



TARKINGTON ISD

COVID Safety Plan for In-Person Instructional Continuity Learning

Tarkington ISD's Instructional Continuity, In-Person Learning Plan will be continually evaluated in this dynamic environment. Updated information will be provided through the TISD website, social media, email, and letters home.

Tarkington ISD is prepared to meet the needs of our students through traditional face-to-face instruction for the 2022-2023 school year.

Face-to-Face Learning

Highlights include:

- Traditional learning occurs at school following the usual start and stop times.
- Safety procedures and implementation of social distancing per TEA public health guidance will be followed.
- Students attend school all day every day at their campus.
- Teachers take attendance daily and absences will be documented. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted.
- Grading and GPA policies will be in effect.
- As required by TISD and the Texas Education Agency, parents ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 (Additional information in the [Tarkington ISD 2022-2023 School Year Health Clarification Guidance & the TEA Public Health Guidance, August 1st, 2022.](#))

Public Health Considerations

While it is not possible to eliminate all risks of furthering the spread of COVID-19, there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. This guidance document contains information on TISD's efforts to minimize the likelihood of viral spread.

Screening Protocols

- Teachers and campus staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. In either situation, the absence from school will be treated like any other illness and at-home learning support will be provided.

Optional Testing

- COVID-19 rapid/antigen tests (e.g. BinaxNOW) are currently available for TISD students and employees who have either been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19, while supplies last.
- Any TISD employee who meets the above criteria and would like to request a test should contact the campus or district nurse to schedule testing.

- Any parent of a TISD student who meets the above criteria and would like to have that student tested should contact the campus or district nurse to schedule an appointment for signing parental consent forms and testing.

Isolation and Quarantine Protocols

- All TISD campuses are served by a full-time nurse and/or trained clinic paraprofessional.
- If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who show COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from their peers and should be picked up by the parent or guardian immediately.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- Any individuals (student or staff) who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed in the [Tarkington ISD 2022-2023 School Year Health Clarification Guidance](#)) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 1. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (***the first day of symptoms is day 0***); OR
 - If asymptomatic, at least 5 days from the date of the positive viral test. (***the day of the test is day 0***)
 - At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery/resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath.)

Individuals are encouraged to take precautions until day 10 of their isolation period by wearing a well-fitting mask any time you are around others inside your home or in public.
 - If the individual continues to have fever or other symptoms have NOT improved after 5 days of isolation, they should continue to isolate until day 10.
 - CDC recommends an isolation period of at least 10 days for people who were severely ill with COVID-19 and for people with weakened immune systems. These individuals should consult with their healthcare provider before ending isolation.
 2. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is presumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
 3. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.

- Individuals who are symptomatic and have been tested, should continue to isolate while awaiting test results.
- Any student requiring isolation will be provided home learning support for the period of self-isolation.
- **The decision to quarantine due to exposure will be at the discretion of the parent/employee.** Individuals who have been exposed but remain asymptomatic can continue to come to work/school. If symptoms develop, then the above isolation criteria will go into effect. If the individual resides with or has been in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, CDC guidelines recommend the following:
 1. It is recommended that the individual quarantine for at least 5 days after the date of last contact with a person who has COVID-19. **(the date of last close contact is considered day 0)**
 - Quarantine can be discontinued after 5 days, if the individual has remained asymptomatic and tests negative.
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 2. The individual should closely monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for 10 days after the date of last contact and get tested if they become symptomatic.
 3. It is recommended for all individuals who have been in close contact to continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home and in public until 10 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 4. Individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and fully recovered, do NOT need to quarantine after exposure.
- Teachers and staff must report to TISD if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms, are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or have come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day.
- All high-touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

- Regular hand washing/hand sanitizer use by all students and staff will be encouraged.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry to the classroom and students will receive periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

- Visitor guidelines will be adjusted, as needed, to ensure the health and safety at our campuses.

Protocols for Face Coverings

- Face coverings are optional for students and staff.

Protocols for Cafeterias

- K-3 students will not need to enter their ID on the keypad.
- Register keypad covers will be used and sanitized frequently.
- All tables are sanitized between lunches.

Protocols for Transportation

- To reduce possible virus exposure on TISD buses, we encourage families who are able to carpool or drop off their students at school, to please do so.
- Masks are optional for all TISD staff and students utilizing bus transportation.
- When possible, windows will be open on the bus to allow outside air to circulate.
- All buses will be sanitized two times daily.

Protocols for Reporting

- TISD will report COVID-19 cases consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements.
- TISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab- confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Protocols for School Closure

- There may be times when specific campuses need to be closed to allow for sanitizing which should not take longer than 12-24 hours. Asynchronous remote instruction will be provided during such closure.
- Campus closures will be determined by the individual campus's needs and not the entire district.

The Texas Education Agency TXVSN

- The Texas Education Agency offers remote learning options through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN). Information can be found at the following TEA link: <https://txvsn.org/online-schools>

Tarkington ISD

2022-2023 School Year Health Clarification Guidance

The items in this section clarify health guidance items discussed in the *COVID Safety Plan for In-Person Instructional Continuity Learning* document.

COVID-19 Student & Staff Self-Screening Checklist

Any of the following are symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Reentry Guidelines

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 1. at least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 3. at least five days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is presumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative.

Close Contact

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; if either of the above occurred at any time during the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.