**Tipton Community School Corporation**

***Return to School 2021-22***

The United State Department of Education requires all school corporations that accept ESSER III (American Rescue Plan) funds to adopt a Return to School plan. Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb’s Executive Order 21-15 (5/28/21) makes the governing body of all K-12 schools responsible for implementing “whatever measures and restrictions [are] deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19…”

This Return to School 2021-22 plan addresses those mandates. The Tipton Community School Corporation will continue to coordinate all policies and guidelines with the [Office of Governor Eric Holcomb](https://backontrack.in.gov/), the [Indiana Department of Education](https://www.doe.in.gov/covid-19), the [Indiana State Department of Health](https://www.in.gov/isdh/), the [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html), and [the Tipton County Health Department](https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/254/Health-Department). ***NOTE:*** This plan and all guidelines herein are subject to change upon action by the TCSC Board of School Trustees in response to directives from the cited agencies. Any changes will be updated on the corporation website.

Basic Guidelines

To the greatest extent possible and practical, school for the Tipton Community School Corporation will “return to normal” (that is, pre-pandemic procedures and protocols) for the 2021-22 school year with these emphases:

1. **MASKS:** The wearing of masks or other facial coverings will be optional and at the discretion of individual students and their parents, individual TCSC staff members, and individual community patrons.
   1. Staff, students, and patrons may choose to wear masks/facial coverings, but will not be required to do so.
   2. Teachers and other staff members may not require students to wear – or not wear – masks/facial coverings.
2. **ON-SITE INSTRUCTION:** All instruction will be provided on-site in accordance with pre-pandemic instructional procedures. Services addressing academic as well as social-emotional needs of students will be implemented on-site as provided pre-pandemic. If a student is unable to attend school in-person due to a medical condition, proper medical documentation will be required before other instructional delivery methods (virtual instruction) are considered. This requirement is in accordance with procedures in effect prior to pandemic restrictions.
3. **VACCINATIONS:** Staff and students will not be required to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.
4. **CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINING:** The CDC and the Indiana State Department of Health continue to issue guidelines, and revisions to those guidelines, on a frequent basis. TCSC will continue to monitor those guidelines and implement them as required.
5. **SOCIAL DISTANCING** TCSC will continue to monitor social distancing guidelines issued by the CDC and the Indiana State Department of Health.
6. **PERSONAL SANITATION:** Frequent hand washing, hand sanitizing, and other safe health measures will continue to be strongly encouraged.
7. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Tipton Community Schools will provide appropriate and adequate accommodations with respect to health and safety protocols for students with disabilities.
8. **CLEANING and SANITIZING:** Facility and transportation cleaning and sanitizing protocol will continue to ensure a healthy school environment.

The TCSC Board of School Trustees is committed to ensuring to the greatest extent possible the health and safety of the entire Tipton Community School Corporation community – staff, students, parents, and patrons. This **Return to School 2021-22** plan outlines a basic plan to achieve that commitment. It will be revised and updates as local conditions and federal and state mandates change.

Approved by TCSC Board of School Trustees July 6, 2021