



# **TCSD Smart Start & In-person Learning Plan**

2023-2024

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Superintendent of Schools**

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# Letter from Superintendent Gillian Chapman

Dear TCSD students, families, employees and community stakeholders,

The *TCSD Smart Start & Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* that is outlined in the following pages provides an overview of the plans the district has developed in order to provide a high quality education for all students during the school year.

**TCSD opened all public schools for in-person instruction and learning starting September 5, 2023.** We consider [CDC Guidance for Schools](#) in establishing District COVID-19 response protocols. While we are hopeful that we will be able to maintain full time in-person learning for the entire 2023-2024 school year, we will follow our Smart Start Plan should a partial or full closure of school(s) be required due to changes in state or local health orders or through direct communication with the Teton County or Wyoming Departments of Health/Health Officer.

While we have developed the following plan and will do everything we can to keep students and staff safe and healthy while at school, we cannot keep schools open without the support of students, parents/guardians, our employees and the community. Please review this plan to learn more about our efforts to provide the safest possible learning environment for students and employees while also providing a high quality education.

## Expectations

Parents/guardians will be expected to monitor their child's health each morning for COVID-19 like symptoms, and if students exhibit any of these symptoms, it is recommended the student remain at home and test. Please review the [Illness Policy linked here](#).

If employees exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms, they are expected to submit a PTO leave request through the normal process and follow the same guidance provided in the Illness Policy linked above. Please contact Heather Schon to discuss leave options that are available to employees.

Throughout the upcoming school year TCSD will provide regular updates to families and the community using existing communication methods (district wide email, text, principal and teacher newsletters and district website).

Thank you for your adherence to these guidelines and doing your part to keep our students and employees safe which will be essential for our schools to provide in-person instruction and learning.

Dr. Gillian Chapman  
Superintendent of Schools

# MITIGATION STRATEGIES

## Health Screening

Each day parents shall screen students for symptoms prior to school in accordance with current [CDC Guidance](#). All students will be expected to adhere to the [Illness Policy](#).

## COVID Symptoms

If students or staff are symptomatic, please stay home. Regardless of COVID-19, individuals should not be at school with a fever higher than 100.4, vomiting or have diarrhea within the last 24 hours, a severe sore throat, an uncontrolled cough, etc. Please refer to the [TCSD #1 Illness Policy](#) for a full overview.

If an individual develops symptoms during the school day, they should report to the nurse's office, and if it is necessary to go home, a student should be picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted by the school.

For symptomatic individuals, please stay home until feeling better, as per the TCSD #1 Illness Policy.

## Quarantine Orders

The Teton County Health Department may issue quarantine orders for individuals who are exposed to COVID-19.

Teton County School District #1 will continue to monitor cases and may determine that a class or student(s) quarantine is needed to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff. If deemed necessary, the decision to quarantine student(s) or a class is based on many factors including duration of exposure, proximity of students to each other, the number of cases and/or symptomatic individuals in the classroom, proof of vaccination, or COVID diagnosis within the previous 90 days. Each case is evaluated individually, and the healthiest/safest decision is made by a team of District employees.

## Building Access

In coordination with the superintendent, the building principals will determine the number and type of visitors allowed at each school.

## Nursing Services and Testing

School nurses will be on site or available throughout the school day. Masks may be required to be worn for symptomatic people in the nurse's office. TCSD may provide various testing options as available.

Families should adhere to the [TCSD Illness policy](#).



## **COVID Vaccinations**

While obtaining a vaccine is voluntary, eligible individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccination records may be submitted to the nurse and will remain confidential.

## **Face Coverings and Masks**

TCSD will follow town, county, state, and federal health orders.

Teton County School District #1 Board of Trustees will continue to monitor cases and may determine that face coverings and masks are needed to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

## **Transportation**

Regular bus routes will be maintained. Seats will be assigned where possible and practicable to promote social distancing. Students will be encouraged to walk/bike to school.

To the fullest extent possible, the department will track student ridership on all buses, should contact tracing be needed. All students will be given an RFID bus card to use while riding routes.

Transportation for after school activities may be limited based on demand and availability.

## **Nutrition/Food Service**

Cleaning and sanitation protocols will meet or exceed USDA, state health department, and federal food service guidelines. Social distancing and appropriate hygiene measures will be maximized in serving meals in accordance with health orders or recommendations.

Breakfast and lunch may occur in spaces that allow for distancing to occur using multiple locations including classrooms and school cafeterias. Spaces used to eat meals will be sanitized after each use which meet or exceed USDA guidelines. Hand sanitization will be available before and after meals.

## **Activities**

Guidance from the Wyoming High School Activities Association will be followed.

Shared equipment will be disinfected in between uses to the best of coach/participants' abilities.

Activity participants and coaches will wash hands/use hand sanitizer before and after practices and competitions.

For competitions in other counties, the host county's regulations and ordinances will be observed.

## **Student gatherings/congregation of students**

Student desks may be spatially separate when and where possible.

Students will have breakfast, snacks and lunch spatially separate when and where possible.

## **Custodial**

The TCSD Enhanced Cleaning Protocol was developed using the [CDC Guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting Schools](#) framework. All disinfectants used are EPA approved disinfectants.

Food service areas will be cleaned after every use.

Cleaning supplies are provided for each school so that students may wipe their desks or other frequently touched surfaces during the day.

## **Facilities**

Bottle fill stations and water fountains are available to fill personal water bottles and cups. Hot water and touchless faucets and dryers have been installed.

Ventilation and air flow is maximized in accordance with American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning (ASHRAE).

# **CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

## **Instruction**

Local and state public health directives or orders will be followed during in-person instruction and learning. High-quality standards-based instruction will be provided via face-to-face learning for all students. In the event a class is quarantined, asynchronous and synchronous learning options will be provided during the time the student or class is under quarantine orders. Synchronous learning options are not available for individual student quarantine.

## **Technology/1:1**

All K-12 students will have access to a personal electronic device (e.g., iPad, MacBook) in order to implement a 1:1 instructional technology model.

Parents and students will be able to access technology support during school hours by calling (816) 382-4800.

## **Attendance**

Standard daily attendance tracking will be in place for all students. Attendance will be tracked twice a day (elementary) or for each class period (secondary).

## **Special Education/Individualized Educational Program (IEP) and English Language Learner (ELL)**

Special Education programming will be individualized to each student's unique needs as outlined in their IEP. Special Education staff in collaboration with IEP team members monitor each student's IEP closely and adjust programming as appropriate. English Language Development programming and English Language Learner (ELL) support will



continue to be provided by ELL teachers/staff.

### **Student Engagement and Social-Emotional Learning**

Developing strong teacher-student relationships is a critical element in education. Each school will foster student engagement by focusing on developing and sustaining strong student-teacher and family-school relationships throughout the school year. These relationship building efforts may include home-visits, small-group gatherings, community building and relationship building efforts.

Building-level Multi Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) teams, building leadership teams, and the district Student Support Team (SST) will also facilitate the development of school-wide and district-wide relationship building activities and events.

Social-emotional learning will continue to be explicitly taught through Second Step and Flourish Mindfulness Curricula for students in grades K - 8. In addition, by using student screener data, attendance tracking data, and ongoing input from classroom teachers, school based MTSS teams composed of counselors, social workers, school psychologists, principals and teachers will continuously improve upon existing systems of identifying students in need of additional Social-Emotional supports and interventions. MTSS teams develop individualized student interventions and consistently monitor student progress within those interventions.

### **Monitoring Achievement and Grading**

Student learning needs and student learning gaps are assessed using WY-TOPP and other assessments at the beginning of the school year. A clear set of teaching and learning expectations have been established for each grade level and content area. Building level MTSS teams and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will establish an evaluation plan to determine content gaps and set targets to “catch up” students to grade level.

The district continues to implement Standards-Referenced Reporting (SRR) as the foundation for K-8 grading practices. Standards-Referenced Reporting explicitly focuses on assessing and reporting on student proficiency and growth on individual standards. At the high school level, previously established standard grading practices are implemented.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INPUT**

TCSD is committed to providing families, employees and the community with timely and accurate information related to COVID-19 and the response to the global pandemic.

### **Stakeholder Input and Plan Review**

A public review of this plan was held at the August 11, 2021 Board meeting and subsequent meetings throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Going forward the plan will be presented during a public meeting of the Board at least twice per year. These meetings are advertised

in the local newspaper the week prior to the meeting. Additionally, the Superintendent's Advisory Council, which is composed of representatives of each school and operational department, has provided input in the creation of the plan. Information will also be shared with the Community Foundation Email Listserv and the Chamber of Commerce Email Listserv. Public input will be considered monthly during board meetings and monthly review of the plan. Public comment may be provided by contacting Charlotte Reynolds at [creynolds@tcsd.org](mailto:creynolds@tcsd.org).

We will use the following methods to communicate with all stakeholders:

- **Regular district wide updates when current health orders and conditions impact the operations of our schools.**

TCSD will provide email and text notifications to parents/guardians and employees. All communications/updates will be posted to the TCSD website ([www.tcsd.org](http://www.tcsd.org)) and district social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). Updates will be provided to the Board of Education during their public meetings which occur the second Wednesday of each month and available by live stream through a link posted on the TCSD website events calendar.

- **Monthly principal updates** regarding issues pertaining to a single school.
- **Weekly teacher updates** regarding issues pertaining to a single classroom/class.
- **School nurses** will serve as the primary contact for COVID-19 related questions/follow up.
- Regular and ongoing **coordination with local, state and federal governmental agencies** including the Teton County Department of Health and the Teton County Health Officer. TCSD staff will continue to work with all appropriate governmental agencies to monitor the current COVID situation locally and in Wyoming to ensure we are aware of the current number of cases in our community and all applicable health orders and recommendations. This includes participation in public meetings, working groups and other community efforts as appropriate.
- **Coordinate with independent schools and childcare programs in Teton County.** TCSD will continue to work with providers of educational services in our community to ensure awareness, and where appropriate, alignment in service of Teton County children and families.
- **Work with all families and the Parent/Teacher Organizations at the elementary level**  
TCSD will communicate with/obtain feedback on opportunities to engage and inform parents in COVID related messages.
- **Media Relations**  
TCSD will work with media outlets to provide accurate and timely information to the media regarding the district's response to the COVID situation while ensuring student and employee privacy is protected.

## Periodic Review

This plan will be reviewed monthly unless conditions change, requiring an update prior to



that time.

# APPENDIX

## Resources used in developing the TCSD Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan

### Updated Information and Current Links

[Wyoming Department of Health Guidance 3/11/2022](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health](#)

[Wyoming Department of Education](#)

[CDC Community Levels Guidance](#)

[CDC Guidance for Early Childhood Programs](#)

[CDC Guidance for Public Transportation 2/25/2022](#)

[CDC Guidance For K-12 Schools](#)

[CDC Guidance Symptoms of Covid-19](#)

### TCSD Forms/Guidance

[Daily Student Screening Guidance](#)

[TCSD Decision Flowchart](#)

[TCSD Pandemic/Epidemic Policy](#)

### County/State Guidance: Supporting Documents

[Wyoming Dept of Health- Schools What to Expect: COVID 19 in Wyoming Schools, K-12 Schools](#)

[Teton County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[K-12 Schools 10.29.21 Contact Tracing Flowchart](#)

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

[1.14.2022 Updated Guidance on Isolation Teton County Health Department](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health Contact Tracing Guidance 1/5/2022](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health Test to Stay 1/5/2022](#)

[Wyoming Guidance to Childcare Providers 01/2022](#)

[2.4.22 Updated and Shortened Isolation](#)

[CDC- Isolation & Quarantine Investigation K-12 Setting](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health COVID Guidance and Orders](#)

[CDC Quarantine and Isolation 1/27/2022](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health Guidance 1.14.2022 Updated Guidance on Shortened Isolation & Quarantine Teton County Health Department](#)

### **National Guidance**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

[CDC Guidance for Schools](#)

[Guidance from the American Association of Pediatrics](#)

[American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning \(ASHRAE\)](#)

[CDC Transportation Orders](#)

[Long COVID Under Section 504 and IDEA](#)

[US Department of Education Roadmap to Returning to School](#)

### **Scholarly reports/articles**

<http://aasacentral.org/guidelines-for-reopening-schools/>

<https://returntoschoolroadmap.org/>

<https://www.marshallmemo.com/articles/Coronavirus%20crisis%20ideas%20Apr%202027.pdf>

[https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19\\_reopen-america-schools.pdf](https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19_reopen-america-schools.pdf)

[https://medical.mit.edu/sites/default/files/COVID-19\\_Flow\\_Chart.pdf](https://medical.mit.edu/sites/default/files/COVID-19_Flow_Chart.pdf)

[TCSD Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)