

A Common-Sense Approach to Returning to School on August 24, 2020



# Returning to School

## What You Need to Know

The Taylor County School District (TCSD) believes in the strength and resilience of our nation, state, and county. We believe that students and parents, along with the community, must resume the new school year with as much normalcy as possible, as we all learn to live in the Coronavirus (COVID) world. Life for students, families, community, and the school district must move forward, as the education of our citizens of tomorrow is of paramount importance in our ability for us to thrive as a community. This informational bulletin is being provided so that all stakeholders know and understand how we, as a school district, plan to conquer our challenges and make the 2020-2021 school year a meaningful and positive experience for our students.

## Preparing for Back-to-School

All school district facilities and transportation vehicles have been sanitized to ensure a clean and safe return for faculty, staff, and students.

If you or anyone in your family has been exposed to or tested positive for COVID, please contact your school health clinic to speak with the licensed health professional to discuss your particular circumstances prior to the first day of school on August 24, 2020.

With COVID information and guidance changing constantly, many opinions exist on the topic of prevention related to COVID. Screening questions and temperature checks for school-aged children have proven, at this point, to not be good indicators of whether or not a student is COVID positive or has been exposed to COVID. Screening questions are dependent on the timing of the questions related to the incubation period. Many children do not have symptoms beyond that of what might resemble a common cold.

As a reminder, it is recommended that parents communicate with their child's doctor to make sure that he/she is up-to-date with recommended and required vaccinations for school and overall good health prevention.

### On the Reverse Side

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Additional Information:

- This special *Returning to School* bulletin has been produced utilizing information available at the time of publication.
- Statistics quoted are taken from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Medical advice is not inferred or implied through this publication. Please consult with your physician.
- Remember to contact your child's school with your concerns or questions. Keep social media hype and rumor from ruining your positive mental health. Get the facts! Let us know of your concerns.
- For information related to all after-school programs, functions, field trips, and extracurricular activities, please follow us on your school's Facebook, website, or call your school's main office for schedules and changes to scheduled events.

### resilience:

"an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change."

—Merriam-Webster Dictionary

## Once the School Year Begins: Prevention of Illness

- ◆ Regular handwashing upon entering school, and during periods of student transition from one location to the next, will be taught and stressed.
- ◆ Hand sanitizing stations will be available in high traffic areas such as gymnasiums, cafeterias, auditoriums, media centers, and outside playgrounds.
- ◆ Signage to include reminders for good prevention of illness and overall wellness will be posted and standardized across all departments and schools.
- ◆ Students should not share personal items such as hygiene items, school supplies, or food/drink.
- ◆ School buildings will continue to be cleaned daily. High traffic areas will be cleaned throughout the day as student occupancy dictates.
- ◆ School buses and seats will be cleaned prior to each morning pick-up and before afternoon routes for drop-off.
- ◆ Restrooms, sinks, faucets, door handles, desktops, cafeteria lines, railings, and tables will be cleaned at increased frequency.
- ◆ Student seating in all venues will be distanced as space allows.



## Once the School Year Begins: Prevention and Response to Illness

Should a child, faculty, or staff member exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID, the individual should report these concerns to the school nurse immediately for initial evaluation.

If an individual is found to test positive for COVID, the local health department, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health, will assist the school district in implementing the proper steps to prevent further exposure or transmission of COVID.

An affected COVID positive individual will not be able to return to work or school until cleared by the Department of Health with a note reflecting the date of allowed return. For the health, safety, and welfare of all individuals, this requirement cannot be waived. Student absences will be excused for the duration of time reflected on the doctor's note.

Students with any illness that exhibits a fever, must remain at home and will not be allowed to return to school until fever free, without medication, for 3 days and

have a doctor's note clearing them to return to school.

### Other Items of Interest

Faculty, staff, and students may wear a mask that is self-provided. Masks are not required.

**Student masks in grades PreK-12 can be patterned or printed, but cannot have words, symbols, lettering or in any way be out of compliance with TCSD approved dress code. Bandanas may not be used as masks.**

- ◆ The school district is not responsible for ensuring that the student wears the self-provided mask.
- ◆ Good overall hygiene and illness prevention will continue to be stressed at school. Please stress this importance at home as well.
- ◆ Daily temperature checks of all individuals will not be done as this is not a recommended practice due to the many reasons a fever may exist. It is also not a good predictor of COVID presence in children. However, staff members will have their temperatures checked daily.

<u>School Contact Information</u>	
Area Code (850)	
TCSD Office	838-2500
Taylor Co. Primary School	838-2506
Taylor Co. Elementary School	838-2530
Taylor Co. Middle School	838-2516
Taylor Co. High School	838-2525
Taylor Accelerated School	223-5356
Big Bend Technical College	838-2545
Steinhatchee School	352-498-3303
Taylor Virtual School	838-2500