

Tucson Country Day School

Mitigation Strategies

2021-2022

Updated on 8/25/21

Tucson Country Day School takes a layered approach to protecting students and staff from the spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of our community is always at the forefront when it comes to the heart of our planning. As a result, the following strategies will require close monitoring and may change as needed.

Athletic Activities: TCDS follows National State High School Sports mitigation protocols. Seasonal sports will resume, and athletes and families will be informed of protocols at the beginning of each season.

Classroom Supplies: TCDS allows community supplies to be shared, with **hand hygiene** mitigation practices in place. Shared supplies will be cleaned daily. Students may purchase and bring their own personal supplies, if desired.

Cleaning and Disinfecting: High touch point surfaces are disinfected/cleaned each day using cleaning supplies.

Close Contacts: Per CDC guidance, close contacts are identified as “someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*).

The CDC does provide an exception “in the k-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) if *both* the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.” (CDC, Aug. 5, 2021)

Due to the current mask mandate, there would not be any “close contacts” as all individuals will be wearing a mask while indoors. Any student or staff member who shares a class with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 has two options:

- Quarantine, according to [Pima County Health Department Guidelines](#). Students/families who choose this option will have work sent by their child’s teacher(s) for the duration of the quarantine.
- Continue schooling on campus and monitor symptoms.

Closing and Reopening of School: The TCDS Administration has the authority to determine school closure and reopening. In the event of a school closure, families and staff will be notified via email, Class Dojo and by phone, if necessary.

Extra Curricular Activities: All activities will resume, including Champ Care services (before and after school), student clubs, athletic activities and games.

Events: School-wide assemblies, special performances, special Flag ceremonies, academic showcases, and other community gatherings (PLEDGE, Board Meetings) are permitted, with administrative approval and by invitation.

Facility Rentals: Rentals of school facilities will resume, with administrative approval, including TGA sports, Drama Kids INC, Chess Mentors, and all other outside vendors.

Field Trips: Field trips may be permitted, including on and off site trips, with administrative approval.

Food Services: Kitchen services will be provided. All kitchen staff and volunteers will adhere to **cleaning protocols**, **physical distancing** practices, and **hand hygiene**. Students may not share food.

Hand Hygiene: All staff and students will use hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, and bathroom sinks to wash hands throughout the school day. Champion Care and after school activities will implement **hand hygiene** practices, as well.

Masks: Face masks are required to be worn by all students, staff, and visitors while indoors on the TCDS campus. Face masks are optional while outdoors as long as individuals are socially distanced. Individuals with a medical exemption from a healthcare provider will work with administration in developing a reasonable alternative plan.

Outdoor Spaces: Outdoor learning spaces will be utilized, as weather permits.

Physical Distancing: Physical distancing will be maintained, where feasible.

Positive COVID-19 Notifications: In the event of a TCDS student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, families of the grade level that had the positive case will be notified with an e-mailed letter, and all TCDS staff will be notified.

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- Continue schooling on campus and monitor symptoms.

Recess and Playground Equipment: K-5 students will have access to all playground equipment, during scheduled recess time(s). Students and staff will adhere to **hand hygiene** practices and **physical distancing**.

Symptoms and Testing for COVID: Rapid tests are diagnostic tests performed at many pharmacies, health care providers, and other locations in our area. To schedule an appointment at a rapid testing facility, search online for Rapid COVID-19 Testing Near Me. In the event of COVID-19 exposure or COVID-19 like symptoms, a negative test result can reduce time away from school. A positive result will require a student or staff member to quarantine, based on Pima County Health Department [guidelines](#).

Ventilation: All classrooms will establish cross-ventilation by opening up a combination of doors and/or windows, weather and environment permitting.

Visitors: Visitors and volunteers are allowed on campus, by invitation only.

Water Fountains: Drinking fountains are available for refilling bottles. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

If Covid Cases Increase

Additional mitigation strategies may be implemented in the event that COVID-19 cases increase in our community and/or in our school. In the absence of specific mitigation recommendations and or requirements by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Pima County Health Department, or by Executive Order, TCDS may consider revising the above mitigation strategies.