

Tupelo Public School

Safe Return Plan

2021-2022

Updated 6-15-2021

After successfully returning to learn in a traditional in-person format during the 2020-2021 school year, Tupelo Schools will remain open for in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Tupelo School will continue to monitor community health and adjust this plan accordingly. As we navigate through these ever-changing times, we appreciate your patience, understanding, and support of our students, staff, and families.

Safe Return: Part 1:

Continuity of Excellence in Tupelo Public Schools

Tupelo Public School is committed to offering quality educational opportunities for PK-12 students that are aligned with Oklahoma Academic Standards.

TPS will conduct normal in-person school operations when **zero** to **low** cases of COVID exist in the school community. TPS will activate remote learning for students when there is an established community spread. The Superintendent will decide to activate remote learning for classrooms, buildings, and/or the district.

TPS plans to resume traditional transportation. Buses will be sanitized daily. When possible, windows will be down for air circulation. Masks are highly recommended for all students while riding the bus due to the proximity of students. Masks may be required based on community spread. If there is a shortage of bus drivers, due to COVID, the district may need to reduce the number of bus routes.

It is essential that all families partner with us in monitoring the health of your students and families. We ask that temperatures be taken daily at home. No student with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher may enter any TPS facility.

TPS will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols. Physical distancing will be implemented when possible. Masks are highly recommended for all students and staff. Masks are strongly recommended on the school bus and in highly populated areas. Masks may be required based on community spread. Our staff will monitor reportable illnesses. Oklahoma Health Department guidance will be utilized for quarantine. TPS will follow city, county, and state mandates. Requirements and recommendations are subject to change.

The Social-Emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic learning. Our counselors will be prepared and available to help our students and families.

TPS has increased its clearing and preparation of facilities to protect our staff and students. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be implemented and practiced. Efforts will be made to have hand sanitizer available. Upon notification of a positive COVID case on campus, the area will be thoroughly cleaned.

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS 2021-2022

OPTION 1: TRADITIONAL - ON-SITE LEARNING (WITH REMOTE LEARNING DAYS)

ON-SITE INSTRUCTION

- All courses/classes taken at regular school site
- In-person instruction
- Traditional academic school day with Google Classroom incorporated as needed
- Traditional transitions within the school day

REMOTE LEARNING DAYS

- Determined by the district, city, or state in the event of a COVID outbreak or other need
- With school approval, it can be utilized by individual families in the event of a student exposure illness resulting in quarantine
- Counts as a school day (not a traditional absence if the student completes online lessons within the allotted time)
- Virtual coursework via Google Classroom: Students continue to learn new material with teacher support
- Opportunities for students to collaborate and learn by interacting virtually with peers/teachers
- May include pre-recorded or live lessons/tutorials
- Regular support and contact from TPS teachers until on-campus classes can resume.

OPTION 2: FULL VIRTUAL

- Grades PK-12
- Student learning plans are directed and monitored by TPS teachers or Edmentum Courseware.
- Classes do not require regular on-campus attendance
- No extracurricular activities offered (i.e., sports)
- Individual courses may incur a fee
- Interview and application process required.

Tupelo Public School Safe Return FAQs

How will communication be shared?

TPS will deliver communication through our school messaging system (texts, email, and phone calls) directly to parents and students. Parent and student contact information **MUST BE ACCURATE** in order to receive the school messages. Each student will be provided a Google email account. The district will continue to use website based alert systems and social media accounts to distribute district-level information. Our district website will be updated regularly. www.tupelo.k12.ok.us . We are committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your site, you can contact any of our administration team at:

Superintendent- kmann@tupelo.k12.ok.us.

School Principal- lbritt@tupelo.k12.ok.us

What about grades and attendance?

Students will receive instruction that is aligned to state standards. Grades will be taken regularly, and progress will be monitored for academic growth. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance. To be in attendance, a student must be in class or participating remotely with school permission. This includes students enrolled virtually.

What is Virtual Learning?

Virtual learning means the student takes all his/her courses in a virtual setting away from school. A TPS teacher directs the instruction. Tutoring, assistance, and assessments will be provided, but no classes require regular physical attendance. The virtual learning option is offered to PreK-12. There is an application and interview process, and program acceptance is required.

How do I enroll my student in the virtual option?

Enrollment will be the same as if you were enrolling a student traditionally with the addition of an application and interview process. The appropriateness of this option for individuals will be determined through the application and interview process.

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a learning management system/portal where students will access their assignments, communication, and grades. The system streamlines all the digital tools and contents that teachers and students use for a more straightforward, more connected learning experience.

When will we use Remote Learning?

Remote learning will be used when school is closed due to COVID, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Remote learning days count as a day of attendance for students who login and participate in their assigned classwork or activity.

What about 504 & Special Education Needs?

All 504 and IEP plans will be followed. Any modifications to services due to health concerns will be documented and agreed upon utilizing normal meeting processes. For more information about IEP and/or 504 plans, contact our Special Education Director, Shelia Glover, at sheliacgatabc@yahoo.com.

Will athletics, electives, and fine arts classes continue to be offered at all current levels, and will there be any restrictions?

Depending on the level of community spread, all athletics and activities will continue as planned with extra measures taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional measures may be implemented as needed. TPS will follow the recommendations and guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association.

What determines the level of community spread?

TPS will work with the State Department of Health, Education, and State Epidemiologists to determine the levels for community spread.

Where will the information come from regarding the number of cases for community spread?

TPS will monitor the number of COVID cases in our community through the Oklahoma State Health Department. TPS will follow any mandates set forth from the city, county, or state. <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-systems>

Why will temperatures not be taken upon entering the school building?

Entering the school building is not the first contact for many students. A student's first contact may be at the bus stop, carpools, parking lots, breakfast, etc. Temperatures can be an indicator of a variety of illnesses and are not necessarily the first indicator of COVID. TPS has always asked that students remain home if they have a fever of 100 or higher. We need our parents to be active in keeping all children and staff safe by monitoring of symptoms and temperature checks. We do have touchless digital thermometers and will take suspected staff and student temperatures and act accordingly.

When masks are in the "recommendation" phase, will there be times our student(s) would be "required" to wear a mask?

YES, if or when masks wearing is mandated then students and staff will be required to wear masks. Depending on the level of community spread, schools may implement Mask Zones and Mask Free Zones. We ask that all staff and students bring a mask daily. We will have masks available for those who need one.

Will we have devices to take home for remote learning?

TPS is one-to-one technology, meaning each student has access to a Chromebook or Ipad. Chromebooks or Ipads may be “checked out” with a signed device policy.

How can I support the school as a parent?

- Take your child’s temperature daily in times of outbreak or suspected illness prior to them leaving the house
- Keep students at home if they exhibit any symptoms of any illness. Inform the school of positive tests for COVID-19 by contacting your student’s building principal or superintendent.
- Keep students quarantined as instructed by the Oklahoma Health Department if they have had any exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID.
- Prepare your home and child with Internet access, supplies, and devices for remote learning if possible and feasible
- Complete a Free & Reduced Meal/Income Eligibility Form. This process significantly affects school funding. Let your child’s teacher or school know if you need assistance with meals.
- Have masks or other appropriate face coverings available for student at school
- Openly communicate any concerns directly with your child’s teacher or school site principal
- Working with the school site as they change visitor protocols and the check-in /check-out processes as warranted
- Assist with COVID tracing through the State Health Department.

Additional practices to be implemented:

- We are requesting that students use their own school supplies and share as little as possible.
- Students should plan to bring their own water bottle and not use water fountains in a traditional way. Water bottles will be able to be refilled.

Continuity of Excellence

Safe Return Plan - Part 1: Tupelo Public School will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English language learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students. The populations listed are the most vulnerable populations to be affected by the pandemic.

ACADEMIC NEEDS for all students including most vulnerable populations

- Implement evidence-based Tier I instruction
- Provide Tier II evidence-based support for skill gaps and unfinished learning
- Provide Tier III tutoring as needed
- Provide adaptive technology to students who qualify (504 or IEP)
- Identify any migratory students at point of enrollment and implement Tier I, II, or III as needed

SOCIAL NEEDS for all students including most vulnerable populations

- Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities to all students including those in the most vulnerable populations
- Engage families in the school's programs of academics and activities
- Establish opportunities for diversity of cultures to be highlighted, celebrated, and respected
- Assess food and security. Provide added support as needed through donations or programs
- Assess barriers in school clubs and/or activities, outline a plan to remove barriers

EMOTIONAL NEEDS for all students including most vulnerable populations

- Implement a positive social-emotional program at each site
- Provide teachers with information to identify needs and possible crises
- Provide counseling for students who may have a need or a possible crisis

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS for all students including most vulnerable populations

- Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs
- Refer to professional support through agencies and the Choctaw Nation

Tupelo Public School

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

SAFE RETURN PLAN

Our Safe Return with CDC Guidance

Safe Return Plan - Part 2: Plan to Align with Safety Recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT MASKS WEARING: Properly fitted masks covering the mouth and nose will be worn when/if mask wearing is mandated. Students and staff are highly encouraged to wear masks on buses and in situations where students and/or staff are not able to social distance. Tupelo Public School will determine Mask Zones and Mask Free Zones. TPS will work closely with the Coal County Health Department, State Department of Education, and CDC to determine the level of community spread. This will determine whether or not TPS will highly recommend mask wearing or mandate mask wearing.

MODIFYING FACILITIES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING: Facilities are marked to show the recommended distance for seating and standing throughout Tupelo Public Schools. Seating arrangements are made in classrooms to allow for contact tracing. Traffic patterns have been identified to maintain social distancing. Wherever possible, screens/dividers have been built to minimize face-to-face contact (i.e. ticket booths, concession stands, offices, etc)

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE: Students are taught and reminded about the health benefits of proper and frequent handwashing as well as respiratory etiquette of covering the mouth during coughs and sneezes. Signage is used as a reminder throughout all facilities. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms, offices, and anywhere that students, staff, and/or visitors may be.

CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION: Tupelo Public School uses hydrostatic sprayers to sanitize all facilities. All classrooms are equipped with a fan to circulate air and air filters are changed monthly.

CONTACT TRACING COMBINED WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE, COLLABORATING WITH STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

The Superintendent attends Zoom meetings and receives emails to stay informed on the status of infections, testing, vaccines, and CDC guidance for prevention habits, isolation, and quarantine in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible and to maintain in-person learning. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if they are traced to a positive exposure. We have at least three certified contact tracers for COVID-19 on staff and are prepared to initiate quarantine notices if necessary. TPS collaborates with a contact tracer at the Coal County Health Department for any questions or to seek advice.

DIAGNOSTIC/SCREENING TESTING: The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and the Coal County Health Department provides free COVID testing to all Tupelo Public School staff, students, and families. The Coal County Health Department also provides vaccines via a mobile clinic and are available to set up at the school's facility to provide on site vaccines for our staff, students, and community members. TPS continues collaboration between the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation and Coal County Health Department on all diagnostic and screening.

VACCINATION EFFORTS FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES: The Coal County Health Department also provides vaccines via a mobile clinic and are available to set up at the school's facility to provide on-site vaccines for our staff, students, and community members. The Chickasaw Nation have extended their efforts to vaccinate by opening their screening and vaccination clinic to ALL people, not just natives. TPS continues collaboration between the Chickasaw Nation, the Choctaw Nation and Coal County Health Department on all efforts to provide vaccines.

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES: At times when school has moved to remote learning for any reason, students with disabilities are equipped with the technology needed to engage in remote learning.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS: Tupelo Public School has an outstanding relationship with the Coal County Health Department and the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. Their continued support and efforts to keep TPS informed is ongoing through phone calls, emails, and meetings about outbreaks, COVID screening tests, vaccination clinics, safety protocols, etc.