

Back to School Safe Return Plan (7/30/21)

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Overview

For the foreseeable future, the COVID endemic is likely to affect our daily school routines. Prudence calls for thoughtful and coordinated planning as we learn how to best respond to this challenge. It seems likely that over time, our response will become more refined and resemble similar strategies deployed to deal with seasonal influenza.

Generally speaking, there are three possible learning modes:

- 1. **Normal Learning**: All students in the school building.
 - No community spread; normal school routines.
 - Attendance policies are normal per the TVCA Family Handbook.
- 2. **Modified Learning**: Most students in the school building.
 - Minimal to moderate community transmission.
 - School-wide social distancing and mitigation strategies in place.
 - Safety and sanitizing protocols approved by the health district and the county.
 - In-home health screenings (for re-entry) and routine health screenings (as needed).
 - Concentrates on students in school but provides flexibility for homebound students.
- 3. **Distributed Learning**: No students permitted in the school building.
 - Substantial community transmission.
 - Attendance and academic policies highly modified.
 - All schooling via Distributed Learning Model.

Our mission to train the minds and improve the hearts of students is best fulfilled when teachers and students come together—on campus and in classrooms. However, until the COVID pandemic has abated, an open school building requires special precautions and protocols to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. We have developed these protocols in close coordination with local, regional, and state officials.

This plan will be reviewed and modified no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023.

Coordination with State and County Agencies

The two agencies primarily responsible for overseeing the opening of schools are the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's health districts. We fall under Southwest District Health (SDH) district. This plan follows the recommendations of these agencies as well as those of the Payette County Office of Emergency Management (PCOEM) and Payette County Paramedics (PCP).

Student Reentry Protocols

At this time, Treasure Valley Classical Academy has not received any new State or County published guidelines, regarding COVID-19, that require implementation prior to re-entry for K-12 schools for the school year 2021-2022.

Faculty, staff, students, and visitors are welcome to voluntarily mask in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Vaccinations are encouraged for all CDC approved ages.

A. Initial Screenings (General Health and Temperature)

Student reentry into the school building for the start of the 2021-22 school year will be contingent on the successful daily completion of an at-home health evaluation and temperature check.

Any student that has shown symptoms associated with COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 is required to remain at home until it is medically determined that the student is able to return to school. Temperatures of 100° F or higher will require students and their siblings to remain at home until it is medically determined that the student and their siblings are cleared to return to school.

If a student presents ill at school and that student has a temperature above 100° F, the student (and any siblings) will be sent home and not permitted to board the bus. The student and any siblings must remain at home until it is medically determined that the students are clear to return to school.

Social Distancing and Mitigation Strategies

Hallways

The school's culture and behavior expectations already require orderly and quiet transit between classes and activities. Teachers will ensure that students maintain increased spacing in lines as they move through hallways.

Classroom Seating

Teachers will maximize the spacing between student desks.

Lunchroom Seating

All lunchroom tables will be deployed throughout the entire lunch period using increased spacing between students. Lunchroom monitors will enforce spacing standards.

Assemblies

For auditorium assemblies, students will be spaced out to the greatest extent practicable. For morning story time in the gymnasium, students will sit in their customary lines with increased spacing between each student.

Physical Education Classes

All equipment will be sanitized with a solution of bleach or Triad-III prior to re-use.

Holding Room for Sick Students

The TVCA main conference room will be utilized as a holding area for sick students that are waiting to be picked up.

Additional Daily Protocols

Face masks will be made available for medically vulnerable students and staff members. Staff duties and student activities requiring close contact will be modified as necessary.

Daily Sanitation Protocols

School Wide Disinfections

A combination of CDC-approved products including hospital-grade Triad III disinfectant and a dilution of disinfecting bleach to clean desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, hands-on learning items, bathroom fixtures, phones, and customer service areas is utilized by janitorial staff.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

Teachers, staff, and students will keep their hands sanitized using the automatic touchless dispensers of Purell professional grade advanced hand sanitizer that are installed in every classroom and in hallways.

Hygienic Practices

Parents are required to keep sick students <u>and their siblings</u> home for at least 72 hours after a fever subsides *without the use of fever-reducing medicines*. We rely on parents to promote the same hygienic practices we will direct students to practice at school, including:

- covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterwards;
- washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, dry hands with a paper towel, and using the paper towel to turn off the faucet;
- keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes; and
- avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal care items (e.g. lip balm).

Hybrid Learning for Homebound Students

We respect the right of families to keep students at home in the interest of their health and safety during this pandemic. We also expect to require some students to stay at home, if only for a short period of time, as a precautionary measure—for example, possible exposure to COVID-19 or if their screenings indicate a temperature of 100° F or higher.

In addition to the TVCA Family Handbook, the following attendance categories are in effect:

- Absent (due to COVID-19 illness): no attendance penalty or academic restrictions
- Absent (due to parent COVID-19 health concerns): no attendance penalty or academic restrictions

We will offer the following flexibilities to accommodate students who are homebound:

- Homeroom teachers or assistants will offer weekly "live" tutoring sessions (via GoogleMeet or Zoom) as appropriate and as practicable. While these sessions will not cover all the in-class material, they will provide homebound students with the help to stay up on their core academic skills. All students will be expected to complete and submit classwork distributed to them by their teachers.
- Attendance policies will take into account the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homebound students will not be penalized for their absences.
- Homeroom teachers will be in close contact with homebound students and will make weekly phone calls to parents (at a minimum).
- Lunches and school materials will be made available to homebound students. Details will be coordinated with each student's family.

Parents pursuing a hybrid learning accommodation are requested to submit a Request for Hybrid Learning Accommodation form (please refer to Appendix 2).

Procedure for Positive or Suspected COVID-19 Case

The following procedure is to be used if a student or employee in the school building is identified as COVID-19 positive or suspected positive.

Action Item: Student or employee is respectfully asked to isolate in the holding room.

- For students, front office will call parents or legal guardians for pickup.
- For employees, front office will coordinate with school leadership to manage follow-on effects.
- Student or employee will be provided appropriate personal protection equipment and any employee interacting with the confirmed or suspected case will be provided with an N95 mask and gloves.

Action Item: Front office traces list of potential exposures (employees and students).

• Front office will coordinate (as appropriate) with parents/legal guardians of student or directly with the employee to build a list of potential exposures.

Action Item: School leadership decides on the length and scope of closure (if warranted).

- School leadership will provide SDH with appropriate details and exposure information.
- School leadership will coordinate with SDH/PCOEM on the scope of the closure if warranted (class, grade, or school)
- School leadership will coordinate closure decision with the TVCA Board of Directors.
- Points of Contact:

- SDH: Ms. Lekshmi Rita Venugopal

- PCOEM: Mr. Adam Gonzales

- TVCA BOD: Mr. Marvin Lasnick

Action Item: School leadership communicates appropriate details to school community.

 School leadership will update the school community (parents/guardians) via appropriate mass communications system (email/text/voice) with appropriate incident details.

Action Item: If necessary, TVCA transitions to Distributed Learning Mode.¹

¹ Please refer to Appendix 4 for Distributed Learning Plan.