



Robert Kinsey
Superintendent

Brandi Burks
Assistant Superintendent

December 28, 2021

Dear Tecumseh Families,

I want to thank you for the feedback that you provided during our recent survey regarding our district's Learning Plan. The quantitative results of that survey are found at the end of this letter. After reviewing that feedback along with information that I have received from other stakeholders in the district, I am writing to make you aware of two changes to our district's Learning Plan that our Board of Education approved at the December Board Meeting on December 13, 2021. The changes are outlined below.

Change #1: Quarantines and Isolations

Quarantines: Tecumseh Public Schools will *not* require quarantines of students when contact tracing shows that a student meets the CDC requirements as a "close contact." A close contact will be considered as any person who is found to be within three feet of a COVID-positive individual for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more in a 24-hour period if both people are properly wearing their masks or within six feet if both are not properly wearing their masks, per CDC guidelines. TPS staff will notify parents or guardians of students through a phone call and/or letter that will be sent home with the student when that person meets the criteria for close contact. Parents will have the responsibility to decide whether or not to quarantine their child and communicate that decision to the school.

If the student is kept at home for quarantine, the length of that quarantine should be for 10 days from the last date of exposure to the COVID-positive individual. If these guidelines are followed, the student could return to school on or after Day 7 of the quarantine period if s/he has received a negative COVID test from a healthcare facility on Day 5 or later. If a parent chooses to quarantine his/her student, the school requests that these guidelines be followed as closely as possible. Students will be provided coursework through Canvas and/or paper versions of assignments when missing school due to quarantine. Please notify your student's site attendance office if you choose to quarantine your child by the end of the first full school day after receiving close contact notification.

CDC recommendations for quarantines were updated yesterday. The district will review these recommendations over the next few weeks and determine whether or not the Learning Plan needs to be amended to reflect these changes at the January Board Meeting.

If a parent or guardian chooses not to quarantine the student, then the child can attend school as normal unless s/he begins to exhibit symptoms of illness in which case the parent or guardian will be contacted immediately and expected to pick up the child from school as soon as possible. The district requests that parents have a plan to pick up a sick child within 30 minutes of notification. If the student becomes sick, the child shall not come back to school until symptom free without medication for at least 24 hours per district's wellness policy and until the wellness screening can be passed. If the student is experiencing symptoms of COVID, it is requested that the child be tested and found to be negative for COVID by a healthcare professional before returning to school.

Isolations: Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test will be required to isolate as specified by CDC regulations regardless of vaccination status. A person with a positive COVID-19 test can return to school after 10 days from the date of the positive test. Our district's school nurse will be in communication with parents of students to provide a specific date for the child's return to school. A person should not return to school if experiencing any symptoms even if the 10 day timeline has been completed.

CDC recommendations for isolations were also updated on December 27, 2021. The district will review these recommendations over the next few weeks and determine whether or not the Learning Plan needs to be amended to reflect these changes at the January Board Meeting.

Daily Wellness Check Reminder: With these changes to the Learning Plan, it is more important than ever that parents or guardians *do not* send a child to school if s/he is feeling unwell until the cause of the illness is determined. Families are expected to conduct a wellness screening for each child for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to each student's arrival at school daily. Staff members are also expected to screen for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to arrival at school each day.

STUDENTS AND STAFF SHOULD FOLLOW THE SELF-SCREENING WELLNESS CHECKLIST PRIOR TO COMING TO TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES.

1. Do you have a fever of 100.0 or greater? Yes/No
2. Do you currently have any flu like symptoms? Yes/No
3. Do you currently have a cough or experiencing shortness of breath? Yes/No
4. Have you had a sudden loss of taste or smell? Yes/No

If the answer to any of these questions is Yes, then the student or staff member should not attend school until the cause of the symptom(s) can be determined. The absence should be reported to the school through appropriate channels.

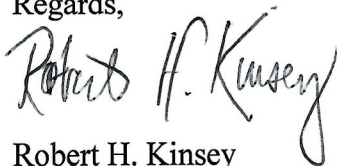
Change #2: Visitors

We love having parents and community partners in our buildings. Beginning in January, parents are welcome to volunteer in our buildings when they have completed and passed a wellness screening. We may ask that our parent volunteers work only in common areas such as book fairs, staff work rooms, etc. Volunteers should not be working in the classroom except for those who have been invited as guest readers, guest speakers, or others who are appropriately connected to the curriculum. We ask that all parent and community volunteers follow all district COVID protocols and maintain social distancing while working with students.

While we do not yet believe that it is safe to host full-scale assemblies, parties, and other activities that would invite all parents into our schools at a given time, we do want to move to a point where we can partner with our parents and community members and include you in our schools and in our students' learning as much as possible. We hope to be able to continue to increase the openness of our schools to the public as it is safe to do so. We appreciate your patience in this process.

I believe that these changes are currently safe to make given our district's current statistics and the status of COVID-19 in our schools and community at this time. I will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis. If the situation deteriorates, I may recommend to the board that the district reinstate some of the restrictions that have now been lifted. I am hopeful that the situation will continue to improve so that even more restrictions can be removed and so that we can continue to move back to "normal" within our schools. If you have questions, please call me at 405-598-3739 or email me at kinseyr@tecumseh.k12.ok.us. Thank you for your support of Tecumseh Public Schools.

Regards,



Robert H. Kinsey
Superintendent

Quantitative Results of Stakeholder Survey for TPS Learning Plan from December 2021

Do you think that the current practice of allowing the wearing of masks to be optional should be continued in the Spring 2022 semester? 277 responses

Yes 88.4%

No 11.6%

Do you think that students and staff should be required to quarantine if exposed to another person who tests positive for COVID? 277 responses

Yes 50.2%

No 49.8%

Do you think that the current policy that does not allow visitors inside of school sites is needed in Spring 2022? 277 responses

Yes 35.4%

No 64.6%

Do you believe that the district's current Learning Plan is effective in response to the threat of COVID 19? 277 responses

Yes 72.6%

No 27.4%