



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 29, 2021

These FAQs are current as of August 29, 2021. Because of the fluidity of the environment the FAQs will be updated periodically.

Are students required to wear a mask?

Yes. Per the Governor's Executive Order 2021-18 and requirements from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education, students and staff are required to wear masks while inside any school building regardless of vaccination status, even when physical distancing is achieved.

Will families be required to provide their own masks?

Yes. Parents are expected to provide masks for their students. However, each school will have masks available for anyone who needs one.

Will teachers and staff be required to wear a mask?

Yes. Per the Governor's Executive Order 2021-18 and requirements from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education, students and staff are required to wear masks while inside any school building regardless of vaccination status, even when physical distancing is achieved.

Are students and staff required to wear a mask when they are outside?

No. Students and staff will not be required to wear masks when outside when adequate physical distancing can be maintained. This includes but is not limited to, physical education class, teacher directed class activities, walking field trips, and recess.

Will there be a focus on hygiene at school?

Yes. There will be a concentrated effort focused on regular hand washing/sanitizing. Sharing of supplies will be limited. High touch areas such as restrooms and door handles, etc. will be regularly cleaned during the school day. Water fountains will be disabled, however, we are working toward installing touchless bottle fillers in each school when they become available. Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle to school for their individual use. Additional information about each school's operational plan can be found on their respective webpage.

Where can I find information about safety procedures in place at my child's school?

The in-person learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year is posted on the school web page. Each school's plan contains information specific to that particular building.

If a student has Covid symptoms at school and is sent home do siblings need to be sent home too?

No. A student exhibiting symptoms will be isolated and sent home. It is recommended that the student receive a Covid test as soon as possible. Asymptomatic siblings are allowed to continue to remain at school while the symptomatic student remains at home awaiting testing results, or an alternate diagnosis. A negative Covid test result, or alternative diagnosis from a medical provider, would allow the student to return to school once symptoms have resolved. A positive Covid test would result in all unvaccinated household members being quarantined per the TCHD and IDPH requirements.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Isolation and quarantine are measures taken to physically separate people to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Isolation separates those believed to be able to spread Covid to others. This includes those who have tested positive or have symptoms of Covid. Quarantine separates those who are believed to have been exposed to someone with Covid because they are at risk of becoming ill and spreading the virus before symptoms develop.

Is it possible that there could be intermittent times of classroom or school closures?

Yes. It is our goal to keep our students in school and our schools open, however it is not beyond the realm of possibility that a short term closure could be required based on the spread of the Covid-19 or virus variants within a classroom or school. The temporary closure of a classroom and/or a school would likely be the result of a recommendation from our local health department addressing confirmed positive cases and/or a high rate of transmission of the virus. Daily remote learning will be enacted if a temporary closure is necessary.

Will the District be involved in a regular regimen of administering Covid tests to students?

No. At this time the District will not be administering any type of Covid tests to students as a screening mechanism.

Will temperature checks be given to students?

Yes. Temperature screenings are required for all students prior to entering the building.

What will be the protocol for a sick student?

The district will consult with the Tazewell County Health Department and follow the procedures they put in place for addressing confirmed positive cases and/or suspected cases, and/or contact tracing. The decision regarding quarantining individuals or groups, closing classrooms, and/or schools will be made with the guidance of the TCHD.

What will be the protocol for a sick teacher, staff member, or school personnel?

The district will consult with the Tazewell County Health Department and follow the procedures they put in place for addressing confirmed positive cases and/or suspected cases, and/or contact tracing. The decision regarding quarantining individuals or groups, closing classrooms, and/or schools will be made with the guidance of the TCHD.

How will families be notified if their child is required to go home?

The school Health Clerk, District Nurse, and/or school office personnel will notify parents if a child is symptomatic or ill and needs to be picked up from school.

What will be the protocol when a case is confirmed in the school?

The district will consult with the Tazewell County Health Department and follow the procedures they put in place for addressing confirmed positive cases and/or suspected cases, and/or contact tracing. The decision regarding quarantining individuals or groups, closing classrooms, and/or schools will be made with the guidance of the TCHD.

Will there be sports and extracurricular activities at the junior high school?

Yes. At this time all junior high athletics, cheerleading, poms and other extracurriculars will operate as normal and observe required safety procedures per the IESA and IDPH.

Will spectators be allowed to attend indoor sporting events at the junior high level?

Yes. At this time spectators are allowed to attend indoor sporting events conducted at our junior high schools. In accordance with the district in-person learning plan, all safety requirements will be in full effect for spectators during indoor sporting activities.

Will there be open houses, family reading nights, or other activities in which parents can visit schools?

Yes. Schools may conduct various activities to encourage parent and family involvement as they deem appropriate. Such activities will likely be on a smaller scale with specifically defined guidelines, etc. In accordance with the district in-person learning plan, all safety requirements will be in full effect for visitors who attend school activities during the school day and after school hours.

Will buses run as normal?

Yes. All students who qualify for transportation will have the opportunity to ride a bus to their assigned school. At this time, all passengers, drivers, and monitors are required to wear a mask when riding a school bus to and from school, on field trips, and to and from extra-curricular activities and sporting events. Students will be physically distanced on buses as much as possible.

Will PEAK (child care) be offered before and after school?

Yes. The PEAK program will be available for before school and after school child care each day our schools are in session.

Will field trips be allowed?

Yes. Schools are allowed to consider curricular-based field trips during this school year if the conditions are safe to do so. Field trips involving lengthy bus rides will be avoided at this time. All required safety protocols will be followed during field trips. Field trip participation will be limited to only students and staff.

What are the procedures for lunch at school?

Breakfast and lunch will be served at each school. Students may remove their mask while eating. Otherwise, each school will determine their specific breakfast and lunch procedures and schedule. Students will be physically distanced as much as possible and cleaning and sanitizing will be a priority.

Will students still move from class to class?

This will vary depending on the school and the level (primary, intermediate, junior high). The size of the school enrollment and available physical space will be taken into consideration as each school develops their specific daily procedures.

Will parents and/or visitors be allowed in the building?

Yes. We would like visitors to contact the school in advance. however we understand that this might not always be possible. All visitors entering the school will be required to wear a mask at all times and follow all required school safety procedures. Additional information about each school's operational plan can be found on their respective webpage.