

**TESD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
2021-2022 School Year
Effective August 16, 2021**

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District is committed to providing full-time, in-person instruction for TSED students during the 2021-2022 school year. The purpose of this document is to operationalize the District's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be updated and re-published as needed based on evolving health guidance.

On July 30, the Health & Safety Plan required to access the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP/ESSER) funds was provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This Health & Safety Plan serves as a framework for the COVID-19 mitigation plan. [The ARP/ESSER plan can be accessed at this link.](#)

Health Authority Guidance and Collaboration

The District is committed to following the [guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and will engage in ongoing consultation with the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). The Chester County Health Department will continue to guide the District in responding to COVID-19 cases in the schools, including contact tracing and quarantine. [Current COVID-19 information for schools is available on the CCHD website.](#)

The COVID-19 operational plan addresses the following protocols:

1. Masking
2. Symptom screening
3. Physical distancing
4. Handwashing & respiratory etiquette
5. Facilities: cleaning and ventilation
6. Responding to a Covid case involving the school: contact tracing, quarantining
7. Conducting diagnostic and screening testing of Covid
8. Vaccination promotion
9. Accommodating students with disabilities
10. Communication

This plan will go into effect on Monday, August 16, 2021. Anyone on school premises will be obligated to follow the protocols described in this plan. Visitors, including families, may contact their child's building principal with any questions.

Masking

Wearing a properly fitting mask serves as a strong protective measure for both the individual wearing the mask and others around them. Information on the proper use of [masks is available on the CDC website](#). The table below summarizes information from the CDC on the types of masks.

	Reusable cloth masks	Disposable masks
Look for:	<p>Multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric.</p> <p>A nose wire</p> <p>The mask should block the light when held up to a bright light source</p>	<p>A description indicating multiple layers of non-woven material.</p> <p>A nose wire.</p>
Don't use:	<p>Masks with exhalation valves or vents.</p> <p>Single layer masks or masks made of thin fabric that don't block light.</p> <p>Cloth gaiters</p>	<p>Masks that leave gaps around the sides of the face or nose.</p> <p>If the mask is wet or dirty.</p>

In addition, individuals may wish to obtain masks that meet a standard such as those labeled KN95, Meets ASTM F3502, Meets Workplace Performance, or Meets Workplace Performance Plus.

The District can provide disposable masks to individuals who need them in schools or on buses.

The table below identifies District requirements for mask wearing, effective August 16, 2021.

Location	Status
On a school bus or school vehicle	<p>Required.</p> <p>School buses are considered public transit and thus masks are required for all riders.</p> <p>If mask wearing would create a risk to workplace health, safety or job duty, the driver may remove their mask.</p>
Indoors - all District buildings	Required for anyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status.
Outdoors	<p>Masking is optional but welcome during outdoor activities such as recess, activity or PE.</p> <p>Outdoor events outside of the school day: CDC recommends that individuals who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask if the outdoors event is crowded and involves sustained close contact.</p>

Sports, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities	Due to the varied nature of each activity, the Director of Safety & Student Services will work with the relevant building level staff (Principal, Athletic Director, advisors and others) in identifying masking requirements. Guidance from organizations such as PIAA and PMEA will be used.
Questions you may have about masking	
What is the impact of masking on contact tracing or quarantine?	<p>Wearing a mask may not prevent you from being included in contact tracing efforts, but greatly reduces the risk of required quarantine for students and staff.</p> <p>Current guidance from CCHD and CDC identify that for K-12 indoor classroom settings, the close contact definition excludes students within 3-6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case when both students were wearing a proper mask and other prevention strategies were in place.</p> <p>District staff will continue to conduct contact tracing and consult with CCHD as to specific cases.</p>
Are there exemptions to the masking requirement?	<p>Individuals who believe they qualify for an exception due to a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or for any other legally valid reason should contact their supervisor (staff) or building principal (students).</p> <p>Families should contact their child's principal by August 25, 2021 to discuss this request.</p>

Symptom Screening

Students and staff should not come to school or work if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after an exposure.

At present, the CDC identifies the following symptoms. These symptoms may be present even among the vaccinated. Please note this is an update from last year in which symptoms were categorized. If your child has one of these symptoms, you should keep your child home from school.

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

By sending your child to school, you are affirming the following:

1. My child does not have any of these symptoms.
2. My child has not been directed to quarantine.
3. My child is not otherwise ill or sick.

If you cannot affirm these three statements, please contact your school's attendance office and inform them that your child will be home sick from school.

TESD will not be asking families to complete the symptom screener each day in PowerSchool.

If your child demonstrates symptoms during the school day, they will see the school nurse and you will be contacted.

Students or staff with documented chronic health conditions such as seasonal allergies should follow up with their school nurse (students) or Human Resources (staff).

Physical Distancing

The District will work to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students to the fullest extent feasible. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and adults. The CDC has identified that inability to maintain these recommendations should not be a barrier to full time in-person instruction, provided the District implements other prevention strategies such as mask wearing.

Physical distancing of less than 3 feet may occur in classroom activities, building transitions, transportation, lunch, or other times during the day. This emphasizes the need for correct and consistent wearing of masks.

Lunch: Schools will endeavor to create as much physical distancing as possible during the lunch periods; however, 3-6 feet cannot be guaranteed. As was supported during the 2020-2021 school year, if a family wishes to remove their student from the building during lunch period, they may do so.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

TESD will promote and practice proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) for all students and staff. Proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will be reinforced. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be accessible when handwashing with soap and water is not possible. Posters will be placed throughout the buildings to reinforce this practice.

Facilities & Ventilation

All District facilities will continue to be cleaned and maintained on regularly scheduled frequencies. District HVAC systems have been balanced to meet American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and International Mechanical Code (IMC) requirements for the exchange of outside air and ventilation. If a COVID-19 case has been present in school, the ventilation system will exhaust the designated room(s), and the room(s) will be cleaned and disinfected.

Responding to a COVID-19 Case

The District will continue to assist the CCHD in conducting contact tracing and providing the CCHD's quarantine order to impacted individuals. The CCHD is authorized to order the quarantine of individuals affected by a public health threat, and the District assists by providing the information to affected individuals.

Contact tracing

Contact tracing will be conducted by District nursing staff and designated school administrators. The goal of contact tracing is to identify who is a close contact, who should isolate, and who should quarantine. If you are contacted, a District representative will ask questions regarding date of exposure, onset date of symptoms, vaccination status, and other questions to identify who may be a close contact.

Close contact

A person within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period is considered a close contact.

Exception for K-12 Indoor Classroom Setting: this close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time, and other mitigation strategies as described in this plan were followed. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Quarantine

If contact tracing identifies that you are a close contact, you may need to quarantine. Currently, if you are vaccinated and not demonstrating any symptoms, you would not be required to quarantine, but should monitor symptoms. If a fully vaccinated person demonstrates any symptoms after exposure, they should stay home and contact the school nurse (students) or Human Resources (staff).

[Instructions for close contacts are available on the CCHD website.](#)

The recommended quarantine period is 14 days. However, the District will abide by two options identified by the CCHD if a family or staff member wishes to exercise either of these options.

Option 1: Quarantine may end after Day 10 if the close contact does not demonstrate any symptoms. No testing is needed in this scenario.

Option 2: Quarantine may end after Day 7 if the close contact does not demonstrate any symptoms AND obtains a negative COVID-19 test on or after Day 5.

COVID-19 Testing

Pending the provision of testing supplies from the CCHD and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the District anticipates being able to conduct rapid antigen testing, both in response to COVID-19 cases and as a screening measure.

COVID-19 testing in response to being a close contact

If you are a close contact, you will be provided with additional information on how to access antigen testing. This includes individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have to quarantine, but wish to be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

Screening testing

Weekly screening antigen testing will be available to all unvaccinated individuals (students and staff). A survey will be provided prior to the start of the school year to identify those who wish to participate.

Vaccinations

The District supports vaccination for those eligible to receive one. Prior to the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the District partnered with Springfield Pharmacy and hosted vaccination clinics at Conestoga High School and Valley Forge Middle School, resulting in over 1300 people obtaining vaccination. The District also collaborated with the CCHD in facilitating vaccination for school staff.

[Information on where to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination is available on the TESD website.](#)

The District is willing to continue its partnership with community providers and host vaccination clinics.

To assist with contact tracing efforts, the District will ask families to voluntarily disclose their child's vaccination status when completing the emergency information section in PowerSchool. Disclosing this information is not required, but it will be useful to know when contact tracing is needed in response to a positive COVID-19 case.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The District will continue to provide accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities to access our programming through a student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or Section 504 Plan process. Families of students with identified needs should contact their child's case manager or building principal with questions.

Communication

The District will renew the practice of having a COVID-19 dashboard on the District website to share current information related to cases in schools. In addition, other resources and information related to the pandemic will continue to be posted on the website and communicated to families through email (SchoolMessenger), public presentations, and School Board meetings. Questions and feedback regarding COVID-19 can be provided via email to TECovidFeedback@tesd.net. This email account is monitored by the Director of Safety and Student Services, along with other members of the TESD administrative team.