



TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411

American Rescue Plan: 2023-2024 Safe Return to School

(1/08/2024)

Introduction

In the summer of 2020, the Twin Falls School District #411 convened the HEAL Taskforce to create a return-to-school plan for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan was created with the help of dozens of stakeholders and with the assistance of the South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and St. Luke's Magic Valley. In addition, a community survey was utilized to gain additional feedback. The finalized plan was revised throughout the year based on the changing recommendations of the CDC and the SCPHD.

In March 2021, a new community survey was completed. Thousands of community members representing numerous stakeholders took part and provided data and written feedback. Based on community feedback and recommendations of the CDC, revised protocols were adopted in July 2021.

As is required by law, this plan will be reviewed at least every six (6) months. Its last approval was in July 2023.

January 2024 TFSD #411 Operational COVID Protocols

HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES

Face Coverings: Properly fitting face coverings are optional for all staff, students, and visitors. The TFSD will make available the CDC recommendations regarding the use of face coverings.

PPE: Each school has access to disposable masks available in the office for use by staff, students, and patrons electing to utilize a face covering. This includes N95 masks.

Hygiene: Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the school. Each classroom and office is supplied with mounted dispensers for hand sanitizer.



Posters communicating the importance of hygiene (handwashing and respiratory etiquette) will be displayed and communicated.

COVID-19 Positive/Presumed Positive: The TFSD will utilize CDC guidance for students and staff who are COVID-19 positive/presumed positive.

COVID-19 Testing: COVID tests are readily available in the community. Our school nurses will help families with access should it be requested.

School Cleaning: Extra attention will be given to the cleaning of buildings with products approved to kill the COVID-19 virus.

HVAC: All air filters in the district have been upgraded to medical-grade filters. The district continues to explore HVAC upgrades to improve air quality and circulation.

Communications Plan: New guidelines and recommendations will be shared with students, staff, and parents through the use of our mass communication system, signage within buildings, use of district social media, and other means of communication with stakeholders.

Immunization: COVID vaccines are now approved for students 5+. The decision on vaccination is a parental choice. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required or tracked by the TFSD. Parents/guardians and staff will be made aware of opportunities for immunization against COVID-19. Onsite clinics may also be utilized. The TFSD will continue to partner with the South Central Public Health District to communicate updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

Continuity of services

In-Person Option: The TFSD will maintain face-to-face instruction to the greatest extent possible utilizing the health and safety strategies outlined above designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Students are expected to attend in-person to the greatest extent possible. Schools will operate educational services in a regular fashion whenever feasible. This includes maintaining open campuses for in-person learning five days a week (as outlined in the TFSD school year calendar), except in instances of emergencies.



Full Remote Option: Parents/guardians who desire a fully remote option for their child(ren) will be able to access courses via the Twin Falls School District through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (6-12) as well as Venture Upward (K-12).

Continuity of Education: During times students are out of school with sickness, students will be able to continue in their coursework through the use of a distance learning platform as was made available during the 2021-2022 school year. This includes the use of a learning management system allowing students to continue with their schoolwork remotely. Educators will be encouraged to provide students with support in these instances. These supports may include and are not limited to videos of lessons, recorded tutorials, videos created by other educators on the content, packets of work, or interactive digital activities. Educational delivery of materials in this manner shall be temporary in nature. Students are expected to return to face-to-face instruction as soon as they are cleared to return as per CDC guidelines unless documentation is provided by the student's health care provider.

Special Education: IEP teams will ensure student needs are met in both face-to-face and virtual settings. Special education teachers and general education teachers will partner to ensure all IEP components are met. Unique circumstances resulting from COVID-19 will be addressed in partnership with parents in order to meet the needs of the student. These unique circumstances will be communicated to all impacted employees including those involved in transporting students.

Digital Access: All students will have access to a device to take home to complete work remotely while ill. In addition, the district will make available Hotspots that parents and staff can check out for internet access during times they are excluded from school due to COVID-19 if they are in need.

Student/Family Support: School counselors will be available to students who need assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. Counselors will make available a variety of community resources for parents in support of their child. The counselors have provided web pages with resources at all schools so that parents can easily find and utilize community support options. Counselors will also work with staff on schoolwide programs designed to assist students. These programs may include peer support programs, such as Sources of Strength,



referral for counseling services both on and off campus, and wellness education programs.

The TFSD will provide students and their families will have access to Care Solace, a program designed to connect families with local counseling and mental health services. This program serves as a mental health navigation service assisting families as they navigate how to access counseling and how to pay for counseling services.

Staff Support: The Employee Assistance Program will be utilized to assist any staff member who needs assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. For the 2023-2024 school year, the number of free visits has been increased from three (3) visits per incident to ten (10). In addition, staff will be notified of programs and other opportunities designed to assist staff with individual needs during difficult times.

Employees who need leave due to COVID-19 related reasons will have access to medical and personal leave as outlined in FMLA, Board Policy, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed and revised at least every six (6) months as is required by the American Rescue Plan and will include a process for stakeholder input. The next review will be completed before July 2024. The timing of the review will be related to the health conditions within TFSD schools.