

**August 19, 2021**

## **COVID-19 In The School Environment**

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program here at TCS. Our efforts are to decrease and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 into our building and provide the safest environment to our students and staff.

### **Vaccines for COVID**

If a staff member or student (age 12 and up) has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they will not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 unless symptoms develop.

### **Exclusion from School**

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school. If they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. If someone is sneezing or coughing, he or she may be excluded to minimize the spread of bodily fluids, even if the person IS NOT exhibiting other signs of COVID-19. It will be up to the discretion of the Emergency Response Team to exclude a student or staff from school. These are the most up to date symptoms ranging from mild to severe according to CDC Guidelines as of August 19, 2021.

- A) A fever of 100 or greater
- B) Cough
- C) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- D) Chills
- E) Fatigue
- F) Muscle pain or body aches
- G) Headache
- H) Sore throat
- I) New loss of taste or smell
- J) Congestion or runny nose
- K) Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

### **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return once they meet the recommendations of the Arkansas Department of Health and are cleared by the school nurse. Currently those guidelines are:

1. Students and staff may return to school if they are fever free for at least 48 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and if symptoms have resolved. COVID-19 testing is strongly encouraged.
2. Positive Test for COVID - 19  
Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms. A staff member or student can return to TCS when they are fever free for at least 48 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and if symptoms have resolved at the end of the 10 day isolation period.

Policies are reviewed frequently and may change due to circumstances on a case by case basis.

### **Close Contact**

If a student or staff is a close contact to a positive COVID-19, they are required to quarantine. Quarantine is required if the exposure is 15 minutes or more in a space of 6 feet or less. The safest quarantine option is 14 days. However, there are other options for asymptomatic individuals. The 7 day quarantine option begins on the last day of contact with the positive person (also known as day 0). They may return on day 8 with a negative test if they have remained symptom free for the duration of the quarantine. The 10 day quarantine option begins on the last day of contact with the positive person (day 0) and may return on day 11 if they have remained symptom free for the duration of the quarantine. If symptoms arise at any time during the quarantine period, the quarantine will extend to 14 days and COVID-19 testing is strongly recommended. The nurses will be in close contact with you during this time.

### **Siblings or Other Students in the Household**

If a student is excluded from school due to a positive COVID-19 test, his or her siblings or other students/persons living in the same household will be excluded from school/school activities and quarantined per the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines.

### **Head of School Response to Exclusion from School or Self-Quarantine**

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case or a required quarantine, the custodial staff will be informed so that all desks and workspaces involved are thoroughly disinfected. If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. Instead, the area will be blocked off and not used. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

### **Separation While In School**

TCS will have a separate designated space away from the nurse's office where students displaying symptoms can be evaluated and the parent/guardian notified if needed. They will wait

with the nurse in this separate designated space until the parent/guardian arrives to get them if required. Students who are ill and sent home will be walked out of the building to their parents/guardian. Parents/guardians of ill or potentially ill children should not enter the building.

### **Confirmed Case of COVID-19 In the School Building**

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in the school building, the nurse will contact the ADH COVID-19 School Hotline for instructions. The level of response will be determined based on Arkansas Department of Health guidance.

If it is determined that the school building be closed, all school activities will be cancelled or rescheduled, regardless of whether the activity was to take place in the building or another location. This includes extracurricular activities, before and after-school programs, and field trips. Parents/students and staff will be encouraged to stay at home until more information is provided by the Head of School or the Emergency Response Team.

The information provided by Trinity Christian School on COVID 19 is an added addendum to our current handbook. All information is provided in good faith. However, we make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completeness of any information about COVID 19.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of TCS Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_