

The Children's School 2021-2022 COVID-19 Safety Plan

TCS is entering its second year offering in-person learning for all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Integral to our success has been the alignment of our practices and policies with guidance from California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, and the San Diego County Office of Education. As we approach the 2021-2022 school year, we remain committed to following the protocols provided to us from these entities.

The primary point of contact at TCS and liaison with the local public health department for COVID-19 related matters is Jesse Brand: jbrand@tcslj.org.

1. Masks

- a. Masks are optional outdoors for all individuals, unless required by return-to-school protocols after isolation or quarantine.
- b. All individuals over the age of 2 are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH guidance of the use of face coverings](#).
- c. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- d. The school will provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school.
- e. In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs), a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of these limited situations.

2. Physical Distancing

- a. CDPH school guidance indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. TCS is fortunate to have large

classrooms, small class sizes, and many open outdoor spaces.

3. Ventilation

- a. Ventilation will be optimized in all indoor spaces.
- b. Doors and windows will remain open when possible.
- c. CO2 levels will continue to be monitored to ensure spaces are properly ventilated. Ongoing monitoring has shown levels consistent with those found outdoors.
- d. Classrooms will be equipped with in-room portable air cleaners with HEPA filters.

4. Staying Home When Sick

a. All individuals entering campus must screen for symptoms associated with COVID-19. Arrival at school is an attestation that screening was completed and passed. Children must be screened at home by parents for the following symptoms:

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

b. If an individual presents one of the above symptoms on a day when there is no school (eg. over the weekend) and the symptom resolves before the next school day, the individual must still meet the criteria outlined in this section for a return to school.

c. Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, must stay home and should consult with their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status.

d. The school recommends getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are compatible with COVID-19 to help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread.

e. Staff members and students with [symptoms of COVID-19 infection](#) may not return to campus until they have met CDPH and San Diego County criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

Option 1: With a negative lab or clinic-based molecular (eg. PCR or NAAT) test collected after the onset of symptoms, return when symptoms are resolving and the individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Option 2: With a negative lab or clinic-based antigen test taken on or after Day 5, return on or after Day 6 if symptoms are resolving and the individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. A mask must be worn that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and outdoors.

Option 3: Without testing, return on Day 11 if symptoms are resolving and the individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Option 4: Return immediately if fever-free for 24 hours and a health care provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of an underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) and the individual or parents have authorized disclosure and use of student medical information.

When counting days, the date of symptom onset is considered to be Day 0 and the following full day is Day 1.

f. Students absent from class due to COVID-19 protocols will be provided with independent work and may also have the opportunity to collaborate with classmates using technology resources. During extended absences, teachers will check in periodically with students to support learning.

5. Testing

a. The school recommends that an individual is tested when experiencing symptoms that are compatible with COVID-19 to help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread. Symptomatic individuals must meet the criteria listed above in the *Staying Home When Sick* section in order to enter campus. If an individual is using a negative test to return, test results must be shared with the school and the school must confirm that criteria has been met for a return to campus.

b. To remain in school after exposure, K-8 students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to test on Day 3, Day 4, or Day 5. For early childhood students, testing is recommended on or after Day 5 of quarantine.

c. Unvaccinated paid and unpaid workers will be required to test weekly.

d. The County of San Diego is temporarily allowing (through Jan. 27) home testing to be used for the purpose of ending isolation or quarantine. If using a home test, the test must be verified using the following methods:

Write the name and date on the test card results and send a picture of the card to the requesting entity. If available, use a digital (app-based) platform for test verification, which often includes scanning barcodes; these are available for certain brands of self-tests.

Submit an attestation, with signature, declaring that the test specimen was obtained from the named individual, include the date the specimen was collected, and that the test was processed according to the instructions provided with the test kit.

6. Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation

a. Per Assembly Bill 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, the school will report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

b. The school will assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

c. To reduce the potential number of close contacts, each TCS student will belong to a stable group. Members of the same stable group will interact and may be in close contact over the course of a school day. Recess and lunch schedules will separate the groups and minimize the potential for close contact between groups.

The stable groups of students are:

- Toddlers
- Preschool Room 1
- Preschool Room 2
- Prekindergarten Room 5
- Prekindergarten Room 6
- Kindergarten
- First and second grades
- Third, fourth, and fifth grades
- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades

7. Quarantine (Asymptomatic Close Contacts)

a. Individuals who are close contacts may not be on campus until the required quarantine period has passed. Day 1 is the day after the last exposure and a return to campus is allowed on the day listed below, as long as there has been no further close contact exposure and no symptoms have developed. San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency provides [home quarantine guidance](#) for close contacts.

- **Toddler, Preschool, Pre-K students:** Remain off campus for a 10 day quarantine period. Return on Day 11. Testing recommended on Day 5 or later.
- **K-8 students:** The school will use the Group Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting, published by CDPH on January 12, 2022. The protocols are as follows:
 - The school will notify parents of students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.
 - Notification will occur to parents of "groups" of exposed students (e.g., classmates, teammates, etc.) rather than contact tracing to identify individual "close contacts" (e.g., those within 6 feet).
 - Notifications will be provided to all individuals considered exposed, including those who are vaccinated and/or recently infected.
 - For example, if a student in fifth grade is diagnosed with COVID-19, the school will notify groups with whom that student interacted as per the criteria above, such as those in the same classes, sports team, and/or other extracurricular cohorts.
 - In order to remain in school, exposed students, regardless of

COVID-19 vaccination status or prior infection, must get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure.

- Any FDA-approved antigen diagnostic test or PCR diagnostic test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new active infection. Repeat antigen testing and/or confirmatory molecular testing will be required in individuals who receive a negative result with an antigen test but have symptoms specific for COVID-19 (such as loss of taste and smell).
- Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in school unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. They should test as outlined above, report positive test results to the school, and follow other components of this guidance, including wearing face-coverings as directed.
 - Exposed students who develop symptoms should see Section 4 of this COVID safety plan.
 - Exposed students who receive a positive test result should isolate in accordance with Section 8 of this COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- Exposed K-8 students who do not participate in testing must remain home and may return on Day 11.
- **After close contact exposure, workers 14 days past completion of their primary vaccine series, or within 90 days of a prior COVID-19 infection:** May stay at work but must wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10 indoors and outdoors. A negative test is required on Day 3, 4, or 5.
- **After close contact exposure, vaccinated and boosted, or not yet booster eligible workers:** May stay at work but must wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10 indoors outdoors. Testing is recommended on Day 5.

b. The following is considered to be close contact:

- Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- Sharing eating or drinking utensils
- Being sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you from someone with COVID-19

CDPH guidance states that “the initial months of the 2021-2022 school year have demonstrated that in-school transmission of COVID-19 is uncommon when multiple safety layers are implemented effectively. When transmission does occur in schools, it predominantly takes place during prolonged indoor exposures.”

CDPH recommends that a school-based approach to contact tracing is focused on indoor environments where individuals spend significant amounts of time (e.g., classrooms) as well as within sports programs.

If TCS learns that a COVID-19 positive individual was on campus during their infectious period, the school will consider potential close contacts to be those with whom the individual spent significant amounts of time in indoor environments (e.g., members of the same classroom). The school will also consider fellow participants in a TCS athletics program and individuals with whom an individual typically associates to be potential close contacts.

Individuals considered to be close contacts will be required to remain off campus according to the protocols listed earlier in this section.

c. If the school learns that an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and was at school during the infectious period, the school will communicate as quickly as possible with impacted families.

d. An individual who develops symptoms during quarantine must additionally follow the protocols listed in this safety plan under the *Staying Home When Sick* section.

8. Isolation

a. An individual who presents symptoms at school will be isolated under supervision in an outdoor cabana until they go home. If a student presents symptoms, the student’s parents will be asked to pick up their child as soon as possible.

b. An individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will be required to remain off campus until meeting the criteria in one of the options listed below and should follow the [CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19](#).

Return to school options for a *symptomatic* COVID-19 positive individual, regardless of vaccination status:

Option 1: With evidence of a negative lab or clinic-based test (antigen or

molecular) taken on or after Day 5, return on or after Day 6 if symptoms are resolving and free of fever without the use of fever reducing medications for 24 hours. On Days 6 – 10, a mask must be worn that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and outdoors.

Option 2: Return on or after Day 11 from onset of symptoms if symptoms have improved, and free of fever without the use of fever reducing medications for 24 hours.

Return to school options for an *asymptomatic* COVID-19 positive individual, regardless of vaccination status:

Option 1: With evidence of a negative lab or clinic-based test (antigen or molecular) taken on or after Day 5, return on or after Day 6. On Days 6 – 10, a mask must be worn that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and outdoors. If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and follow the protocols for returning to school after experiencing symptoms.

Option 2: Return on or after Day 11.

When counting days, if symptoms developed before testing positive, the date of symptom onset is considered to be Day 0 and the following full day is Day 1. In asymptomatic individuals, the date the positive test specimen was collected is considered to be Day 0 and the following full day is Day 1.

9. Hand Hygiene

- a. The school will teach and reinforce washing hands; avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth; and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. This will be covered during training for teachers before the first day of school. Teachers will educate students about hand hygiene during class time, beginning on the first day of school.
- b. Teachers and staff will promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, and after using the bathroom.
- c. All classrooms will be equipped with a sink and soap and/or hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol. Sinks and paper towel dispensers in the classrooms and bathrooms are touchless. There will be hand sanitizing stations in various easily seen outdoor locations throughout campus.

10. Cleaning

- a. The school will continue to employ a day porter and use enhanced cleaning protocols. All rooms will be thoroughly cleaned daily and commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned periodically throughout each day. Surfaces will be disinfected as needed.
- b. If the school learns that an individual with COVID-19 has been on campus during their infectious period, spaces occupied by that person will be kept vacant until cleaned and disinfected.

11. Food Service

- a. Weather permitting, students in prekindergarten through eighth grades will eat outdoors.
- b. During lunch, students will only eat with members of the same stable group and will sit at tables with members of the same grade.
- c. Physical distance between students will be maximized as much as possible when students are eating.
- d. Toddler and preschool community snack providers should bring healthy snacks that are in original sealed packaging and whole vegetables and/or fruits. Teachers will prepare the snack adhering to health guidelines and the snack will be plated and served individually to children.
- e. Parents bringing food for a class special occasion (eg. student birthday) should do so in the morning at student drop-off. Teachers will distribute food individually to students.

12. Vaccine Verification

- a. For prevention strategies that vary by vaccination status, the school will follow the [CDPH Guidance for Vaccine Verification](#).
- b. Vaccination records will be verified by a private and confidential process.
- c. TCS quarantine protocols for students are designed to not create or perpetuate social or health inequities or lead to discrimination. At-school COVID-19 exposure among a stable group will result in quarantine of the entire stable group, regardless of student vaccination status.

13. Visitors

- a. TCS will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- b. Visitors will not be allowed in indoor spaces occupied by students, unless for essential purposes.
- c. Direct service providers will be allowed on campus. The school will ensure provider compliance with visitor policies, including weekly testing for unvaccinated individuals.
- d. Parents may enter campus for drop-off and pick-up but must remain outside of the classrooms. We ask that parents promptly leave campus after their child has been dropped off or picked up.

14. COVID-19 Safety Plan Transparency

- a. TCS has posted this safety plan communicating the safety measures in place for 2021-22 on the school's website and has shared the plan with families in advance of the start of the school year.