

Tucson Country Day School

Mitigation Strategies

Updated 7/22/22

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 transmission rates fluctuate.

What to do when you're sick:

We actively encourage employees and students who are sick to stay home. Any employee or student who tests positive for COVID-19 must notify the school and quarantine according to [Pima County Health Quarantine Guidelines](#).

For FAQs and the the latest isolation, quarantine, close contact, and COVID-19 treatment information from the Pima County Health Department, visit the following link: [Pima County Health Department info](#)

Athletic Activities: 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 are encouraged to bring their own supplies and should contact grade level teacher(s) for supply needs.

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

Close Contact: Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset.

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.

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. Depending on transmission rates, masks may be required for outdoor assemblies, performances, and ceremonies.

Facility Rentals: Rentals of school facilities will resume, with administrative approval. Vendors will be expected to adhere to TCDS Mitigation Strategies.

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. Students will eat and snack outdoors, weather permitting.

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: Masks are optional both indoors and outdoors for students, staff, and visitors.

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, and/or other affected students, will be notified with an e-mailed letter, and all TCDS staff will be notified.

Any student or staff member who shares a class with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 is a potential close contact and has two options:

1. 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.
2. Continue schooling on campus and monitor symptoms.
 - If choosing the second option, it is strongly recommended that the individual wear a mask until a date specified by administration in the notification.
 - Teachers and staff impacted by a COVID-19 case will be required to wear a mask indoors until a date specified by administration.

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**.

Return to School Notification: In the event that a student or staff member is absent from school due to having any COVID-19 symptoms, a notification will be sent from the school's Health Clerk. In order to return to school, the the family/staff member has three options:

1. Provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR or rapid test. (at-home tests are not accepted)
2. Provide a doctor's note from a physician that includes, "The symptoms are not due to COVID-19. The alternate diagnosis is _____."
3. Quarantine according to [Pima County Health Quarantine Guidelines](#).

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.