



2020-21 Return to School Safety Procedures

Our goal is to minimize health risk by implementing key safety procedures that are included in the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will continue to monitor procedures to identify continuous improvement opportunities and may add to this list if necessary. It is our expectation that students, faculty/staff, or any visitors follow the safety procedures required.

Safety Procedures to Minimize Health Risk

Face coverings - At this time, the guidance states that all students, faculty/staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering at all times in school building even when social distancing is maintained. We will be providing additional information that outlines the requirements for wearing face coverings, and the district will be enforcing these rules.

Symptom Screening - Students and faculty/staff will be asked to complete symptom screening through a self-reporting method and will be asked to show their status before entering a bus or building. Staff members will also randomly select students for temperature checks upon entering a bus or building. It is very important that students who are exhibiting symptoms remain home until they can be evaluated by a certified health professional. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, etc. Please reference the full list of symptoms provided by the CDC.

Social Distancing - The morning/afternoon schedule will result in approximately half of the student population in attendance during each session. Fewer students on campus will maximize opportunities to social distance in classrooms, common areas, passing periods, restrooms, and buses. Students will also report directly to their first hour or homeroom to avoid gathering in common areas.

Passing Periods - Students will be asked to move through the halls and staircases single file while staying to the right. This method will help students move through the building quickly and minimize the amount of time they spend transitioning to their next class. Students will not be assigned lockers located in the hallways or locker rooms to further decrease the time spent in common areas.

Cleaning - The district will be increasing the cleaning schedule for frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, stair rails, bathrooms, bottle fillers, etc. In addition to routine cleaning while students are present, the hour between the morning and afternoon session will allow time to perform additional cleaning tasks. As an added precaution, each classroom will have supplies available for students to disinfect their workspace prior to class starting. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

Air circulation - The facility has heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units that incorporate 15% outside air each time the system runs. Windows may also be opened throughout the building to provide additional air flow when necessary.

Addressing Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Cases - The guidance for how schools should address suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 has not been finalized by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Proposed guidance indicates that a key element in the process will be parent/guardian involvement in reporting their student's suspected or confirmed case to the school. After the district is aware of a positive case, the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) will be notified and contact tracing will begin. The district will follow TCHD guidelines by appropriately communicating with parents, students, and staff while maintaining the confidentiality of students and staff. The communication would include information about symptom monitoring, what to do if symptoms develop, COVID-19 prevention strategies, and what the school is doing in response to the event.