



Tonica Grade School – Layered Prevention Strategies
CDC/IDPH/ISBE Guidance
Adopted by the Tonica CCSD Board of Education July 21, 2021

*Note: Procedures and plan guidelines may change based upon the needs of the school or guidance from the CDC/IDPH/ISBE or the State of Illinois.

On July 9, 2021 the CDC released new guidance for PK-12 Schools providing local control over mitigation strategies related to COVID-19. Shortly afterwards ISBE and the IDPH adopted the CDC guidance for Illinois Schools to utilize. Tonica Grade School amended its June 16, 2021 Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan to incorporate the new guidance related specifically to mitigation strategies.

The current layered prevention strategies include continuous strategies under all transmission and positivity levels of COVID19 and flexible strategies as levels transition from lower to higher or higher to lower.

Positivity Levels Include: Low, Moderate, Substantial and High

TGS will utilize data and metrics from the LaSalle County Health Department and as much as possible consider local metrics (those contained within the school district community) when implementing flexible strategies. However, the IDPH may provide guidance to utilize a larger geographical region when rates increase.

Vaccines: Tonica Grade School does not required students or staff to have a vaccine in order to be at school. Vaccine requirements are directed by ISBE and the IDPH and currently a COVID-19 vaccine is not a requirement. Vaccination status however will determine if a student or staff member must quarantine when determined to be a close contact to a symptomatic person or one that is probable or positive for COVID-19.

Remote Learning: ISBE redefined eligibility for Remote Learning to include

1. A student is on an IDPH or doctor's quarantine/isolation related to COVID-19, AND;
2. The student is not vaccinated

Remote learning is not available for other reasons and currently does not have the same expectation as the 2020-2021 school year. TGS will provide remote learning services when allowable and to the extent staff are available for video or online instructions. The minimum remote learning services will include access to assignments and a device or pick-up and drop off of paper assignments if needed.

IDPH Exclusion from School (Quarantine/Isolation): TGS will utilize the most current guidance related to symptoms or conditions that require a student or staff member to be excluded from and then return to school. This guidance changes frequently so please understand if procedures change from a previous use of the guidance. We usually call IDPH to receive the protocols on each case at the school. A COVID-19 test may be used to shorten the exclusion period but the protocols for the test must be followed exactly as directed by the IDPH to include timing and type of test.

Outdoor Activities: Current guidance does not require the wearing of masks for outdoor activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities: We follow the guide from IESA and for each season/activity information will be provided to participants

School Bus: Masks are required on a school bus or school provided transportation regardless of vaccination status. There are however currently no limitations on the number of riders. Assigned seats may be required and students that are not able to remain seated or stay in their assigned seat may have bus riding privileges revoked.

Capacities: Currently there are not limitations on the use or capacity for indoor locations other than those imposed by the fire code. This may change based on the Phase Level of Illinois or other guidance.

*** On August 4th the Governor issued a universal indoor mask mandate for all schools. The wearing of a mask/face covering will be in place until the mandate expires or changed by the Governor.**

*** As of August 2, 2021 the positivity/transmission rate places TGS into the Substantial protocols for Flexible Prevention Strategies. An announcement will go out as the rates adjust up or down impacting the Flexible Prevention Strategy implementation.**

Continuous Prevention Strategies
All positivity levels

Parents have the primary responsibility to screen their children for any ONE COVID19 symptom and not to send any of their children to school until contacting the school office regarding attendance if there is a symptom in the household.

- Social Distancing as much as possible
- Parent daily screening of student prior to attending school and contacting the school prior their child attending school if exhibiting one symptom of COVID19 regardless of antibodies or immunization status
- Encourage eligible students and staff to receive a COVID19 Vaccine
- Encourage use of facemasks/coverings when not required.
- Frequent handwashing
- Wearing of facemasks while riding a school bus/provided transportation as mandated in the guidance
- Follow the Exclusionary Guidance from the IDPH regarding positive, possible positive or close contact determinations; determination of exclusion will include status of vaccination, mask usage during the contact period and distancing during contact period
- Students, staff, and visitors will be required to have a mask available based upon the Flexible Prevention Strategies regarding facemasks
- Use of a quarantine area for symptomatic persons until departure from school
- Updated seating charts and bus seating to facilitate close contact tracing

Indoor Flexible Prevention Strategies

Low Positivity Rate

- Social Distancing
 - Students will be able to intermingle, resumption of small group learning activities, students transition between learning spaces with attempted minimum 3 feet of spacing
- Cafeteria
 - Students permitted to sit off-set opposite each other at cafeteria tables; maximize seating in the cafeteria

Transitioning to Substantial or High Positivity Rates

- Cohorting of student pods/grades; resume 3 foot minimum for all activities, limit transitions between learning spaces
- Resume the 2020-2021 cafeteria protocols for seating and serving
- Increase screening protocols for students and staff