

Taloga Schools' Safe Return Plan (Fall 2021)

(6/10/21)

These are unprecedented times affecting our community, students, families, employees, and teachers. We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision and process for returning to school can be complex and encompasses a variety of key considerations, which starts with a safe, clean, and secure school site. Fostering the wellbeing of students, families, employees, and teachers can mean many things and it goes beyond our physical health. It includes the stress and worries our students and employees may face personally as well as those that come with the return to learning experience. This plan shall be adapted as necessary by Taloga's Superintendent and Board of Education to ensure compliance with any local health authorities, state orders and regulations, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and OSDE's guidance for "safe return".

This Plan is structured to address: Students; Teachers; Parents / volunteers; and staff. This Plan provides the policies and procedures considering the four (4) categories essential to planning for the 2021-22 school year.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick and environmental cleaning and disinfection) are important principles that are covered in this document. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities.



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Only ONE **entry door** into the school - Please use the EAST DOOR

All students, teachers, employees, and visitors will **enter** the EAST DOOR.

**** All screening procedures stated below will be followed ONLY when/if the school administration deems it necessary. ****

Temperature Screening PRIOR to entering school building **as needed**:

All students, employees, and visitors will have their no-touch temperature taken, if ever deemed necessary by the school administration.

Following the CDC screening guidelines: **A fever is defined as a temperature of 100.0 or above.**

- Those with a temperature will not be allowed to enter the building or board the bus. They will need to return home and follow the return to school guidelines.
- If no fever is present, those will proceed to the symptoms screening.

Symptom Screening students, employees, and visitors for COVID-19 related symptoms and history of exposure to anyone exhibiting these symptoms (based on current CDC guidelines) may occur via written or verbal questionnaire. If this screening is deemed necessary by the administration, this screening will likely be conducted upon returning to school from any length of time away, such as school breaks (beginning of school year, long weekends, fall break, holiday breaks, spring break, etc.) or individuals having been away from school due to sickness or personal reasons. Questionnaires will include screening symptoms to screen recommended health officials. *Parents who send their child to school and staff who come to school are certifying they have screened themselves for symptoms.*



WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS**. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR
DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Or at least two of these symptoms:



FEVER



CHILLS AND / OR REPEATED
SHAKING WITH CHILLS



MUSCLE PAIN



HEADACHE



SORE THROAT



NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR
SMELL

**** Should we have the need to quarantine or social distance, the following procedures will be implemented. ****

Isolation Room: Any student or staff member who exhibits a fever of 100 degrees will be instantly isolated in a predetermined isolation room and immediately sent home. After being sent home, the student or staff member cannot return to school until one of the following criteria is met:

- Without COVID testing, the student or staff member must not be present at school for 10 days.
- After a negative COVID test, the student or staff member can return to physical school after 3 days of being fever free with no fever reducing medication.
- The student will become a distance learner at home until he/she can return to school.
- The student will be counted as present because digital learning will be provided.



ADVISE STAFF AND FAMILIES OF SICK STUDENTS OF HOME ISOLATION CRITERIA



Sick staff members or students should not return until they have met CDC's **criteria to discontinue home isolation**.



ISOLATE AND TRANSPORT THOSE WHO ARE SICK



Make sure that staff and families know that they (staff) or their children (families) should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 **symptoms**, test positive for COVID-19, or have been **exposed** to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.



Immediately separate staff and **children** with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow **CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others** who are sick.



Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms. School nurses and other healthcare providers should use **Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions** when caring for sick people. For more information, see: **What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection**.



Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.



CLEAN AND DISINFECT



Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after **cleaning and disinfecting**.



Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure **safe and correct use** and storage of **cleaning and disinfection products**, including storing products securely away from children.

**** In the event that a positive case**, or suspected case is identified in the school, the District Leadership Team, under the direction of the Superintendent, will follow the CDC's recommendations (see CDC's Considerations for Schools document).



NOTIFY HEALTH OFFICIALS AND CLOSE CONTACTS



In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators should notify **local health officials**, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**.



Inform those who have had **close contact** with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and **self-monitor for symptoms**, and follow **CDC guidance** if symptoms develop.

POSITIVE CASE – ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

1. Consult with the county Health Department to begin contact tracing.
2. Communicate to staff (sample email/letter attached)
3. Communicate to applicable parents depending on classroom arrangement (letters attached)
4. Thoroughly sanitize classroom
5. Positive case classroom goes to distance learning for 14 days while those students are quarantined. If the student has siblings, the siblings will be quarantined.
6. If the attendance of campus learners at the site and/or district where the positive case occurs reaches a 35% absenteeism rate, the site and/or district (dependent on school size and structure) will go to distance learning for 14 days. The count starts on the first day of distance learning.
7. Grab and Go meals will be provided starting on Day 1 of distance learning. Delivery schedule will be dictated by the district's Child Nutrition capabilities.
8. Letters to communicate a positive with staff, parents, and site about positive cases
Ensure communication regarding absences

POSITIVE CASE – SECONDARY LEVEL CAMPUS

1. Consult with the county Health Department to begin contact tracing.
2. Communicate to staff (sample email/letter attached)
3. Communicate to parents at site about positive case (letter attached)
4. County health departments will decide which students will have to be quarantined and go to distance learning dependent on exposure level as determined by the county health officials.
5. If the attendance at the site and/or district where the positive case occurs reaches a 35% absenteeism rate, the site and/or district (dependent on school size and structure) will go to distance learning for 14 days. The count starts on the first day of distance learning.
6. Grab and Go meals will be provided starting on Day 1 of distance learning. Delivery schedule will be dictated by the Child Nutrition capabilities.

**** In accordance with CDC guidance, students and staff who have been fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine. ***

Social Distancing

- Students/employees will be separated by at least 6 feet whenever possible
- Where space does not allow for appropriate social distancing, masks will be available.
- Classrooms will be reorganized (one-directional & spaced) to maximize social distancing
- Seating on buses will be assigned to maximize social distancing
- Tape on floors of hallways, cafeteria, music room, gym, etc. may be used to assist in social distancing.
- Student mobility in the hallways will be monitored for social distancing. Spacing tools will be used where appropriate.

Promoting a culture of good hygiene practices

- Reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, followed by hand sanitizer. Use of signage in restrooms, classrooms, hallways, & cafeteria.
- Reinforcement of safe practices when sneezing and coughing
- Students/employees will be encouraged to bring their own water and keep use of water systems to a minimum. Refilling water bottles will be managed to keep sanitary.

Consideration of changes in daily routine, where possible...

- Classroom supplies will no longer be shared among students
- When possible, doors will remain open to reduce spread of germs from door knobs or only the teachers will open/close doors.
- Mixing of different groups having contact will be reduced or eliminated, i.e. at recess, gym, lunch, etc. (to assist in contact tracing if need arises)
- Technology devices will not be shared as we will provide 1:1 to all students and staff

ACADEMICS & GROWTH

Plan for Instruction

- Individual student assessment of learning loss due to spring school closures; “Where do we begin to fill the gaps?”
- All students will have a “Google Classroom” - the distance learning platform
- Online learning resources: IXL, Study Island, Acellus, and other free resources

Technology

- One-to-one technology device -- every student and teacher will have a mobile device, laptop or tablet, that will be required to be with them at all times; will be used during school hours as well as taken home daily
- School district will provide a Chromebook or tablet to all students.
- School district will provide connectivity to any family in need.

Preparation for students, teachers, parents

- Consider incorporating one day/week **online instruction** in every classroom; this will prepare students & teachers for the challenges/opportunities that will arise should school require remote learning

- Consider incorporating one day/month ***virtual instruction***; this will prepare students & teachers to maintain the integrity of a day of learning remotely. Should the need arise, this will reinforce expectations of distance learning
- Professional development for teachers - “distance learning = continuous learning”
- Training for students - “distance learning = continuous learning”
- Preparation/expectations for parents - “what’s my role, as a parent, in distance learning?”

NOTE: As more guidance is made available by CDC and local health authorities, this document will be updated to reflect the applicable changes.