

TEXAS CENTER FOR
ARTS +
ACADEMICS

2021-2022 Health Plan

Guiding Principles

1. The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and TCA+A's Health Plans will be periodically evaluated and adapted as needed.
2. TCA+A will follow recommendations for school operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and local health officials.
3. Personal prevention practices such as handwashing and staying home when sick, as well as environmental cleaning and disinfection are important actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
4. Social distancing will be utilized when possible, but will not be an option in most school circumstances as there is not enough square footage in our classrooms and common spaces for individuals to be six feet apart.
5. It is important for families to talk with their child about their families' COVID-19 related decisions and discuss the procedures and expectations outlined in this document.

Four Core Practices

1. Symptom Self-Screening for Students, Staff, and Visitors
2. Vigilant Hand Washing and Sanitizing
3. Frequent Disinfection of High Touch Areas
4. Face coverings highly recommended, but not required

Symptom Self-Screening for Students, Staff, & Visitors

1. In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals should note if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:
 - a. Temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - b. Loss of taste or smell
 - c. Cough
 - d. Difficulty breathing
 - e. Shortness of breath
 - f. Headache
 - g. Chills
 - h. Sore throat
 - i. Shaking or exaggerated shivering

- j. Significant muscle pain or ache
 - k. Diarrhea
2. TCA+A requires teachers, staff, and visitors to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus each day. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home and follow campus protocol.
 3. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19.

Vigilant Hand Washing and Sanitizing

1. Students will have instruction on effective hand washing. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer throughout the day, including before eating and following restroom breaks.
2. Teachers and staff will be expected to wash and/or sanitize their hands regularly.
3. Soap will be available at all sinks, and sanitizer will be available in each classroom, at all entrances, and in common spaces.

Frequent Disinfection of High Touch Areas

1. Restrooms, classrooms, and common spaces will have surfaces disinfected daily.
2. Classroom doors will be propped open during transitions to reduce high-touch areas and promote air circulation.
3. Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to regularly sanitize high-touch, working surfaces, and shared objects.

Other General Health Measures

1. Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle and use the water bottle refilling stations rather than drinking directly from the water fountain.
2. When school supplies/instructional materials must be shared, students/teachers will disinfect all items after use.
3. Masks, shields, and/or neck gaiters will be optional and may be worn by any teacher, staff member, or student as preferred. Per State of Texas policies, face coverings will not be mandatory.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - a. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria have been met:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - b. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

- c. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must obtain evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.

TCA+A Practices to Respond to a Test-Confirmed Case in the School

1. If an individual who has been on campus is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the campus will notify the Tarrant County Health department in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, TCA+A will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in the school if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff.
3. The campus nurse and administrative team will determine all students who have been in close contact with the identified individual and notify all identified families.
 - a. Students identified as within close contact may quarantine until all return to campus protocols are met.
 - b. Students may participate in Remote Conferencing to earn daily attendance.

Required Quarantine Period for Teachers, Staff, or Students

1. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must quarantine until all return to campus protocols are met.
 - a. The CDC defines close contact as “someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.”
 - b. The CDC states “quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”
2. Individuals who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive, but are not showing symptoms, may quarantine at parents/guardians’ discretion.
3. The date individuals may return to campus after quarantining for a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be decided by the Campus Nurse after determining their date of exposure or onset of symptoms, following a minimum of 10 days.
 - a. Even if more than 10 days have lapsed, individuals must be fever free for at least 24 hours and show a significant reduction in symptoms to return to campus.
 - b. Individuals may return earlier than 10 days with evidence of a negative test result for COVID-19.
4. The date individuals may return to campus after quarantining due to being within close contact of a confirmed case is recommended to be a minimum of 5 days after exposure.
 - a. In cases in which both the infected student and student within close contact were consistently wearing masks, quarantine may not be recommended for the student within close contact.
 - b. In cases in which an individual has proof of full vaccination, quarantine may not be recommended for the student within close contact.
5. Individuals with evidence they tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or be tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
 - a. Individuals without documentation will be required to follow all protocols as if they have never experienced COVID-19.
 - b. Individuals who develop symptoms again within 3 months of experiencing COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

6. Individuals who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have evidence of being fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.
7. Teachers/Staff may be able to work remotely during the quarantine period, pending their job duties and responsibilities.
8. Students are required to participate in Remote Conferencing to be counted present while in quarantine.

Additional Procedures

1. Teachers will maintain a seating chart and track students within six-feet of each other.
2. TCA+A will provide optional COVID-19 rapid tests for all employees as requested.
3. As available, TCA+A may provide optional COVID-19 rapid tests for students as requested.

Student Instruction during Quarantine

1. If a student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition, such as COVID-19, he/she may be counted present by participating in Remote Conferencing.
 - a. The total number of days attended via Remote Conferencing must not exceed 20 over the entirety of the school year.
 - b. In order for a student to participate in Remote Conferencing, one of the following requirements must be met:
 - i. The student's temporary medical condition must be documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
 - ii. The student has a positive test result for an approved communicable condition.
 - iii. The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.
 - c. Students participating through Remote Conferencing will generate attendance by being virtually present.
 - i. Students will utilize Seesaw (grades K-2nd) or Google Classroom (grades 3rd-12th) to access all assignments.
 - ii. At the designated time, students will log in to their Remote Conferencing session through Google Meets or Zoom.
 - iii. Texas Center for Arts + Academics is required to abide by the State of Texas minimum attendance laws and procedures.
 - iv. A TCA+A employee will meet with the students to review the missing assignments and answer questions as needed.
 1. TCA+A students completing Remote Conferencing will not be in a virtual classroom with students present in the school building.
 2. TCA+A students completing Remote Conferencing may have slightly different assignments than their in-school peers.
 3. TCA+A students completing Remote Conferencing may have additional assignments/tests/projects/performances to complete once back on campus.