged but not required for school attendance.
- Refer to policy [JGCC – Communicable Diseases](#) regarding quarantine protocols



Classifications of and Responses to COVID-19 Spread

- **Minimal/Moderate Spread**

- Isolated ≤ 3 cases within any group, e.g., class, team, or staff.
- Coordinate with local and state health officials.
- Reevaluate mitigation measures and modify 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.

- **Substantial Spread**

- Outbreaks greater than ≥ 3 cases within a 5-day period. However, in cases of large groups (40 or more) 10% will be considered an outbreak.
- Coordinate with local and state health officials.
- School closures.
- Schools that are closed remain closed until school is heavily disinfected and it is safe to return to school.
- School Closure Decision Points:
 - Multiple simultaneous outbreaks of affected groups (e.g., ≥ 3 separate groups impacted).
 - Difficulty operating schools due to staff absences.

