

TCA Covid Policy Updates: September 7, 2021



Partner with us as we strive to provide an optimally safe school environment and to keep TCA open for your children .

To inform the school of your child(ren)'s *sickness or absence*, please contact the area Attendance Coordinator for your child:

Early Education
Elementary
6-12

Judy Mascolo, judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com
Kym Mayes, kym.mayes@mytcalions.com
Ashley Clampitt, ashley.clampitt@mytcalions.com

For questions regarding *clarity on Covid policies including quarantine guidelines*, please contact School Nurse Erin Rager, erin.rager@mytcalions.com.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS:

- TCA currently has a mask-optional policy.
- Be aware that the Jackson Madison County Regional Health Department recommends indoor masking regardless of vaccination status. This recommendation aligns with the CDC.
- If you are sending your child to school in a mask, then please review your expectations of when to wear a mask and the student's responsibility to wear the mask properly (completely covering their mouth and nose).
- Please remember to wash fabric masks after each use and to discard disposable masks each day. If your child's mask becomes dirty or lost during the school day, TCA has a supply of free masks in the Main Office and with Attendance Coordinators.

TCA 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 and in after school cleanings.
- 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.
- 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.
- TCA expects and urges its families to monitor their children's health carefully, 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.
- Students, Faculty and Staff awaiting results from a Covid test need to stay home until the results are received as recommended by the JMCRHD.

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 , or area administrator (EE Director judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com or K-12 Director 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 and 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 (JMCRHD) 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 Contact of Positive Cases:

If anyone in a TCA student's or employee's **household is Covid-positive:**

- Inform Erin Rager, School Nurse, at erin.rager@mytcalions.com , or area administrator (EE Director judy.mascolo@mytcalions.com or K-12 Director kristie.tims@mytcalions.com), who will help determine next steps.
- Non-vaccinated students and employees must quarantine for 10-14 days after exposure to someone Covid-positive, regardless of whether the Covid-positive individual is symptomatic. The Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department continues to recommend a 14 day quarantine; however, those exposed may quarantine for 10 days as long as they completely isolate from the positive case and remain asymptomatic. If the student or employee cannot be isolated from the positive case in their home, the student's or employee's quarantine extends to 10 days after the conclusion of the positive case's quarantine resulting in a quarantine period that is greater than 10-14 days.
- At this time, fully vaccinated students and employees or those who are within 90 days of a positive Covid-19 test with no symptoms of Covid-19 are not required to quarantine and may return to school activities unless requested by the Health Department. We, along with the CDC and the JMCRHD, strongly recommend 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)

- Fully vaccinated TCA students or employees or those who are within 90 days of a positive Covid-19 test who are exposed to someone Covid-positive not living in their household may return to school and resume activities if they are asymptomatic and not reported to the school by the Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department as required to quarantine.
- Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department guidelines state non-household contacts are to quarantine at home for 14 days after last date of contact with positive case though they may come out of quarantine after 10 days if no symptoms develop during those 10 days
- The 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 fully vaccinated individuals who are 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