

DRAFT 8/23/2021  
PENDING BOARD INPUT AND DECISION ON AUGUST 25TH



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

2021-2022



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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 2021-2022 school year.

**TCSD plans to open all public schools for in-person instruction and learning starting August 30th.** We will 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 2021-2022 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 the following COVID-19 like symptoms:

- A cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- A fever of 100.4 F or higher or a sense of having a fever
- A sore throat
- Chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea/vomiting/abdominal pain
- Headache
- Congestion/running nose not related to seasonal allergies
- Unusual fatigue

If students exhibit any of these symptoms, they may not attend school. Please review the [Illness Policy linked here](#).

If employees exhibit these 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.



The decision to wear masks is not taken lightly and will be made following input from the state and county health officers with careful review of the community transmission and CDC Guidance linked above. If the Teton County community is at high or substantial risk of transmission and designated in the “red” or “orange” designations, universal mask wearing is required indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. If Teton County is in the “yellow” or “green” designation, universal mask wearing is recommended indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. This requirement applies to all individuals other than children under the age of two or with a medical exemption from a healthcare professional.

The Teton County Health Department and the Wyoming Department of Health have provided decision making metrics to determine if close contacts will be required to quarantine after exposure to a COVID-positive individual. The decision making matrix is linked in this Plan’s appendix.

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). Parents/guardians are asked to complete the 2021-2022 online registration process or contact their child’s school to ensure current contact information is on file.

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

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# 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](#). Signage promoting proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette is posted throughout all buildings.

## COVID Symptom

If students or staff are symptomatic, stay home and consult with a physician for testing and care. If a student develops symptoms during the school day, the individual will report to the nurse's office, wearing a face covering. A school nurse may perform a rapid COVID-19 test if deemed necessary and after consulting with the parent/guardian. The student will be isolated from others while waiting to be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact. The student should be picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted by the school.

If an employee develops symptoms during the school day he or she will notify the building principal or supervisor and will be immediately sent home.

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

## Building Access

Each school will establish arrival and dismissal schedules for all students to minimize the number of students congregating immediately before and after school. Students and staff will follow public health hygiene recommendations and guidelines during all transitions between classes, meals, recess, restrooms, and other times when leaving the classroom. Students will be advised to bring full water bottles as water fountains will be turned off throughout the buildings. Touchless water bottle refill stations will be available.

In coordination with the superintendent, the building principals will determine the number and type of visitors allowed at each school. CDC guidance to limit the number of school visitors will be considered for all visitation requests.

## Nursing Services and Testing

School nurses will be on site or available throughout the school day. TCSD will provide various testing options for students and staff including rapid tests for symptomatic students and staff. Free surveillance tests will be available from the school nurses for anyone who would like to participate in regular testing. Students engaged in activities may be required to participate in surveillance testing. TCSD nurses will continue to support Teton County Health Department in conducting school based contact tracing, promoting vaccinations as well as encouraging and supporting screening and testing efforts.

## **Vaccinations**

Eligible individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated and the District will continue to support vaccination efforts in the school community as appropriate. When children under the age of twelve are eligible to receive the vaccine, universal masking may be optional depending on the county risk level.

## **PPE**

TCSD will follow all state and local public health orders, including any pertaining to mask wearing. If the Teton County community is at high or substantial risk of transmission and designated in the “red” or “orange” designations, universal mask wearing is required indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. If Teton County is in the “yellow” or “green” designation, universal mask wearing is recommended indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. This requirement applies to all individuals other than children under the age of two or with a medical exemption from a healthcare professional.

Signage will be displayed in all district buildings to promote correct and consistent mask wearing.

## **Transportation**

Per [federal regulations](#), face coverings will be required on all TCSD #1 buses for district employees and students. Hand sanitizer will be provided as students load and unload. Buses will be disinfected once per day.

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 and/or parents will be encouraged to self transport when possible.

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, use of face coverings, and appropriate hygiene measures will be maximized in serving meals in accordance with health orders or recommendations.

Breakfast and lunch will 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 required 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.

If the Teton County community is at high or substantial risk of transmission and designated in the "red" or "orange" designations, universal mask wearing is required indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. If Teton County is in the "yellow" or "green" designation, universal mask wearing is recommended indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. This requirement applies to all individuals other than children under the age of two or with a medical exemption from a healthcare professional.

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.

All students, sponsors, and coaches will be required to wear face coverings on busses.

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

Class dismissal times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the hallways at one time. Elementary students follow the 3 feet distancing recommendations for all classroom changes. It will not be possible to ensure social distancing recommendations will be followed at the secondary level during passing periods. Secondary students carry backpacks into classrooms to limit use of lockers.

Student desks will be spatially separate in accordance with CDC guidance 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.

All buildings will be disinfected each night, with high touch surfaces cleaned at least once during the day. Food service areas will be cleaned after every use. Monthly fogging will be conducted at each school, unless more frequent fogging is deemed necessary.

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


### **Facilities**

District vehicles used during the day will be disinfected daily.

Tools used will be disinfected after each use.

Water fountains are turned off and students will be expected to use personal water bottles throughout the day. Touchless water bottle fill stations are available.

Hand sanitation stations or wash stations are available at all building entrances/exits,



common spaces and classrooms.  
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).  
Signage approved by local health officials promoting social distancing, hygiene practices, and wearing of face coverings is posted throughout every school.  
Plexiglass dividers used as necessary and where possible in classrooms to create barriers between students and/or staff.  
Restrooms are disinfected twice daily and will adhere to local health department requirements.  
An isolation area has been identified in each school for symptomatic students while they await pick up by a parent/guardian/emergency contact.

## 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 student or class is quarantined, asynchronous learning options will be provided during the time the student or class is under quarantine orders.

### **Technology/1:1**

All K-12 students will have access to a personal electronic device (e.g., iPad, MacBook) and hotspot in order to implement a 1:1 instructional technology model. All electronic devices (e.g., iPads, MacBooks) will be disinfected on a weekly basis.

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 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, but especially as students return to school in an effort to re-engage all students, notably those who exhibited stress and isolation during the previous two school years. 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 our 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 will develop individualized student interventions and consistently monitor student progress within those interventions.

### **Monitoring Achievement and Grading**

Student learning needs and student learning gaps will be 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 will continue 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 will be implemented.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INPUT**

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

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

A public review of this plan was held at the August 11, 2021 Board meeting and a second public review will be held at the January 2022 Board meeting. These meetings are advertised in the local newspaper the week prior to the meeting. Information will also be shared with the Community Foundation Email Listserv and the Chamber of Commerce Email Listserv. A district-wide survey will be shared with parents/guardians in August and

January to seek feedback on this plan and other related issues. Public input will be considered at each six (6) month 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 on how current health orders and conditions impact the operations of our schools.**

TCSd will provide weekly 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 monthly 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 local 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 in January 2022 unless conditions change, requiring an update prior to that time.

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# APPENDIX

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

### TCSD Forms/Guidance

[Daily Student Screening Guidance](#)

[TCSD Decision Flowchart](#)

[TCSD Pandemic/Epidemic Policy](#)

### County/State Guidance

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

[Wyoming Dept of Health- Isolation & Quarantine Investigation K-12 Setting](#)

[Wyoming Department of Education](#)

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

[Wyoming Department of Health Testing Resources and Guidance for Schools](#)

[Teton County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

### 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%2027.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)



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