



# TIPTON R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

334 U.S. HIGHWAY 50 West  
TIPTON, MISSOURI 65081



Central Office: 660-433-5520 (phone); 660-433-5241 (fax)  
High School Office Phone: 660-433-5528  
Elementary Office Phone: 660-433-2213

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**August 18, 2022**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The following document represents our plan to reopen our school district to all students. I have covered major issues which are required by state and federal law. Moreover, there are no easy answers to preventing COVID-19; there are too many variables and opinions, and it continues to be a politically charged issue. I believe this is not a political issue but a safety issue for our entire community. **At this point, COVID-19 is endemic and vaccinations and treatment are widely available. Essentially, this means COVID-19 is commonly found everywhere, and we all have choices regarding how we will protect ourselves and our families.**

It is unlikely we will be able to prevent the COVID-19 virus from directly affecting our school, but we can put measures in place which are contained in this plan and limit the spread of the disease. We all know life comes with inherent risks, but I firmly believe we must all do our part to lessen these risks to others with health concerns or those in an age category that makes them more susceptible to COVID-19.

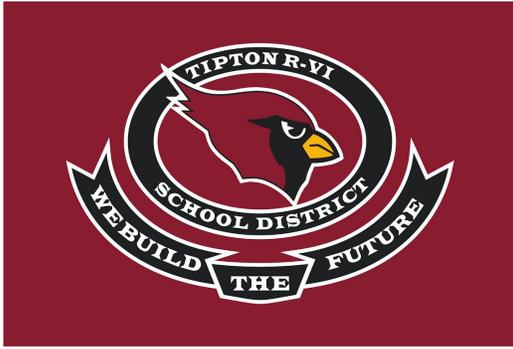
The best prevention for our school community is for parents to do their part and monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19 and, for that matter, **any disease** that may affect other kids at school. Simply put, please **DO NOT** send children to school if they have an illness. **Our goal is always to stay open for kids! We can do this if kids stay home when they're sick, get well and then come back ready to learn!**

Finally, I hope you will contact me in my office if you have any questions. We are committed to you and your children.

Hurray for School!

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry Robinson  
Superintendent



## Tipton R-VI School District Re-opening Plan

### Introduction

The District believes the best educational option for students is to return to a regular school day in a traditional format. The District will follow safety guidelines recommended by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to protect the health of students, parents, teachers, and the community at large from the spread of COVID-19.

### Limitations

Undeniably, the most effective method to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is for people to isolate or quarantine themselves at home. However, this method is not possible in a traditional school format. Our District will adhere to guidelines established to limit the spread of COVID-19 by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). These guidelines center around the proactive strategies that Missouri's K-12 schools can implement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and best protect their students, staff members, and communities, including minimum protocols regarding screening, physical, masks/face coverings.

### Responses to Infection:

#### Limited Exposure

Our District will have cases of COVID-19 during the 2022-23 school year. We will follow these necessary steps:

1. If the student(s) with COVID-19 are still on-site, they will be relocated to a cautionary zone away from all other persons until they can be sent home.
2. Maintenance personnel will effectively clean the affected area(s).

#### Communication About Limited Exposure

The District **will not** be engaged in contact tracing. Further, there are legal limitations concerning releasing personally identifiable health information. The District will release names to the County Health Department **if parents grant permission to do so**. Also, the District will inform parents if it is likely their child has been exposed to COVID-19. In all cases, the District will attempt to notify all parents on the same school day of the event via phone, and robocall, or text.

#### Widespread Exposure & Infection

In the unfortunate event of our county or school district becoming a "hotspot" for COVID-19, the school may be closed. However, our goal will be to remain open. A closure may be mandated by state or local authorities or the Board of Education. The District's goal will be to effectively clean the buildings, monitor area infection rates in collaboration with state authorities and the Moniteau County Health Department, and maintain a traditional format for school. During a longer-term closure based on widespread infection, the District will continue services via Google Classroom, other educational software, and hard copy materials delivered to students from our teachers and support staff.

**\*note:** During school closure, all school activities off and on-campus will be canceled or rescheduled.

#### Communication About Widespread Exposure & Infection

Parents and local health officials will be provided essential information regarding any known cases. However, there are legal limitations concerning releasing personally identifiable health information. In all cases, the District will attempt to notify parents on the same school day of the event via phone, and robocall, or text.

### **Pre-Screening by Parents:**

Before children arrive at school, the District requires all parents to monitor and check their child or children for signs of COVID-19 and notify the District if they believe their child has been exposed to or is exhibiting symptoms. These are the symptoms currently identified by the DHSS:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

**\*note:** The District requires all students to stay home if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 that cannot be otherwise explained (examples: seasonal allergies, strained muscles due to sports activities, getting over food poisoning, chronic migraines).

### **Returning to School:**

The District will follow guidelines from the DHSS and DESE: Students with symptoms should not attend school, and parents should consult their healthcare provider regarding their return to school. Students may return to school if they are no longer exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

### **Attendance:**

If a child is kept home from school because they were diagnosed with COVID-19, all district policies regarding attendance requirements will be waived by the District. The District will provide services virtually and/or via learning packets from teachers to help the affected students whenever possible. No student will be penalized for missing school due to any illness that prevents the child from attending class. (See Appendix C)

### **Students Entering School:**

#### **Temperature and Symptom Checks**

Our school nurse and/or teachers will conduct temperature checks when students report they feel ill. Children will be visually checked for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter the school and/or classroom.

### **Bus Transportation:**

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school whenever possible if the child is not currently driving. However, the District will continue to provide transportation via bus when requested with the following essential safety precautions.

1. Bus drivers will open bus windows whenever possible to increase ventilation
2. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each route

### **Safety Equipment at School:**

#### **Masks for Students - by choice and when deemed necessary**

All students will be provided a mask to wear during the school day if requested, and it will be considered part of their safety equipment. This mask should be brought to school each day and used when needed. Any student may wear a protective face mask if they wish to do so. Students who display symptoms such as coughing and sneezing may be

moved to a cautionary area away from other students and staff and may be asked to wear a mask while they are assessed or waiting for pick up for a short period of time.

### **Masks for School Personnel - by choice and when deemed necessary**

All school personnel may be provided a mask to wear during the school day, and it will be considered part of their safety equipment. Any person is welcome to wear a mask or PPE in the school building unless it inhibits the person's ability to perform his or her job, inhibits a student's ability to participate in the educational process, or is disruptive to the educational environment.

### **Water Bottles for Students and School Personnel**

All water fountains are equipped with bottle fill stations. The "fountain" attachments are no longer available. All students and school personnel should bring a water bottle to school daily, which should be considered part of their safety equipment. The District will provide one water bottle for each student.

### **Hand Sanitizer and Hand Washing**

All teachers will have access to hand sanitizer for their classes. Also, there are hand sanitizer station dispensers in every hallway. Students are expected to use hand sanitizers or to wash their hands in the bathroom regularly.

### **Other Precautions:**

#### **Visitors to Campus - must wear a mask**

Parents, Guardians, and Visitors to campus may choose to wear a mask after checking in at the office. Parents can call the office if they do not wish to enter the building to pick up their child, and children can walk outside to meet their parent or guardian.

#### **Lunch and Breakfast**

Our cafeteria will be used at normal capacity. Some lunches and breakfasts may be delivered to the classroom and consumed there. Also, the District also allows outdoor options.

#### **Assemblies**

All large all-school assemblies are allowed.

#### **Sports and Activities**

Our District will monitor local health conditions regarding the spread of the virus. Further, we will follow guidelines and directives released by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. As of August 22, 2022, we plan to have fall activities and travel for games and academic competitions. All before and after school activities will be canceled if school is closed due to widespread infection.

#### **Summation:**

No plan can cover every contingency. Some unforeseen circumstances may arise, and the District will act quickly to protect students, school personnel, and the community-at-large. We will do our best to follow medical advice and prevention measures from local, state, and federal authorities. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns with the appropriate building administrator and the superintendent of schools. If changes to this plan are necessary, the District will quickly communicate those changes to the community quickly.

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## Academic Delivery Options:

During this school year, learning may fall into one or more of the following delivery options. The purpose of this summary is to inform students and parents to be ready for changes that may be necessary in how we deliver services. Overall, we are committed to providing a robust traditional delivery system and move to other methods described below when absolutely necessary.



### GREEN

#### Traditional, daily school with safety measures

We will begin the school year, barring any state or federal mandates, as normal with the safety measures previously described. **\*All after school activities taking place on and off-campus with safety precautions.**



### YELLOW

#### Alternative Method of Instruction: Possible short-term closure or limited areas open

All online and/or via learning packets for a short period, with students exposed or diagnosed and out for 10-14 days. We will assess the need to close all or part of the school building if we have a limited exposure event. We will clean the contaminated areas by cordoning the area off and addressing the affected building locations. Teachers will continue working and will provide alternative instruction via Google Classroom, I-Ready, or other computer software. In addition, packets and books of activities may be delivered via school bus or made available for pick up. **\*Some after school activities could be canceled on and off campus.**



### RED

#### Alternative Method of Instruction: Long-term Closure, widespread community infection

All online and/or via learning packets until further notice. **If we are ordered closed**, or the Board of Education and/or Superintendent believes it is necessary, we may be closed for an extended period. We will continue to work toward reopening and meeting all requirements to do so; a longer-term closure could occur due to a widespread outbreak in our community or school. All school personnel will continue working to meet student needs and provide more in-depth lessons and activities via Google Classroom or other computer software. We will employ Google Meet, and distribute books, packets, and technology when necessary. Further, we will open computer labs and library spaces for a limited number of students by appointment if authorities allow us to do so. **\*If our school is in RED, NO ACTIVITIES will be held on or off-campus.**



### BLUE

Parents or guardians may request **online-only options** for their child, and this option may be approved if deemed in the child's best educational interest by the parents. A child's health condition or parent's health concerns may also be a determining factor for this option. **Parents should contact the online school of their choice and enroll with the school directly.** If the parent wishes to do so, the District will attempt to meet the student's educational needs with online options created by the District or through K-12 Launch. **Before enrollment in any online program the parent wishes the District to pay for, at least one parent and the student must meet with their school counselor and building principal. This meeting will determine the child's best educational interest, and the child must be legally enrolled in the District.**