

January 20, 2022

Dear TESD Community,

Throughout the pandemic, TESD has monitored guidance from the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) and we have updated our COVID-19 mitigation practices accordingly. Today, the CCHD provided new direction to school districts regarding contact tracing for positive COVID-19 cases, and this new guidance will impact TESD's protocols. [Please visit the CCHD website for expanded information on the latest CCHD guidance.](#)

### Response to a Positive Case

- **The protocol for positive COVID-19 cases has not changed.** Families of students who have tested positive for COVID-19 should keep their child at home, contact the attendance office and email the school nurse for instructions. Individuals who have tested positive should consult the [CCHD website for isolation guidelines](#) and contact their healthcare provider if needed.
- **School districts are no longer authorized by the CCHD to provide quarantine letters to individuals who are identified as close contacts to positive cases.** As a result, all County school districts have been directed to discontinue contact tracing. This means that TESD nurses and administrators will no longer be contacting families of students who are considered close contacts to positive COVID-19 cases in classrooms, common areas or on school buses. With the current level of community spread, the CCHD has stated that universal contact tracing is an increasingly less effective and practical tool to disrupt the spread of infection throughout Chester County.
- The CCHD has indicated that **students or staff currently under quarantine for being a close contact should complete their quarantine as originally ordered.** Going forward, if you learn that your child has been a close contact to a positive case, please follow the [CCHD's quarantine guidelines](#) and consult with your family's healthcare provider as needed. In an effort to share information on positive COVID-19 cases in our schools, TESD will continue to post cases that have been reported to us on the [TESD COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

### All Other COVID-19 Mitigation Practices Remain in Place

To maximize the opportunities for in-person instruction, the CCHD and TESD continue to emphasize layered mitigation strategies, including:

- **Symptom Screening.** It is important that families continue to review the [at-home symptom screening checklist](#) before sending their child to school. If your child is ill or has any COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home from school.
- **Masking.** Face coverings continue to be required for anyone age 2 and older while inside T/E buildings, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Rapid Testing for TESD Students and Staff Who Are Symptomatic or Who Are Exiting Quarantine on Day 5.** While supplies remain, we will continue to offer rapid antigen testing at Teamer Field from 10:00 AM – 2:45 PM on days school is in session. Please complete the antigen testing consent form in your child's PowerSchool account under TESD Forms prior to testing, and [create a QR code using the instructions in this link.](#)

The School Board will review the District's current Health and Safety Plan at its **January 24, 2022 regular meeting at 7:30 PM at Valley Forge Middle School**. Members of the school community who would like to provide feedback on the plan may share comments via email at [TECovidFeedback@tesd.net](mailto:TECovidFeedback@tesd.net). All comments received in the TECovidFeedback inbox related to the Health and Safety Plan will be shared with the School Board and TESD Pandemic Team and will be considered along with comments provided during the public meeting.

With every twist and turn of the pandemic, we recognize that families have continued to adjust to these dynamic circumstances. We are committed to adapting as well, remaining consistent with the recommendations and requirements of our health officials to prioritize safe practices while maximizing instructional opportunities. I thank you for your ongoing partnership in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Gusick  
Superintendent of Schools