



# TIPTON R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**September 14, 2021**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The following document represents our plan to reopen our school district to all students for the 2021-22 school year. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to preventing COVID-19; there are too many variables, opinions and it continues to be a politically charged issue. I believe this is not a political issue, it is a safety issue for our entire community. Currently, we are not experiencing a high number of cases in our geographic area of COVID-19, and protective equipment such as masks are not required but optional. However, we have entered into a period when most Missouri has high transmission rates for COVID-19, the Delta Variant.

This plan attempts to prevent the spread of a disease when it becomes a concern in our community. It is unlikely we will be able to prevent the COVID-19 virus and its variants from directly affecting our school, but we can put measures in place in this plan and limit the spread of the disease when necessary. The district believes we must all do our part to lessen risks to others with health concerns or persons in an age category that makes them more susceptible to COVID-19. Vaccinations should be carefully considered in light of this pandemic as well as mask use.

We need every parent and guardian to support this plan, voice their concerns appropriately, and prescreen their children each school day. **We expect parents to prescreen their children regularly.** The best prevention for our school community is for parents to do their part and monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19 and **NOT** send their child to school if their child has symptoms. Doing otherwise is irresponsible and could lead to our entire school system being shut down for long periods of time or serious health issues for others, particularly our faculty and staff at a higher risk. **Let's keep our school open and fight what is hopefully the final months of the battle to beat back this virus. Our collective vigilance will keep our school open.**

Finally, I hope you will contact me in my office if you have any questions. We are committed to you and your children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry Robinson  
Superintendent



## Tipton R-VI School District Re-opening Plan

### Introduction

The District believes the best educational option for students is to return to a regular school day in a traditional format. Therefore, the District will consider safety guidelines recommended by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to protect the health of students, parents, teachers, and the community-at-large from the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines will be considered when **the virus is shown to be above a low or moderate risk in our geographic area.**

This information is readily available from our Moniteau County Health Department at <https://moniteaucovid19.com/> and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/data/public-health/county.php>

### Limitations

Undeniably, the most effective method to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is for people to isolate or quarantine themselves at home. However, this method is not possible in a traditional school format. Therefore, our District will consider guidelines established to limit the spread of COVID-19 by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) **when the virus is shown to be above a low or moderate risk in our geographic area.** These guidelines center around the proactive strategies that Missouri's K-12 schools can implement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and best protect their students, staff members, and communities, including minimum protocols regarding screening, physical masks/face coverings.

### Responses to Infection:

#### Limited Exposure

Our District will likely have a case or cases of COVID-19 during the 2021-22 school year or variants of the virus. In cases of **limited exposure** (some examples: a few students positive for COVID-19 in a grade level or one or two classrooms), the District will follow these necessary steps:

1. Administration and Maintenance personnel will isolate the area of the building that was exposed. In addition, the space will be disinfected per CDC guidelines.
2. If the student(s) with COVID-19 are still on-site, they will be relocated to a cautionary zone away from all other persons until they can be sent home.
3. Other students and staff will be removed from the affected area(s) to a cautionary zone.
4. Maintenance personnel will effectively clean the affected area(s).

### Contact Tracing:

#### Communication About Limited Exposure

Parents, local health officials, and school personnel will be provided essential information regarding any cases which become known to aid with contact tracing. There are legal limitations concerning the release of personally identifiable health information to the public. The District will release names to the County Health Department if they are found to be a close contact with a person with COVID-19. Also, the District will inform parents if it is likely their child has been exposed to COVID-19. In all cases, the District will attempt to notify all parents on the same school day of the event via phone, and robocall, or text.

**\*note:** The District may be able to remain open in instances of limited exposure. However, the District may need to close for a few days to sanitize the affected areas. These instances will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

## **Widespread Exposure & Infection**

In the unfortunate event of our county or school district becoming a "hotspot" for COVID-19, the school will be closed. This closure may be mandated by state or local authorities or District leaders. However, a longer-term closure due to widespread community or district exposure and infection could occur very quickly and with short notice. The District's goal will be to effectively clean the building, monitor area infection rates in collaboration with state authorities and the Moniteau County Health Department, and prepare to reopen the notify parents promptly via phone, robocall, or text and provide a regular update on the expected length of the school closure via email or robocall/text.

### **Pre-Screening by Parents:**

Before children arrive at school, the District requires all parents to monitor and check their child or children for signs of COVID-19 and notify the District if they believe their child has been exposed to or is exhibiting symptoms. These are the symptoms currently identified by the DHSS:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

**\*note:** The District requires all students to stay home if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 that cannot be otherwise explained (examples: seasonal allergies, strained muscles due to sports activities, getting over food poisoning, chronic migraines). Our local Moniteau County Health Department has noted the symptoms of headache, sore throat, and loss of taste seem to be more common in our area.

### **Returning to School:**

#### **DIAGNOSED with COVID-19, Diagnostic Testing and Screening**

For students diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, returning to school is permissible when the student is at least ten days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever, and has improved symptoms or a 7-day quarantine if the individual obtains a negative PCR test between days 5 and 7 and shows no symptoms.

The ten and seven quarantine protocols require an individual to wear a mask throughout the day at school through day 14. **Individuals who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-19 symptoms do not have to quarantine.**

We will provide testing of students with parent permission, and members of our faculty and staff when they present with symptoms.

#### **Students and Staff EXPOSED TO COVID-19:**

Children with known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 10 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved. A student may return after 7 days with a **negative PCR test between days 5 and 7 and no symptoms.**

The 10-day and the 7-day quarantine protocols require an individual to wear a mask throughout the day at school through day 14. **Individuals who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-19 symptoms do not have to quarantine.**

### **Attendance:**

If a child is kept home from school because they were diagnosed with COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 all district policies regarding attendance requirements will be waived by the District. The District will provide services virtually and/or via learning packets from teachers to help the affected students whenever possible. No student will be penalized for missing school due to any illness that prevents the child from attending class. (See Appendix C)

## **Students Entering School:**

**When the virus is shown to be above a low or moderate risk in our geographic area, the district will institute the following mitigation plan:**

### **Temperature and Symptom Checks**

Children will be visually checked for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter the school or classroom. School leaders may also elect to perform additional symptoms or temperature screening at school. Still, they will ensure that procedures do not force bottlenecks at building entry points, creating unnecessary situations where students cannot maintain adequate physical distance.

### **Bus Transportation:**

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school whenever possible if the child is not currently driving. However, the District will continue to provide transportation via bus when requested with the following essential safety precautions.

1. All students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask during transport.
2. All bus drivers will wear a mask.
3. Bus drivers will open bus windows whenever possible to increase ventilation
4. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each route
5. Buses will be limited to 40 passengers per bus; this is a 30% reduction in capacity. No more than two students will be allowed per seat.
6. When directed to do so, students will receive a temperature check from the driver before being seated.
7. All students will be required to abide by the seating chart.

## **Safety Equipment at School:**

### **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:**

**The following are current CDC guidelines regarding wearing masks 8/9/2021**

#### **What you need to know:**

- When you wear a mask, you protect others as well as yourself. [Masks work best when everyone wears one.](#)
- A mask is NOT a substitute for [social distancing](#). Masks should still be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart, especially when indoors around people who don't live in your household.
- Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- Masks should be worn [any time you are traveling](#) on a plane, bus, train, or other form of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- People age 2 and older should wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in their household.
- Wear a mask inside your home if someone you live with is sick with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use [hand sanitizer](#) with at least 60% alcohol after touching or removing your mask.
- Masks may not be necessary when you are outside by yourself away from others, or with people who live in your household. However, some areas may have mask mandates while out in public, so please check the rules in your local area (such as in your city, county, or state). Additionally, check whether any federal mask mandates apply to where you will be going.
- CDC continues to study the effectiveness of different types of masks and update our recommendations as new scientific evidence becomes available. The most recent scientific brief is available here: [Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 | CDC](#)
- CDC recently conducted a [study](#) in a laboratory that tested the performance of different mask combinations.

- There are several easy methods to improve the performance of your mask. Visit CDC's [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19](#) webpage to learn more.

### **Vaccinations**

The district will work in partnership with Moniteau County Health Department to provide a time and place for any willing educator, eligible student (with parent permission), or parent to receive a vaccination on our campus or at the local health department site.

### **Accommodations for children with disabilities**

Students with disabilities that require accommodations related to their disability will be reviewed by the Director of Special Services. Appropriate accommodations will be made for their health and welfare when needed. If parents and/or students believe they have a need, they should contact **Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Director of Special Services** at [thomasn@tipton.k12.mo.us](mailto:thomasn@tipton.k12.mo.us) with any questions or concerns.

### **Masks for Students - by choice and when deemed necessary.**

All students will be provided a mask to wear during the school day if they wish to do so and if it is deemed necessary to prevent the spread of disease. The mask will be considered part of their safety equipment. This mask should be brought to school each day. During any time during this pandemic, any student may wear a protective face mask if they wish to do so. When adequate social distancing is not possible, and if a limited or widespread exposure of COVID-19 occurs, masks may be required for short periods to avoid further infection and during movement from the affected area. Students may be required to wear a mask by school personnel if necessary, to protect their health and safety. Students who display symptoms may be moved to a cautionary area away from other students and staff and are required to wear a mask while they are assessed or waiting for pick up.

### **Masks for School Personnel - by choice and when deemed necessary**

All school personnel will be provided a mask to wear during the school day, and it will be considered part of their safety equipment. This mask should be brought to school each day and used when needed. When adequate social distancing is not possible, and if a limited or widespread exposure of COVID-19 occurs, masks may be required for short periods to avoid further infection and during movement from the affected area. Some employees may be required to wear PPE when directed to do so by their supervisor. Any person is welcome to wear a mask or PPE in the school building unless it inhibits the person's ability to perform their job, inhibits a student's ability to participate in the educational process, or is disruptive to the academic environment.

### **Water Bottles for Students and School Personnel**

All water fountains are equipped with bottle fill stations. The fountain attachments are no longer available. All students and school personnel should bring a water bottle to school daily, and it should be considered part of their safety equipment. The District will provide one water bottle for each student.

### **Hand Sanitizer and Hand Washing**

All teachers will have access to hand sanitizer for their classes. Also, there are hand sanitizer station dispensers in every hallway. Students are expected to use hand sanitizers or to wash their hands in the bathroom regularly.

### **Other Precautions:**

#### **Visitors to Campus - must wear a mask**

Parents, guardians, and visitors to campus will be asked to submit to a temperature check and/or wear a mask if our geographic area is experiencing high transmission rates. Parents can call the office if they do not wish to enter the building to pick up their child, and children can walk outside to meet their parent or guardian.

## **Physical distancing:**

### **Lunch and Breakfast**

Our cafeteria will not be used at standard capacity **when transmission rates are high** in our area. During a time of high transmission rates, it will be utilized for small groups when social distancing from other groups of students cannot be maintained. Some lunches and breakfasts will be delivered to the classroom and consumed there.

### **Assemblies**

Will be held when social distancing can be maintained, or students can be effectively seated in pods or in like grade level **when transmission rates are high** for our geographic area.

### **Sports and Activities**

Our District will monitor local health conditions regarding the spread of the virus. Further, we will follow guidelines and directives released by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). As of August 9, 2021, we plan to have fall activities and travel for games and academic competitions. If school is closed due to widespread infection, all before and after school activities will be canceled.

### **Hand washing**

The district will allow and direct all students to wash their hands regularly and hand sanitizer will be provided.

### **CDC guidance regarding handwashing is listed below.**

#### **Key Times to Wash Hands**

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before and after eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After [changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet](#)
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

### **Respiratory Etiquette**

#### **Coughing and Sneezing**

Covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illnesses like influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and COVID-19. Germs can be easily spread by:

- Coughing, sneezing, or talking
- Touching your face with unwashed hands after touching contaminated surfaces or objects
- Touching surfaces or objects that may be frequently touched by other people

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Throw used tissues in the trash
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands

Remember to immediately [wash your hands](#) after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent yourself and your loved ones from getting sick, especially at [key times](#) when you are likely to get and spread germs.

Covering coughs and sneezes and washing hands is especially important for infection control measures in healthcare settings, such as emergency departments, doctor's offices, and clinics.

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not readily available, [use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands

#### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and ventilation:**

Our district supports a regular, daily, cleaning schedule with our custodial personnel. We also use disinfection supplies recommended to lessen the spread of disease. All learning spaces have additional filtration devices to help lessen the spread of dust and germs. We also offer outdoor learning opportunities for students to provide them with fresh air and additional ventilation.

#### **Social-Emotional and Mental Health Needs of Students**

Our district offers two on-site school counselors that are available for most processing and minor student needs. However, we also have Burrell Behavioral Health counselors on-site to assist students with high needs regarding social or emotional health. Students and parents should contact their building principal if they believe their child would benefit from these services.

#### **Periodic Revision**

This plan will be a formal agenda item to be reviewed every six months by the Board of Education. The district will provide opportunities for feedback and input from all stakeholders through board meetings, surveys, and emails to the community, faculty meetings, and informal conversations with our community partners and members. Specifically, we will consult with the following: students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

#### **Understandable Language**

To our knowledge, our community is generally culturally homogenous and almost every person in our community speaks or writes English. However, the district will identify any patron of our district in need of translation services or those that employ the oral tradition. Our Director of Special Services, Mrs. Nancy Thomas, will identify any patrons in need of these services.

#### **Summation:**

No plan can cover every contingency, and there are no perfect plans to protect from the spread of a virus. Some unforeseen circumstances will arise, and the District will act quickly to protect students, school personnel, and the community. We will do our best to follow medical advice and prevention measures from local, state, and federal authorities. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns with the appropriate building administrator and the superintendent of schools. If changes to this plan are necessary, the District will communicate those changes to the community quickly.

## Continuity of Services and Academic Delivery Options:

During the 2021-22 school year, learning may fall into one or more of the following **delivery options**. The purpose of this summary is to inform students and parents to be ready for changes that may be necessary for how we deliver services. Overall, we are committed to providing a robust traditional delivery system and moving when necessary to other methods described below.



### GREEN

**Traditional, daily school with mitigating safety measures when the virus is shown to be above a low or moderate risk in our geographic area.** We will begin the school year, barring any state or federal mandates, as usual, with previously described safety measures. **\*All after-school activities are taking place on and off-campus with safety precautions when we are above a low or moderate risk for our geographic area.**



### YELLOW

**Alternative Method of Instruction: Possible short-term closure or limited areas open**

All online and/or via learning packets for a short period, with students exposed or diagnosed. We will assess the need to close all or part of the school building if we have a limited exposure event. We will clean the contaminated areas by cordoning the area off and addressing the affected building locations. Teachers will continue working and will provide alternative instruction via Google Classroom, I-Ready, or other computer software. In addition, packets and books of activities may be delivered via school bus or made available for pick up. **\*Some after-school activities could be canceled on and off-campus.**



### RED

**Alternative Method of Instruction: Long-term Closure, widespread community infection**

All online and/or via learning packets until further notice. If we are ordered closed, or the Board of Education and/or Superintendent believes it is necessary, we may be closed for an extended period. We will continue to work toward reopening and meeting all requirements to do so; a longer-term closure could occur due to a widespread outbreak in our community or school. All school personnel will continue working to meet student needs and provide more in-depth lessons and activities via Google Classroom or other computer software. In addition, we will employ Google Meet, distribute books, packets, and technology when necessary. Further, we will open computer labs and library spaces for a limited number of students by appointment if authorities allow us to do so. **\*If our school is in RED, NO ACTIVITIES will be held on or off-campus.**



### BLUE

Parents or guardians may request **online-only options** for their child, and this option may be approved if deemed in the child's best educational interest by both the parents and school officials. **A child's health condition or parent health concerns may also be a determining factor for this option.** Parents should contact their school principal and/or counselor for an appointment to discuss the student's best educational interest. In all cases, the District will attempt to meet the students' academic needs with online options created by the District or through K-12 Launch. **Before enrollment in any online program that the parent wishes the District to pay for, at least one parent and the student must meet with their school counselor and building principal. If the student receives special services such as a 504 plan or an IEP, additional district staff must participate in the best interest determination. This meeting will be to determine the child's best educational interest, and the child must be legally enrolled in the District. Students may continue to be enrolled in the online-only option so long as this instructional delivery option continues to be in the student's best educational interest as determined by both the parent and school officials.** **\*Parents must make an appointment with school officials during the normal enrollment period, which is the week before the first day of each semester, to communicate their request for the online-only option for their child.** **\*Parents may make an appointment with school officials during the normal enrollment period, August 9 - 13, 2021, for the first semester, December 13-17, 2021, for the second semester to communicate their needs.**

# Appendices

## Appendix A:

Department of Health and Senior Services

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/data/>

## Appendix B:

How to Protect Yourself & Others

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

## Appendix C:

COVID-19 in Children and Teens

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html>