

2021 Tri-County School Re-Entry Parent/Guardian FAQ

Updated July 12, 2021

Below are answers to commonly asked questions about the upcoming school year. Please keep in mind that due to the evolving nature of the ongoing pandemic, all plans are subject to change. In order to ensure the necessary precautions are taken for both student and staff safety, the Tri-County School Corporation staff will continue to remain in constant communication with the state and local health departments. The information received from these departments, along with professional judgment will guide our decision-making.

Are face coverings required for staff and students in the school building?

Students will still be encouraged to practice good hand-washing etiquette and, when applicable, physical distancing within the classroom.

On July 1st, Governor Eric Holcomb's executive order requiring masks for K-12 schools expired. Since the mask requirement expired, the Tri-County School Corporation has carefully considered measures and restrictions to address the impact and spread of COVID-19.

At this time, the Tri-County School Corporation will no longer require students and staff to wear a mask in school. In essence, the Tri-County School Corporation is "mask optional" for those who choose to wear a mask. The decision for mask optional is subject to change and further restrictions may be implemented if circumstances change in the future.

The Tri-County School Corporation will continue to monitor CDC guidance throughout the remainder of summer as well as throughout the school year. The Tri-County School Corporation will continue to follow the CDC guidance to the greatest extent practicable. In addition, the Corporation will consider local needs and the most current transmission rates to address the CDC guidance.

Are face coverings required for school buses?

Current guidance from the CDC and the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) requires masks on all public transportation, including school buses. Exceptions are as follows:

- Those students with disabilities who cannot safely wear a mask
- Any person for whom wearing a mask would create significant risk.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine required for all students and staff to return for the 2021-2022 school year?

The Tri-County School Corporation is not requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for students and staff. The Tri-County School Corporation encourages consultation with a doctor or health care provider if there are any questions about the vaccine.

If a staff member or student is confirmed to have COVID, will the school close?

No, the school will not close for one confirmed case from a student or staff member. If the school has a staff member or student with a *confirmed* case of COVID-19, guidance from the CDC will be followed. Individuals who test positive will be required to stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result.

How do I know if there is a confirmed case at Tri-County?

The school corporation will communicate with parents/guardians if a confirmed case occurs via the Case and School Information graph on the school website, <http://www.trico.k12.in.us/covid-19>. Close contacts of a positive case will be notified by the school nurse by phone call, email, or other methods.

Are visitors allowed in the building?

Visitors will have access to the buildings. Any parents or community members entering a school will still go through the Raptor visitor management system and **may** be asked health questions.

Parent volunteers and mentors are allowed to visit the building after an approved background check is completed.

What are the remote learning options?

On March 1, 2021, Tri-County announced the 2021-2022 school year will be full-time in-person instruction for all students. Google Classroom will serve as the student learning platform to access pertinent classroom information including learning objectives, activities, and assignments.

Will my student still get a student device?

Yes, all students will still receive a school-issued device if enrolled at Tri-County. Students at the Jr/Sr High School will have devices placed in their lockers for the first day of school. Elementary students will receive their devices from their teachers on the first days of school.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Tri-County Jr/Sr High School students will be allowed to take devices home. Devices at TCP and TCI will remain at school. The appropriate accommodations will be made to provide students with a device in the event of school closures due to weather conditions or any other unforeseen circumstances.

Throughout the school year, technology support for Tri-County students and staff will be available in a timely manner. Please email questions, report any device damage, or other technology-related issues to helpdesk@trico.k12.in.us.

Will school-sponsored field trips be allowed during the 2021-2022 school year?

Yes. Tri-County School Corporation supports student learning through school-sponsored trips. As more educational opportunities open for our students, Tri-County will support those educationally beneficial field trips.

