

2021-2022 TCCS COVID-19 Policy

Faced with the rise of COVID-19 cases in eastern NC, Terra Ceia Christian School is proposing the following policy as we continue moving forward with the 2021-2022 school year. We will work hard to abide by the guidelines in this policy, but we want all families to recognize that these guidelines, nor any put in place from federal, state or local governments would allow TCCS to guarantee an environment that is entirely free of COVID-19 related risks. The TCCS Board will revisit this policy often throughout the school year, thoughtfully and carefully considering CDC guidance, as well as state and county guidance.

Thank you to all those who have reached out to our Faculty, Staff, and Board to offer their prayers and support in navigating these difficult waters. We want to remain in a face to face learning environment. Our children need to be in the classroom. However, we have to balance this with keeping our children, Faculty and Staff as safe and healthy as possible. To help accomplish that goal here is our current COVID policy.

1. Masks are optional for those who wish to wear them. We will not require masks or temperature checks on the buses/vans or in the school building at this time.
2. We encourage all families to take their children's temperature each morning. If your child has any of these symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea we strongly encourage you to keep them home and get them tested.
3. There will be assigned seating on the buses/vans and classrooms to help with contact tracing if a student were to test positive.
4. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently. Hand sanitizers will be located at the school entrances and in each classroom. Students, Faculty, and Staff will take an increased role in cleaning the school and wiping down frequently touched items such as desks and doorknobs.
5. Athletics: this is an evolving situation of which the Athletic Committee will stay up-to-date. Please be looking for correspondence from school administration and/or coaches regarding any changes that may occur. At the time of this writing, athletes do not have to wear masks while competing. However, the State Athletic Association is requiring athletes on the bench/sidelines to wear masks and all those attending indoor sporting events to wear masks.
6. **Quarantine is required for an individual who has been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes total over a 24-hour period) of someone who is determined COVID positive.** If it has been determined that an individual has been in close contact with someone COVID positive, they should remain out of school for **10 days** from the time of most recent exposure. **That quarantine can be reduced and the individual can return to school based on the following condition:**
 - They can return after 7 days of quarantine have been completed, no symptoms have been reported during daily home monitoring, and the individual has received the results of a negative Antigen or a PCR molecular test taken no earlier than Day 5 of quarantine. If there is a negative PCR or Antigen test and NO symptoms, the individual can return to school on Day 8 following first exposure. If the individual returns before day 10, they must continue to watch symptoms and wear a mask through Day 10 after first exposure.
7. Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do **NOT** need to quarantine after close contact with someone COVID positive. However, this individual should get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others for 10 days after first exposure.

8. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered (and do not currently have symptoms) do **NOT** need to quarantine after close contact with someone COVID positive. No testing or masks required with this exception.
9. If an individual was in close contact with someone COVID positive, then that individual tests negative, but has one or more symptoms, they must still quarantine for 10 days after symptoms started. They must also have gone 24 hours fever free (without using fever reducing medications) and their symptoms have improved.
10. Based on the most recent CDC guidelines, if an unvaccinated individual and the person who tests positive for COVID were **BOTH** properly wearing masks while in close contact on the bus/van or in the classroom; the unvaccinated individual does **NOT** need to quarantine after close contact. However, we recommend this individual closely monitor their symptoms. **(According to the current CDC guidelines, if all Students, Faculty, and Staff wear masks while on the buses/vans and in the classrooms, NO quarantine would be required for anyone who came in close contact with the person who tests positive for COVID).**
11. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms, they should isolate at home and not return to school until the following conditions are met:
 - It has been 10 days since the individual first had symptoms.
 - They have been fever free for 24 hours (without using fever reducing medicine).
 - Their symptoms have improved.
12. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID test and they have remained symptom free.

If the Health Department has advised you of a different safe date to return to school than what's outlined in this policy, please submit their directive in writing to the office for consideration.

The School Board and Principal Gelderman are doing all we can to allow parents to have choices. Please keep us in prayer. Let's continue to trust the sovereignty of God, stay positive, work together, and try to abide by these guidelines. If we do, we stand a much better chance of avoiding a school wide shut down due to an outbreak. God bless your family and Terra Ceia Christian School.