



# **TCS Covid Protocols 2022 - 2023**



## UPDATE

(as of August 2022)

As we enter our third COVID-19 school year, the following protocols reflect updated guidance from [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and input and guidance from our own [TCS Health Advisory Committee](#). As before, our main objective is to keep children and faculty/staff in school. These protocols aim to minimize the adverse impact of COVID-19 in our classrooms.

- For the 2022-23 school year **masking will be optional** for students, faculty, and staff (with some exceptions - see below). If you would like your child to wear a mask while at school, please talk with your child and let your teacher know. We will help remind/encourage/manage this in the classroom. In addition, teachers may ask your child to wear a mask if they are experiencing symptoms that could be COVID-related such as sneezing or runny nose.
- TCS will **no longer provide weekly SHIELD PCR testing** as the CDC no longer recommends routine screening testing in K-12 schools.
- TCS can **provide diagnostic testing** (rapid antigen) for students, teachers, or staff members who show symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed in the school setting or in their households.
- We will **continue to utilize frequent and thorough hand-washing/hand-sanitizing** upon entering the school building, before and after eating, after using the restroom, and at other points in the day as needed.
- We will continue having all students, faculty, and staff **stay home when ill or not feeling well/possibly ill**.
- We will continue to spend **lots of time outdoors** and to **keep some windows open** for ventilation while indoors.
- We will continue **daily cleaning/disinfecting** of classrooms and other spaces.
- We will continue to **recommend that all faculty, staff, and students be [up to date on their vaccinations](#)**. For children ages 5-11 and ages 12-17, “up to date” means 2 shots plus 1 booster (Pfizer) or 2 shots (Moderna) by the first day of school, September 6, 2022. For adults, “up to date” means all primary doses plus all boosters recommended for your age group/risk group.

- Family volunteers and other visitors to the building **must either provide proof of negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours before entering or wear a well-fitting mask while in the building.** Proctored and at-home tests are acceptable.
- **During field trips,** mask use will follow the guidance of the teacher for the duration of the trip. Students should expect to mask while on public transportation and in large, crowded indoor venues.
- We will **return to having all-school activities** such as Group Gathering, Town Hall meeting, all-school lunch and recess and will not maintain cohorting by grade level group.
- All of these same guidelines apply to before care and after school programming.

### **Masking/Quarantine Requirements**

- **If a student/faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 (Day 0), they must quarantine for 5 days and may return to school on Day 6** if fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved. They must mask around others for Days 6-10 upon their return to school.
- **If an individual misses school due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms<sup>1</sup>, they can return to school EITHER after receiving a negative COVID-19 test OR waiting 5 days.** They must also be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting must have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms must have improved. The first day they miss school or the day they leave school is Day 0. They must mask around others (indoors and outdoors) on Days 6-10 upon their return to school.
- **Testing is not required to determine the end of isolation or mask use following COVID-19 infection;** however people can use the test-based strategy outlined in the CDC's [isolation guidance](#) to potentially shorten the duration of post-isolation mask use. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10. If your antigen test results are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. Continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential

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<sup>1</sup> Fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause.

negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

- **Anyone exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 must mask around others for 10 days.** This could be an individual (if the exposure happened outside of school) or an entire class (if the exposure happened at school). It is recommended that anyone exposed should test at least 5 days after exposure. If the individual tests negative on Day 5, they should nonetheless continue to mask for Days 6-10.
- **We will issue a health alert to the school if someone tests positive** and will identify the classroom. We ask all families to please notify us immediately if a student or family member tests positive outside of school so we can respond accordingly.
- **TCS will do a rapid antigen test on any students/faculty/staff who show possible symptoms of COVID-19.** (See footnote 1)
- **TCS can provide a rapid antigen test between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m.** for diagnostic purposes for students/faculty/staff. Testing by 8:15 am allows for results before other students arrive. We cannot guarantee providing a test after 8:15 am due to other responsibilities associated with the start of the school day. Please notify us the day before if you plan to bring your child for a test. Please also remember that a negative antigen test in a person with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should be confirmed by a more sensitive test.
- If our community transmission rate moves to “high,” we may return to screening testing and/or required masking indoors for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to the school.

We continue to review and remain responsive to changing recommendations from the medical and scientific communities as well as our own community. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these challenges and work to keep everyone at TCS physically, socially, and emotionally healthy.