

**TCA Covid-19 Updates: 8/6/2021**  
*(Subject to change)*

We praise God for His mercy and provision that allowed TCA to resume in-person learning last fall and complete the entire 2020-2021 school year. As we continue to navigate the challenges of providing a quality Christian education amidst a pandemic, the school's leadership team remains committed to prayerfully making decisions to:

- Keep the TCA community functioning as safely as possible
- Continuing to evaluate evolving data and input
- Encourage personal responsibility to optimize a healthy school environment
- Encourage love and respect for others as Christ-followers
- Provide excellent opportunities for students to thrive spiritually, academically, and socially

*Be aware that guidelines are subject to continual evaluation and potential change. Changes will be communicated with families and employees in a timely manner.*

**TCA Health and Safety Protocols for 2021-2022** *(Subject to change)*

**Face Coverings**

At this time, TCA students and employees have the option of wearing a face covering while on campus; they will not be required. Note that the CDC and other health agencies recommend face coverings while indoors, even for those who are vaccinated. Parents who desire for their child(ren) to wear a face covering during school hours need to have that conversation with them, as TCA cannot fully monitor whether students are wearing face coverings or are wearing them properly.

**Proactive Measures**

- Professional [indoor air quality](#) measures have been taken with air purification systems installed on every HVAC unit at TCA, including classrooms, gyms, cafeteria, Chapel, Field House, and the Main Atrium. These systems were installed in March 2021, with diagnostics conducted in May; air quality diagnostics will continue.
- We have a full-time school nurse (R.N.) with a designated pick-up area for sick students near the Nurse's Office entrance instead of the Main Office to minimize exposure to any illness.
- Our cleaning staff, teachers, and assistants will continue to remain vigilant about disinfecting high-touch surfaces frequently throughout the school day.
- Hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the building.
- All are instructed to wash or sanitize their hands regularly and always before eating.
- Classroom space utilization has been optimized and class sizes minimized.
- Non-employees are not allowed in the school building without a previously scheduled appointment.
- TCA encourages parents to have conversations with their children about ways they can make decisions to optimize their own health safety and to be considerate of others.
- Families are to monitor their children's health with Covid-19 symptoms in mind, keep them home if they are feeling unwell, and keep them out of school until they are symptom and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Should a student feel sick during the school day, they will be sent to the Nurse's Office where our nurse will assist them and communicate with a parent.

### **Covid-19 Vaccinations**

The CDC and other health organizations strongly recommend a Covid-19 vaccine. With vaccines now available to children ages 12 and up, parents are in the position to decide if they want this treatment for their children and/or themselves. There are no Covid-19 vaccine requirements for TCA employees or students. At this time, fully vaccinated TCA employees or students are not required to quarantine as long as they are symptom-free and not positive for Covid-19.

### **Positive Cases of Covid-19**

If a TCA student or employee tests **positive for Covid-19**:

1. Inform Erin Rager, School Nurse, at [erin.rager@mytcalions.com](mailto:erin.rager@mytcalions.com) , or area administrator (EE Director [judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com](mailto:judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com) or K-12 Director [kristie.tims@mytcalions.com](mailto:kristie.tims@mytcalions.com)), who will help determine next steps.
2. Quarantine for a minimum of 10 days, determined by the following:
  - Regardless of vaccination status, quarantine begins the day after the onset of symptoms **OR** the day after the positive test date as some Covid-positive cases are asymptomatic.
  - Regardless of vaccination status, positive Covid students or employees may return back to campus the day after 10 full quarantine days if they have been symptom/fever-free for the last 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. This quarantine period may not be shortened but may be extended if fever or other symptoms continue beyond the original quarantine period.
  - The Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department will contact Covid-positive individuals to conduct contact tracing. TCA will help inform those we are aware of who may have been in close contact with an individual who tested positive. TCA staff will not be responsible for detailed contact tracing.
  - In the event students are absent due to a Covid or quarantine-related absence, they will have the opportunity to transition to virtual learning when healthy and access recordings of instructional portions of the classes that they missed.

### **Household Positive Cases of Covid-19**

If anyone in a TCA student's or employee's **household is Covid-positive** and the student/employee has not been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or has not been Covid-19 positive within the last 90 days:

- Inform Erin Rager, School Nurse, at [erin.rager@mytcalions.com](mailto:erin.rager@mytcalions.com) , or area administrator (EE Director [judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com](mailto:judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com) or K-12 Director [kristie.tims@mytcalions.com](mailto:kristie.tims@mytcalions.com)), who will help determine next steps.
- Non-vaccinated students and employees must quarantine a minimum of 14 days after exposure to someone Covid-positive, regardless of whether the Covid-positive individual is symptomatic.
- At this time, fully vaccinated students and employees with no symptoms of Covid-19 are not required to quarantine and may return to school activities unless requested by the Health Department. (Note: The CDC recommends wearing a mask in public for 14 days. Please have these discussions with your children.)
- In the event students are absent due to a Covid-19 or quarantine-related absence, they will have the opportunity to transition to virtual learning when

healthy and access recordings of instructional portions of the classes that they missed.

### **Exposed to a Positive Case (Non-household)**

Regardless of vaccination status, if a TCA student or employee is exposed to someone Covid-positive not living in their household, they may return to school and resume activities only if they are asymptomatic (not showing symptoms) and not reported to the school by the Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department as being exposed and required to quarantine.

- The Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department (JMCRHD) recommends Covid-testing only when exhibiting symptoms at this time.
- TCA will honor the JMCRHD's quarantine requirements for our students and employees.

**Note:** The Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department will contact Covid-positive individuals reported to them by testing centers to conduct contact tracing. Additionally, TCA will help inform those we are aware of who may have been in close contact with an individual who tested positive to monitor and potentially quarantine. TCA staff will not be responsible for detailed contact tracing. The JMCRHD also recommends those exposed but not symptomatic or Covid-positive to mask in public places for at least 10 days.

### **TCA Extracurriculars**

Regardless of vaccination status, non-quarantined students who are Covid-free, symptom-free, and not living with someone Covid-positive may participate in TCA athletics and clubs as long as the coach/leader in partnership with administration allows. At the discretion of the coach/leader and administration, an entire group may be quarantined to promote optimal safety for the group and/or others.

## **Covid-19 Symptoms (CDC.gov)**

People with Covid-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

Headache