

Tina-Avalon R-II

REOPENING PLAN

As we return for the 2020-2021 school year, the Tina-Avalon R-II District will work to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. However, we must all acknowledge that returning to in-seat education will introduce a greater risk of exposure in spite of our best efforts.

The following key priorities have been identified for implementation across the district in order to allow for the return to in-seat education this fall. Our plan for returning to school is built around the following foundational priorities:

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting** - Page 2
- **Physical Distancing** - Pages 2
- **Staff & Student Screening** - Pages 3
- **Procedures for COVID-19** - Page 4
- **Academic Options During COVID-19** - Pages 4-5
- **Questions & Answers** - Pages 6-7

ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as hand washing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this document. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school staff can take to help lower the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- During school hours, the custodian will thoroughly cover high touch surfaces throughout the building on an ongoing rotation throughout the day, including bathrooms, water bottle fill stations, doorknobs, entrance/exit handles, handrails, walls, etc.
- At a minimum, classrooms and other common spaces will be cleaned and disinfected any time a new group of students accesses a new area.
- Cleaning materials and hand sanitizers will be placed in every classroom. Staff and students will be expected to support cleaning and disinfecting of classroom surfaces and supplies as needed.
- Hand washing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, commonly used areas, and at the main entrances and exits of the buildings.
- Students and staff will have scheduled times throughout the day to wash/sanitize hands and supplies.
- Drinking fountains will be turned off, but refillable water bottle stations can be used for individual's clear water bottles.
- Bus drivers will undergo sanitation training, and all school buses will be thoroughly sanitized before and after each route.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- We will take steps to promote physical distancing, although we cannot always keep everyone six feet apart. This could look different in each classroom, due to the difference in classroom size and the number of students in a class could include:
 - Staggering the use of common spaces, playground and other areas
 - Meals will be provided in classrooms as needed
 - Rearranging furniture and equipment to move students farther apart
 - Allowing for social distancing in the halls during passing periods
 - Changing arrival and dismissal procedures
 - Teachers and students will be required to wear a mask when social distancing cannot occur.
- Plexiglass will be used in classrooms to assist with efforts when social distancing cannot occur. Some classrooms do not allow for social distancing or plexiglass and a student will be required to wear a mask during that class period.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building unless they have permission from an administrator (Ex: meetings for students' individual education programs (IEPs), 504 plans and individual health plans (IHPs), dropping off medications, etc.

STAFF AND STUDENT SCREENING MEASURES

- Temperature checks will take place when students and staff are showing symptoms of being ill. Students and staff who are sent home with a temperature must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- The school personnel will use their best judgment to evaluate the students' symptoms. Even if a student or staff member's fever does not reach the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation of 100.4 F, the nurse might send the student or staff member home after considering all symptoms.
- Students and adults who have come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 should closely monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms. Students and adults should follow all instructions given by the local health department related to contact tracing.

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all inclusive. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 INFECTIONS

If a student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 test or a healthcare provider diagnoses presumptive COVID-19, we will follow these guidelines:

- If your child has been in direct contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or whose medical provider diagnosed them with a presumed case of COVID-19, we will contact you.
- We will work with our local health department to determine what precautions we must take and whether we need to close school.
- The person's family members should self-quarantine for 14 days after the last day of exposure. School Personnel will contact buildings where family members attend to ensure that they are observing the self-quarantine.
- If a sick person rides the bus, we will take the vehicle out of service to clean and disinfect.
- If there is community spread of COVID-19 within a school, we will work directly with local health department officials to complete contact tracing and inform those who have had close contact with a sick student or staff member. We will follow public health guidelines and recommendations to determine whether to close school or cancel activities.

ACADEMIC OPTIONS DURING COVID-19

In Person Learning:

Students who choose this option will return to school in the fall, taking health and safety precautions. If you want your child to attend in person, you do not need to do anything. If we need to close down a classroom, or the entire district because of a COVID-19 outbreak, our in-person students and teachers would move together to virtual learning.

We have been hard at work this summer to improve this plan based on the feedback we received from students, teachers and families, to make it better than the Virtual Learning program we used when we shut down after spring break.

- The following structures will be followed for in person learning:
- Maintain a regular school day schedule Tuesday through Friday
- Physical distancing for seating in classrooms
- Masks will be worn when social distancing cannot occur
- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom, Seesaw, Flip grid, etc. to eliminate the transfer of paper assignments when possible

- Music, PE, and Library classes will be held in their normal setting when possible however class activities and routines may be modified. Students with special needs will be provided enhanced protection through additional space and customized schedules for learning
- Lunch will be offered in classrooms. **Microwaves will not be available. Lunch deliveries will not be allowed.**

Students who choose this option during the COVID-19 pandemic will be allowed to switch to virtual learning one time during that semester but will have to remain virtual for the remainder of the semester.

Virtual Learning:

You must call the school for the online option by **Thursday, August 13** to allow us time to plan for staffing and class enrollments. If we do not hear from you by August 13, we will plan for your child to attend school in person.

Students who choose not to return in person will use our virtual learning online option. This is an online only option we are offering during the COVID-19 pandemic for students from across the Tina-Avalon School District. It will include both direct teacher instruction and independent student work, with a combination of virtual one-on-one meetings, virtual group meetings, live class sessions and pre-recorded videos. **Students who choose the virtual learning option will not be eligible to participate in any in person school functions. (If it is a school function where a student could participate virtually, that would be allowed).**

Tina-Avalon will provide a full option for virtual learning for all students desiring to learn from home.

- Students will follow a “school schedule” Tuesday through Friday
- Parents and students will receive technology support as needed
- Additional instructional materials will be provided as needed to accommodate learning from home
- Tutoring will be available on an as needed basis
- Meals for virtual learners will be available for pick up curbside. Must notify office you want this option.

Students who choose this option during the COVID-19 pandemic will be allowed to switch to in-person learning one time during that semester but will have to remain in-person for the remaining of the semester.

Tina-Avalon R-II RETURN TO SCHOOL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How will the school day look?

- The building will not open until 7:30 am daily (unless you are a Vo-tech student). We must ensure that we have appropriate student supervision as students arrive.
- Students will enter the building and use hand sanitizer when entering building
- Students will eat breakfast in a classroom.
- We will have markings in the hallway to limit congestion.
- If your child brings lunch from home, they will need to have food preheated in a thermos or bring cold items. **Microwaves will not be available. Lunch deliveries will not be allowed.**
- Students will only be allowed to bring clear water bottles. Water fountains will be shut off but the bottle fillers will be on.

Will my child be able to ride the school bus?

- Yes! Students will have assigned seats on the bus. It will be mandatory for parents to select a consistent location for morning and afternoon transportation pick-up and drop-off locations. Last minute changes could be difficult to accommodate.
- As much as possible, students will be seated with space between riders. Family members will have assigned seats together. We encourage parents to bring their child/children to school when possible. We encourage masks to be worn on the bus but it will not be mandatory.

Will my child still be able to go to the playground for recess and spend time outside?

- Yes! Students will go to recess and have physical time with friends.
- Teachers will review good physical distancing play practices with students at the beginning of the school year.
- Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands prior to going to the playground and when returning to the classroom.

Will my child have music, physical education and other resource classes?

- Yes! It's important for students to have access to physical education and music.
- Class activities and routines may be a little different, but we will follow a regular schedule of resource classes daily.
- As students move from one classroom to another, teachers will sanitize

equipment, tables, etc. between each class.

Will we still have class parties for birthdays and holidays?

- Yes! Classroom teachers will host holiday parties with the help of our resource teachers as well.
- To start the year, we will not allow parents to attend class parties. We will have a sign-up to invite parents to send store bought treats and items for classroom games.
- Birthday treats will be allowed and must be store bought. Parents will not be allowed to visit classrooms to disseminate birthday treats.

What about perfect attendance incentives?

- Based on recommendation from the state and local officials, we will NOT have perfect attendance incentives for the regular school year.

Will my student be issued a locker?

- Yes! Students will be required to wear a mask during passing times.

Will masks be required for students and staff?

- Teachers and students will be required to wear a mask when social distancing cannot occur.

Will my student attend Vo-Tech?

- Yes, students will attend Grand River Technical Center and will need to follow the safety protocols put in place by Chillicothe R-II School District. Students will be allowed to attend Vo-tech in the morning and participate in the Virtual Learning in the afternoon. Students will be allowed to drive to Vo-tech this year, during COVID, but a waiver must be signed by a parent!

As we move into the transition of reopening school, all Tina-Avalon stakeholders, staff, families, students, etc. need to continue to be proactive and understanding of attempts to reduce risks. We recognize every family views the situation differently based on personal experiences. As a collective group, we need to continue to assist in these efforts as they are the best way for the District to be up and running and reduce the risk of any further building closure.

This plan is subject to change as more information becomes available and as we continue to follow the latest guidance of public health officials. We will notify you if we update our plan.