



TISHOMINGO COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Together We Can Succeed

*Tishomingo County School District  
COVID-19 and Virtual Learning Policies  
2021-2022*

***\*This document is subject to change as the situation with COVID-19 changes***

The Tishomingo County School District (TCSD) has plans to return to a full, normal school schedule in 2021-2022. Daily protocols will reflect an emphasis on sanitation, flexibility, and safety as we welcome our students and staff back into our school buildings.

It is the district's belief and is proven through extensive educational research – student learning occurs best in a face-to-face, traditional learning model. **It is with that in mind that the TCSD will not offer full-time virtual learning for students in 2021-2022.** Also, the MHSAA (Mississippi High School Athletics Association) has ruled that distance learning/virtual students cannot participate in athletics/activities.

The district will return to a normal calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Please visit the district website to view this year's calendar. ([www.tcsk12.com](http://www.tcsk12.com))

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL DAY SCHEDULE:**

- Monday - Friday – Regular school days (face-to-face for all students) with regular schedule times

#### **TRADITIONAL MODEL – FACE-TO-FACE**

- Students will change classes as normal and attend lunch as normal unless eating in classrooms is preferred.
- Masks/Face shields are highly encouraged by the MSDH indoors. At this time, masks are optional for students and staff. Face masks from home will be allowed but must meet current dress code policy (specifically as it relates to slogans) and must not be inappropriate.
- Social Distancing – While at school, social distancing of 3 feet (masked) or 6 feet (not masked) will be encouraged. There are numerous times throughout the day that social distancing will not be possible.
- Technology will be an important tool for learning during the school day. The district will continue to use Google Classroom and Canvas with its iPad initiative.

#### **BUS TRANSPORTATION:**

- All buses will be sanitized in the mornings and afternoons when students leave the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for use as each student enters the bus.
- There will be numerous times through the bus ride that social distancing of 3 feet (masked) to 6 feet (not masked) will not be possible, even with best efforts.

#### **VISITORS:**

- Visitors are welcome on campus. However, if a visitor has any symptoms of illness, he/she should not enter the building.

**CLASSROOMS:**

- There will be times throughout class time that social distancing of 3 feet (masked) to 6 feet (not masked) will not be feasible.
- Rooms will be cleaned daily and during the day as needed.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- The district will clean/sanitize rooms daily.

**HYGIENE:**

- Students will be encouraged to wash hands during the day and will be taught the proper hand-washing hygiene.
- Other methods of illness prevention will be taught to staff and students.
- Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.

As in all public places, COVID-19 will be present at school at some point in time. The TCSD has a response plan for the different scenarios surrounding COVID-19. The TCSD has met with local medical staff/practitioners as well as consulted CDC, MSDH, and MDE guidelines for COVID-19 response.

**STUDENT POSITIVE CASE IN A CLASSROOM:**

- When a student tests positive in a classroom, the school will notify students/staff in the class(classess) that a positive test has occurred.
- Students/Staff not exhibiting symptoms will NOT quarantine (beginning January 10, 2022 via TCSD board policy).
- When multiple cases are present in a classroom or in several groups within the school, the district will make the decision to close schools as needed for deep cleaning and/or for extended time.

**EMPLOYEE POSITIVE CASE IN A CLASSROOM:**

- When an employee tests positive, the school will notify members of his/her class and staff that a positive test has occurred.
- Students/Staff not exhibiting symptoms will NOT quarantine (beginning January 10, 2022 via TCSD board policy).
- When multiple cases are present in a classroom or in several groups within the school, the district will make the decision to close schools as needed for deep cleaning and/or for extended time.

**STUDENTS/EMPLOYEES THAT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL WITH SYMPTOMS/FEVER:**

- When a student or employee arrives on campus with a fever of 100.4 or higher or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, he/she will be immediately taken to the nurse's office. The student/employee will be isolated from the general population, and additional medical analysis will occur.
- The student or employee will be required to leave school and seek medical attention.
- Students/Employees with a positive test will follow the CDC/MSDH protocol and be able to return to school when the following criteria are met:

- Isolate 5 days from a positive test (documented) or onset of symptoms (documented by a medical professional), and
- Fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and
- Improved symptoms
- Upon return to school on Day 6, it is strongly recommended the individual wear a mask for 5 days.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 are as follows:
  - Fever of 100.4 or over
  - A cough not attributed to another health condition
  - A sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
  - Nasal congestion/runny nose that cannot be attributed to another health condition
  - Body aches
  - Loss of taste/smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Nausea/Vomiting
  - Sweats/Chills

### **STUDENTS/STAFF IN QUARANTINE**

- Per TCSD policy passed on January 10, 2022, only COVID-positive individuals are required to isolate.

### **VACCINES/QUARANTINE EXEMPTIONS**

- COVID-19 vaccinations are voluntary and not required of staff or students.
- Per TCSD policy, only COVID-positive individuals must isolate.
- Students/Staff are not required to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status per TCSD policy, unless showing symptoms.

### **DISTANCE/VIRTUAL LEARNING/WEATHER DAYS**

- Due to Mississippi State Board policy requiring synchronous (real-time) virtual instruction for 330 minutes daily, the TCSD will not offer a distance/virtual learning program at this time.
- This policy may change in the near future and will be updated if changes affect this policy decision.
- If a student is absent, the parent may ask for work as in times past for students to continue learning. Online instruction that is not in real-time is an option as well as paper packets if needed. The parent should contact the school and/or teacher to ask for work.
- Virtual learning may be used for weather days/extended closures as needed per Mississippi SBE policy.