

TCIS Health and Safety Plan Effective August 2, 2022

On Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 the Minnesota Department of Health released guidance titled [Best Practices for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#). The MN Dept. of Health (MDH) encourages schools to follow the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These best practice recommendations reflect the current state of the pandemic as well as the importance of in-person learning. As always, the experts at MDH are continuing to monitor the virus around the state. The MN Dept. of Education (MDE) and Twin Cities International Schools (TCIS) will keep you informed as the situation evolves and the CDC's guidance is updated throughout the school year.

Twin Cities International Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our workers, students and visitors. To ensure we have a safe and healthy workplace, TCIS has developed the following Health & Safety Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All stakeholders are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 and its variants in our workplaces and communities, and that requires full cooperation among our stakeholders. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons in our school.

Learning Model:

- Students will attend school five days a week, in person.
- Social distancing will not be required, nor will individual elementary classroom groups refrain from interactions with other cohorts.
- Middle School students will be assigned classes in cohorts

Federal government and MN Rule requirements:

- **Face Coverings: All people are required by the CDC to wear face coverings on all indoor public transportation conveyances (airports, public buses, etc...), including school buses.** [CDC: Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html)
- **Handling a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19:** Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). [Reportable Disease Rule](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html>

Consistent and correct mask use:

Universal indoor masking* is recommended for all people in the school setting (ages 2 years and older), including teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. **(A face shield may be used in place of a facial mask.)*

TCIS School Staff: Masks required while in the school building or on school transportation, regardless of vaccination status

TCIS Students: Masks required while indoors & on school transportation

Visitors/parents to TCIS: Masks required while indoors

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, CDC recommends that people aged 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. TCIS will allow students and staff to remove their masks during outdoor PE activities and recess.

Vaccinations, contact tracing and confirmed cases:

The Pfizer [COVID-19 vaccine is available for individuals 12 years and older](#). Proof of vaccination will not be required of students or staff to attend school/work. However, vaccination status of school employees and subcontractors will be collected by TCIS. Employees and subcontractors will be asked their vaccination status during the back to school orientation day and are expected to show proof of vaccination to confirm that status. (*i.e. vaccination card or photo of card*) This documentation will not be kept on file at the school but status information will be maintained in the human resource office.

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 People who test positive for COVID-19 should stay at home (isolation) until all three of these things are true:

- Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and,
- It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive: and,
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

The [COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs \(PDF\)](#) is being used as the guideline to determine the necessary procedures for students.

Close contacts of COVID-19 cases:

To identify close contacts, schools should gather and review the participant's or staff member's activity during the time they were infectious at the facility. This review should look back two days prior to the date symptoms started, or two days prior to the date of the positive test if there are no symptoms.

Close contacts include anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Exception for K-12 indoor classroom settings only:

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 a clinically compatible illness) where:

- both students were correctly wearing well-fitting masks; and
- other K–12 school prevention strategies (e.g., ventilation, cleaning and disinfection, respiratory etiquette and hygiene) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
- This exception does not apply to unvaccinated teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Unvaccinated participants and staff who recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home (quarantine) from the program and all other activities until they meet criteria to return. Fully vaccinated people and those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90-days are not recommended to quarantine, in most situations.

Quarantine and Isolation:

A 14-day quarantine period is recommended [Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19](#):

- The person lives in the same household and is a contact of someone with COVID-19.
 - The 14-day quarantine period starts the day after the person with COVID-19 completes their isolation period (usually 10 days from the day their symptoms started, or if they didn't have symptoms, 10 days from the day they got tested.
 - If multiple people in the home have COVID-19, the 14 days start after the last person has completed their isolation. This may mean that other household members will need to quarantine for 24 days or more.

A shortened quarantine period may be considered if ALL of the following are true:

- The person has NOT had symptoms of COVID-19 during the quarantine period.
- The person does NOT live with someone who has COVID-19.
- The person does NOT live or work in a high-risk setting, including a long-term care or assisted living facility, correctional facility, shelter, or other congregate living facility.
- The person does NOT work in a healthcare facility.

The person had a defined exposure, meaning a known exposure with a beginning and an end. Examples could be someone who was exposed:

- At school or a sporting activity.
- During a shift at work or while on break.
- At a social gathering or event, like a party or funeral.

If and only if all of the above conditions are true, quarantine may be shortened to:

TCIS Students: Fourteen (14) days total with a documented negative COVID Test if the test occurred on day ten (10) or later

TCIS School Staff: Seven (7) days with a documented negative COVID Test if the test occurred on day five (5) or later



Other health and safety mitigation strategies:

TCIS has several additional health and safety mitigation strategies in place throughout the school building:

- UVC-Bulbs were installed and are operational throughout the school's ventilation system
- Portable classroom air filters are available in most larger classrooms and high traffic/ meeting areas (Medify MA-40 Air Purifier with H13 True HEPA Filter)
- Portable hand-washing stations have been placed around the school building
- Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and offices
- Disinfection and cleaning will continue to occur multiple times a day in bathrooms and high traffic areas.
- Building-wide Disinfecting will take place in the Fall and Winter of the school year and possibly the spring pending need.
- Physical distancing is utilized when available
- Classrooms will be stocked with sanitizing wipes, gloves, and additional face masks
- Students will not be allowed to share devices or materials within the classroom
- Students will be instructed and encouraged to practice personal health hygiene, including covering their cough, washing their hands and staying home when sick
- Health screenings for ill students will take place through the health offices