



Treutlen County School System

Return to School Plan

2023-2024

In collaboration with stakeholders, the Treutlen County School System has established the 2023-2024 Return to School Plan to provide guidance regarding expectations, recommended best practices and strategies.


The school system has implemented enhanced safety and health practices to provide an environment that is conducive to learning while also putting mechanisms in place that mitigate the risks of communicable diseases. Individual schools may provide additional information and guidance regarding practices and activities within their building.

The information contained in the 2023-2024 Return to School Plan is subject to change based on additional guidance received from the local health department, Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Public Health. Treutlen County School System will continue to implement strategies to ensure that the safety of staff and students remains the primary focus and priority.



ACADEMIC LEARNING OPTIONS

The Treutlen County School System will continue to prepare all students for success in life by engaging, equipping and inspiring all students during the 2023-2024 school year.

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| <p>Traditional, In-person instruction</p>  | <p>School buildings are open and implementing intensive prevention strategies to curb the COVID-19 virus. All students will be scheduled for face-to-face instruction for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to offer summer programs, after school programs and in school remediation for learning loss resulting from the pandemic. Schools will work with families and keep you informed as to what programs and additional assistance your student may receive. Each student (Grades K – 12th) will have access to a system-issued laptop should the need arise for virtual learning. Should a student have to quarantine, the student will remain at home to learn remotely via our Learning Management Systems.</p> |
| <p>Digital Learning</p> | <p>Parents wishing for their student to be virtual for the 2023-2024 school year will need to schedule an appointment with their child's principal and discuss what options may be available for the student. This will only be granted in rare circumstances.</p> <p>Elementary School: Donald Reeves Middle/High school: Brandon Tucker</p> |



Cleaning and Hygiene

Treutlen County School System will continue to take the following actions to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 at all facilities:

- Staff will clean classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, sitting/assembly areas and other workspaces daily.
- Staff will use sanitizing machines to disinfect on a regular basis.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be available at each building.
- Cleaning supplies will be available to support healthy hygiene behaviors.
- Approved cleaners will be available to clean and sanitize desks and tables throughout the day.
- Signage regarding proper hygiene will be posted throughout the school.
- Staff will isolate, close and conduct deep cleaning of any impacted classrooms and spaces in the event of COVID-19 exposure.

TCS employees and students are strongly encouraged to take the following to protect themselves and others from getting sick with COVID-19 and other communicable diseases:

- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer for use on the bus and during school.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your coughs/sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow, throw the tissue away and then wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with others and practice physical distancing whenever it is feasible.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Monitor Your Health for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.



Clinics and Student Health

According to CDC guidelines, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever (100 or higher) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

All parents/guardians must complete a TCS School Nurse Information Form as this is a requirement for a student to be seen in the school clinic. The following steps will be taken in our school clinics:

- Students who are sick at school and have completed a TCS School Nurse Form will be sent to the school nurse clinic. Students who are sick will be assessed by the school nurse. The decision to be sent home will be made by the school nurse based on clinic protocols. Both students and staff are subject to the **Return to School Guidelines for COVID-19 and Symptoms** (see Appendix).
- Students and staff who become ill will be instructed to follow the Department of Public Health guidance prior to returning to school. Staff and parents should self-report positive tests or potential exposure to the school administration.

Communication

TCS is focused on maintaining clear lines of communication, especially during these uncertain times. Effective two-way communication is critical between parents and their child's school.

Please confirm your contact information is up to date for your child(ren) by reviewing your current date in Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

- For change of address, you will need to bring proof of your new residence. The following items are acceptable for proof of insurance. Each item must indicate a physical address:
 - Property tax documents
 - Apartment or home lease and/or Rent receipt (receipt must show address)
 - Current month utility bill (please bring entire bill and/or new service agreement)



*Utility bill must be within 30 days of current bill.

- Changes in phone numbers and/or email addresses can be changed by parents via our parent/student portal or can be submitted to the student's school.
- Updates will be shared on our website and Facebook. Make sure you are following the District Facebook page.
- Signs will be posted throughout all school buildings reminding students and staff of recommended healthy hygiene practices.
- There may be situations where a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Schools will communicate with the involved students and families as needed. Due to HIPPA and FERPA privacy requirements, we will not be identifying individuals with COVID-19, and we ask that others not speculate about such instances.

Coping and Resilience

Treutlen County School System recognizes the impact COVID has on families emotionally. Therefore, mental health support will be provided to support the emotional wellbeing of students and staff.

- Counselors, teachers, and social workers will establish processes to determine individual student needs.
- Social workers and counselors will provide services including access to mental health support. Please contact your school's counselor for more information.
- School staff will coordinate with local community health partners regarding in-school mental health services.
- Student support staff will work with community partners to establish support services available to students following CDC guidance.
 - [Coronavirus Tips for Families](#)
 - [Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus Crisis](#)



Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

TCS administrators have communicated with state and local health officials regarding preventative measures to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as students participate in extracurricular activities and athletics. Coaches and sponsors will implement strategies to promote health & safety including:

For questions regarding TCS athletics, contact:

- Jason Brooks, Athletic Director, at jbrooks@treutlen.k12.ga.us.

Face Coverings

Student face masks are **encouraged** when physical distancing is not possible.

Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not yet have symptoms. Individuals should be reminded frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands.

Immunizations

The Georgia state requirement of up-to-date immunizations and ear, eye, dental, nutrition (EEDN) forms remain in effect. The Georgia Forms 3231 and 3300 are required to enroll. The need for all students to be fully immunized is greater during the pandemic. Treutlen County School System cannot waive state and federal requirements that students be up-to-date on immunizations to be enrolled in school and to prevent the occurrence of diseases.

Please note the state is requiring the Meningococcal booster shot for 11th graders for the 2022-2023 school year. Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

Monitoring for Symptoms

The most critical tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19 is to ensure any student or staff who is ill does not attend work/school. Thus, no staff or student who has a temperature of 100 or higher or who is COVID-19 positive will be allowed in school. To return to work/school, the ill individual must meet requirements outlined in the **Return to School Guidance for COVID-19 and Symptoms** (Appendix).

Please also keep in mind that children will still get sick with illnesses that are not COVID-19. To err on the side of caution, additional safety measures will be taken regarding all health issues.



All students who are out sick with a fever will be required to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine before being allowed to return to school. By sending your child to school, you are attesting that your child is healthy, has been fever-free for 24 hours, and has met these requirements in the **Return to School Guidance for COVID-19 and Symptoms**.

All required documentation must be provided at the appointment time.

Open House

Treutlen County School System will implement safety measures to minimize risks of exposure during Open Houses. Each school has developed individual Open House procedures to promote physical distancing and reduce crowding during special events.

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

Treutlen County School System has reviewed CDC Guidance in the effort to develop plans to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students, staff and employees. Students, staff, and visitors are strongly encouraged to practice physical distancing, staying at least 3 feet from other people, whenever possible.

The following actions will be implemented to promote physical distancing and minimize risks:

- School administrators will plan entry and exit points for their buildings with a focus on physical distancing to the extent practicable.
- Outside visitors to schools will be limited. Visitors must be pre-approved by the building Principal for extreme circumstances only.
- Professionals and itinerants travelling between schools who provide essential services will follow the same screening guidelines as building level staff.
- Class changes and other transition routines will be determined by individual school administrators:
 - Schools will work with their specific layouts to structure crowd flow and reduce clustering or crowding in hallways during transitions and in morning/afternoon release.
 - Staff will be present to monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and encourage students to go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa.
- Schools will provide frequent reminders for students and staff to maintain at least a 3 feet distance from one another when feasible.

School Nutrition and Serving Meals

Student age, cafeteria size, and staffing will influence the plan implemented at each school. The following practices will be implemented across the district:



- Schools will provide the opportunity for hand washing or sanitizer before eating.
- Various mitigation measures will be used as much as possible, including:
 - Staggered mealtimes to allow more time between groups
 - Additional cleaning and sanitizing of tables and serving lines between groups
- Students will continue to have food choices, but they will be limited.
- Students will pick up breakfast or lunch and eat in specified areas.

Any visitors must be approved by the school administration.

Student Attendance

Treutlen County School System will still be required to take student attendance and report student attendance data to the Georgia Department of Education. Daily attendance will be taken. All students should be aware that excessive absences could be a violation of the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Statute.

Transportation

The configuration of a school bus presents challenges to physical distancing. To reduce the number of students on a bus, parents are strongly encouraged to transport their students to and from school when possible.

TCS Transportation Department is also taking the following steps:

- Students will have assigned seats.
- Buses will be sprayed regularly.
- To maximize air circulation, windows may be opened to allow increased air flow inside of the bus.
- Children who become sick during the day may not ride the bus home.

Water

Students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles for personal use.



Return to School Guidance for COVID-19 or Symptoms

School officials should be notified immediately if you have COVID-19 or have come into close contact with someone who has Covid-19. Supporting documentation may be required at the discretion of the Treutlen County School System.

| Student or Staff Member | ACTION STEPS | RETURN TO SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS |
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| <p>Non-COVID-19 illness</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home at least one day • Seek medical care as needed • Monitor your symptoms • Must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours • Update school officials | <p>Must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever-free (temperature less than 100) and symptom-free without the use of medications for at least 24 hours prior to return to school. |
| <p><u>SYMPTOMATIC:</u> with confirmed COVID-19</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow GA Department of Public Health Isolation Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarantine at least 5 days from onset of symptoms ○ Seek medical care as needed ○ Monitor your symptoms ○ Stay away from others until you have cleared isolation | <p>May return to school after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); AND, • Respiratory symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath); AND, • At least 5 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared; ❖ If leaving isolation earlier than 10 days, you must continue to wear a mask around others for the remainder of the 10 days. |
| <p><u>ASYMPTOMATIC:</u> with confirmed COVID-19</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow GA Department of Public Health Isolation Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarantine at least 5 days from onset of symptoms • Monitor your symptoms • Stay away from others until you have cleared isolation • Seek medical care as needed | <p>May return to school after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5 days have passed since the positive laboratory test; AND, • The person remains asymptomatic. • If symptoms develop, follow the Return to School Requirements for Symptomatic student or staff. ❖ If leaving isolation earlier than 10 days, you must continue to wear a mask around others for the remainder of the 10 days. |