

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SCHOOL HEALTH

WILL MASKS BE REQUIRED?

No. Masks will be recommended, but not required.

WHAT IS THE TCSD POLICY REGARDING MASKS?

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.

WHAT ABOUT MASKS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS?

Each situation will be addressed individually to meet the needs of these students.

WILL COVID-19 TESTING BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE START OF SCHOOL FOR STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS?

No. Testing will not be required.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A CHILD APPEARS ILL AT SCHOOL?

The student will be sent to a clinical area for assessment. If the student has a fever or appears ill, the student will be placed in a safe, distanced area to await parent pickup.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD HAS A FEVER?

New procedures are that a child must be fever free for 72 hours, without fever reducing medication, before returning to school. A doctor's note will not be required to return to school.

WILL MY CHILD NEED A DOCTOR'S NOTE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER HAVING A FEVER?

No, a note from the Taylor County Department of Health (DOH) is only required for return after a diagnosis of being Covid-19 positive, or has been listed by the DOH as a close contact of a Covid-19 positive individual.

WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF ANOTHER STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN MY CHILD'S CLASS OR SCHOOL?

Due to HIPAA regulations, the Department of Health will notify individuals who were determined by DOH as a close contact. Notification of a positive case at that school site will be made by DOH and TCSD.

CAN I VOLUNTEER AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

No. TCSD will not be allowing visitors on campus until further notice.

HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM BE CLEANED?

Classrooms will be sanitized, disinfected, and thoroughly cleaned every day.

WILL THERE BE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING EDUCATION?

Yes. There will be education that empowers students to learn about the role they play to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. This education will be ongoing online and in the classroom.

Transportation

WILL THE SCHOOL BUSES BE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED PRIOR TO PICKING UP THE STUDENTS?

Yes, school buses will be sanitized and disinfected after each run. Assigned seats will be given to students on all busses.

Serving Meals

WILL MEALS BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS THAT ARE DISTANCE LEARNING?

Yes. There will be an allocated time for TEC students to come to the school and go through the lunch line.

HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THE CAFETERIA STAFF?

We will take employees' temperatures when they arrive to work. The staff will practice social distancing in the Cafeteria and Kitchen.

School Safety & Security

WILL ANY SIGNIFICANT SAFETY & SECURITY PROCEDURES BE ALTERED IN THE FALL DUE TO COVID 19?

Safety drills will be altered to maintain social distancing and access to school campuses will be restricted with enhanced protocols.

WILL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CONTINUE TO BE AT EACH CAMPUS DURING THE SCHOOL HOURS?

Yes, the District must still comply with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act, which provides for comprehensive enhancements in school safety as well as mental health services.

Mental and Emotional Wellness

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH A SCHOOL COUNSELOR ABOUT ACADEMIC OR PERSONAL CONCERNS?

School counselors are scheduled to return when school resumes. Depending on the topic, email may be an efficient method to address the concern. Otherwise, appointments should be scheduled to see the counselor directly.

HOW WOULD I FIND HELP FOR MY CHILD IF HE/SHE STRUGGLES ACADEMICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES?

Connect directly with the teacher or the school counselor to seek support.

MY CHILD WAS REFERRED FOR AN EVALUATION BEFORE THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, WHEN WILL THAT GET DONE?

School psychologists will continue with evaluations soon after school resumes. The school referral coordinator is the point of contact regarding those referrals.

HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER TO ASK ABOUT HELP WITH BASIC NEEDS FOR MY FAMILY?

The school counselor or your student's teacher can connect you with the social worker. You can also reach them by email.

WHAT IS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which individuals learn and manage emotions, set goals, show empathy, establish positive relation and make responsible decisions. Extensive research links the development of social, emotional, behavioral, and character skills to academic achievement, positive behavior, rewarding relationships, and good citizenship.

Due to COVID-19 and the isolation that many students and families have experienced, Taylor County School will have a focused effort on direct instruction in Social and Emotional Learning to assist students in feeling safe returning to school and making establishing positive relationships with adults and peers as a primary focus. Students and their families will be starting school with a lot of added anxiety. It will be imperative for school staff to look through a multiple lens to view the “whole picture” of what is going on with the student and their families.

WHAT MENTAL WELLNESS SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS ON SCHOOL CAMPUS?

District personnel include the school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, and district mental health coordinator.

School Sanitation

WILL KIDS BE ALLOWED ON PLAYGROUNDS? IF SO, HOW CAN WE BE SURE THE EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROPERLY SANITIZED?

Yes. The CDC recommends we do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds. It is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public. High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings will be cleaned routinely. Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended. Students will wash or disinfect hands upon returning from the playground.

ARE YOU DOING EXTRA CLEANING IN PREPARATION OF KIDS COMING BACK TO SCHOOL?

Yes.

WILL MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM BE SHUT DOWN IF A CHILD IN THE CLASSROOM TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

No. The District will be following CDC guidelines on cleaning and disinfecting rooms where a positive case has been found. However, students and staff

identified by DOH as a close contact will be required by DOH to self-quarantine.

WILL MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM BE CLEANED MORE OFTEN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

Yes. Currently, the CDC guidelines recommends to clean, sanitize and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the classrooms, daily. At this time, the District is developing a process to take the extra step of sanitizing by using a germicidal disinfectant to clean and sanitize more often.