

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT GUIDE 5.0

2020-2021 Reopening Schools During COVID-19 Conditions



FEBRUARY 22, 2021 (REVISED)

This is a fluid working document that may be adjusted as conditions and/or guidance changes.



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Dear TUSD Families,

This version of our Parent Guidebook (5.0), has been updated to reflect the recent modifications made to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) Reopening Schools guidelines and protocols.

On Tuesday, February 16, 2021 the Board of Education gave us direction to bring back our 3rd through 5th grade students starting on March 4, 2021 so they can be on campus with the Transitional Kindergarten through 2nd graders who are already back in-class.

We continue to work within public health orders to bring back students as we are allowed to do so, safely. We will continue to prepare for the return of more grades as those processes are approved by DPH. Thank you for continuing to support and partner with us to give your students the best education possible in the current environment.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

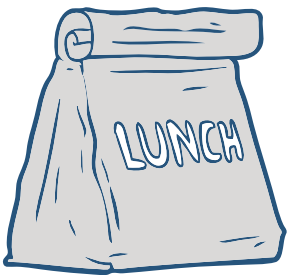
With the recent DPH update to its protocols for K-12 schools and with the improvement in COVID-19 related metrics:

- All TK-5th grade Blended Learning students may be on campus for in-person general instruction.
- On-campus TK-5th students will attend during their assigned AM or PM session time on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays continue to be primarily asynchronous learning days.
- Schools may continue with in-person services and support for at-risk and high-need students in small learning cohorts as long as DPH protocols are followed.
- TUSD is currently reviewing plans for 6th grade Blended Learning students to return to campus for in-person instruction potentially beginning during the month of March.
- High School athletic competitions will begin in sports that are allowed within the Purple Tier, and include Cross Country, Golf, Swim, Tennis, and Track & Field.

The county update also requires full implementation of the following safety protocols:

- [Los Angeles Department of Public Health Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Protocols for COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools](#)
- [CADPH Outdoor/Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports Guidance](#)
- [LA County Reopening Protocols for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports](#)

We hope the following pages provide useful guidance and information to you as your child returns to the school site for in-person instruction.




The Nutrition Services Department will offer FREE breakfast and lunch daily, for all students on campus for in-person instruction or services. Grab-and-go meals will be offered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday on campus. On Fridays, students will be offered a 3-day bulk meal bag to cover for Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Distance learners will continue to pick up bulk meals from the middle and high schools. Thanks to the USDA and CDE for extending waivers which means meals are FREE until June 30, 2021.

Please Note: Meal distribution may vary somewhat from school to school, the principal will share site specific information.

As students return, it will look different.

Screening at Home:

- Self-screening should be done prior to arriving at school using the TUSD COVID Daily Symptom Screener tool: <https://c19.tusd.org>.
- Students and adults experiencing these symptoms should not attend school: fever (100.4 or higher), new cough (different from baseline), diarrhea, vomiting.
- If you have had close contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the last 10 days, please stay home.
- Personal illness, quarantine, and COVID-19 illness or symptom related absences will be excused.
- If in doubt, please keep student at home.

Arriving at School:

- Show green screen on TUSD Daily Symptom Screener.
- Students may have their temperatures checked upon arriving at school
- Parents & visitors will have limited access to the school campus. Students will be picked up at the gate, parents will not be permitted to walk students to & from the classroom.
- Students/staff use designated routes for entry and exit in order to limit direct contact with others.
- Signage is placed throughout the campus to remind students & staff about physical distancing, hand washing, & not spreading germs, will promote healthy hygiene practices & reminders to stay home when ill.

FACE COVERINGS & PPE

Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times:

- Students must utilize face coverings:
 - While in the classroom, on school grounds, or if riding the bus (except when eating or drinking)
 - While waiting to enter campus and when leaving
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to students by request.
- Personal face coverings will be allowed in compliance with LACDPH.
- Gloves are available and should be used as appropriate by those conducting cleaning, first aid or medical support, or food service



ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM



Physical distancing will limit the spread of the virus. Schools will adhere to the following strategies to maintain physical distancing as much as possible:

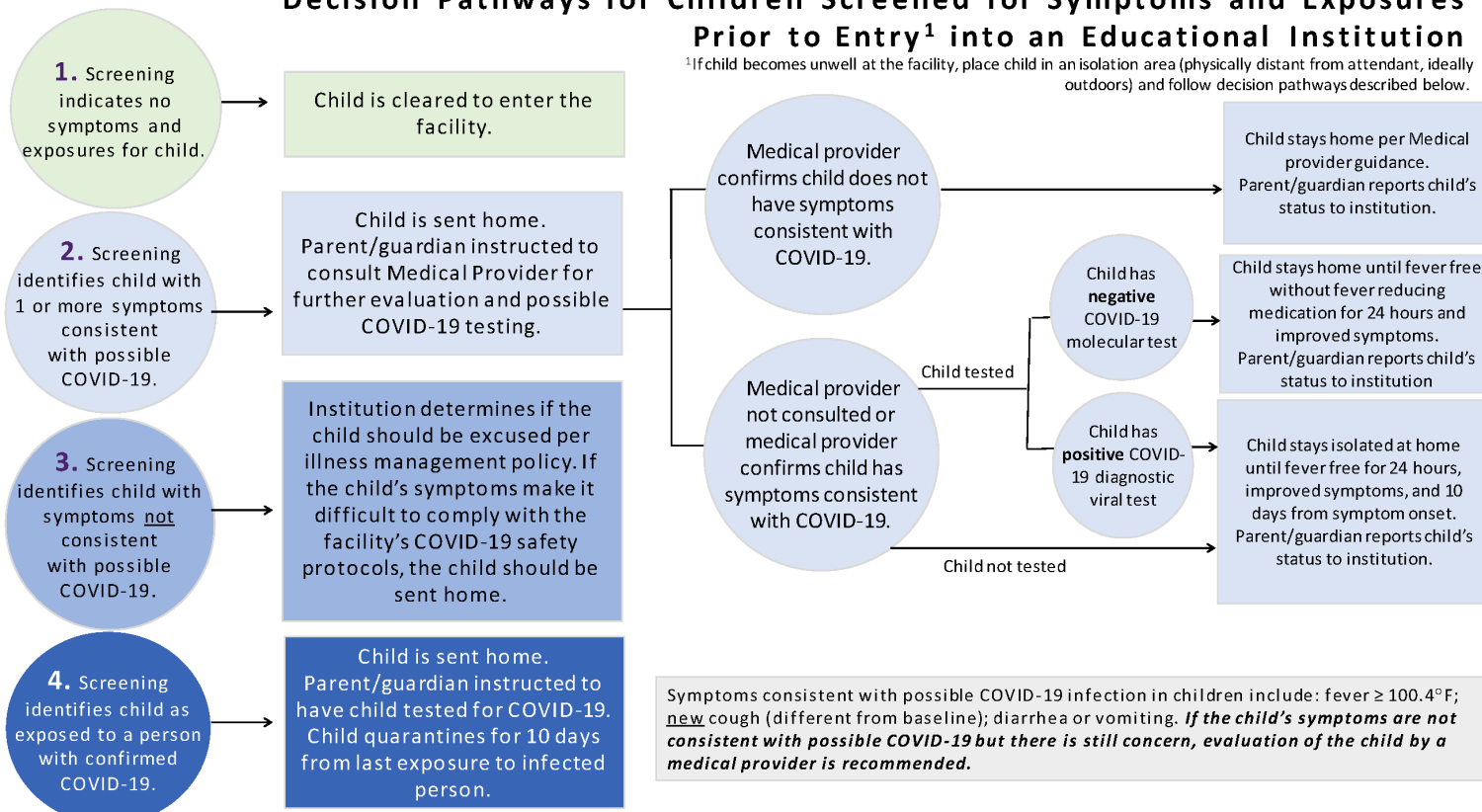
- During regular school hours, school sites will restrict non-essential visitors.
- Non-essential furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow maximum space for students and staff.
- Student desks are arranged to comply with physical distancing guidelines.
- Routes are designated for entry and exit to lunch, recess, and other transition times, as feasible.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Staff members have been trained per COVID-19 health & safety protocols.
- Campuses will follow LACDPH guidelines for cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation of school campuses.
- Common touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly (e.g. counter tops, door handles, restrooms, student desks, student chairs, etc.).
- Physical barriers have been provided for any place where face-to-face interaction with the public occurs.
- Classrooms that do not have an HVAC system will be provided with HEPA filters as students return.
- Staff and students will be expected to wash/sanitize their hands regularly.
- Every classroom and workstation will be provided with hand sanitizer to use.
- Schools will limit sharing of supplies between students to the extent possible and encourage students to take home personal items for cleaning daily.
- Students should bring water bottles as water fountains will be closed to minimize COVID-19 exposure. Water refilling stations are also available.

Decision Pathways for Children Screened for Symptoms and Exposures Prior to Entry¹ into an Educational Institution

¹If child becomes unwell at the facility, place child in an isolation area (physically distant from attendant, ideally outdoors) and follow decision pathways described below.



Students with Symptoms While at School

- Students will go to a designated isolation area until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- If the exposure happened in a school classroom or school cohort, all persons that were in the classroom or cohort during the infectious period are considered exposed.
- The District, per LACDPH guidelines, will determine a course of action should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19.
- The District, with assistance from LACDPH, will complete contact tracing on lab confirmed positive cases.
- If the student's symptoms are not consistent with possible COVID-19 but there is still concern, evaluation by a medical provider is recommended.

Please be sure to have updated emergency contacts in PowerSchool, as parents should be prepared to pick up their student(s) immediately in the instance they develop COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

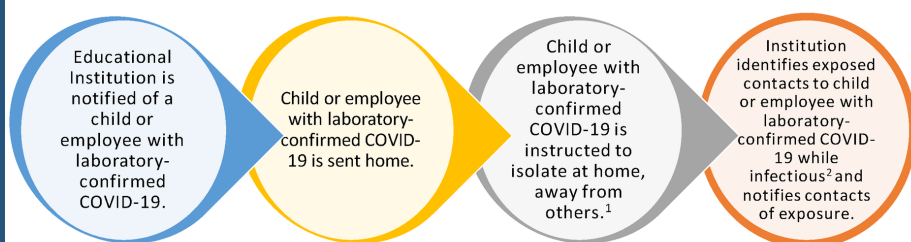
Should a positive COVID-19 case occur at a school site, the following protocols will be followed, per LACDPH:

- Designated school staff will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Families Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Notify those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to self-monitor for symptoms. These notifications will be completed in consultation with the school nurse (for students), by written correspondence (and by phone, if needed) which will include, if known:
 - Date of potential exposure.
 - Information on incubation period and safety protocols that help to limit exposure (hand washing, face coverings, physical distancing).
 - Phone numbers to schedule an appointment at a local testing site
 - Return to school protocols and school staff contact information for questions.
- In addition, the District will determine with direction from LACDPH, if the number of positive COVID-19 cases may lead to the closure of a classroom, multiple classrooms, or even a school. Contact tracing protocols will be followed.

STUDENTS RETURNING AFTER A DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19

- After a positive diagnosis is made, students will remain isolated at home until fever free for 24 hours, improved symptoms, and 10 days from beginning of symptoms (or 10 days of test, if no symptoms).
- Please reference Decision Pathways for more details per LACDPH on COVID-19 exposure.

Guidance for Child or Employee with Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 at an Educational Institution



¹ Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 should isolate until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, improved symptoms, and 10 days from beginning of symptoms (or 10 days from test date, if no symptoms).

² The infectious period for an infected person is 48 hours before symptom onset (or test date for persons with no symptoms) until the infected person is no longer required to be isolated

*To Review the full Screening & Exposure Decision Pathways for Symptomatic Persons issued by LACDPH, please click on link:
[Pathways Document](#)*

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Students will be required to wear face coverings such as face masks and/or face shields and maintain social distancing to the greatest extent practicable in accordance with LADPH guidelines during on-campus services.
- Students who have sensory challenges related to face coverings will receive specialized instruction and support with wearing face coverings.

Parents of students with sensory challenges related to wearing face coverings are encouraged to work with their child(ren) to prepare for this on-campus service requirement.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Staff will be given a choice as to type of face covering which is most conducive to their assignment and also provides protection while supporting students.
- All staff will be provided with appropriate PPE to help ensure safe on-campus interactions with students.
- IEP and other specialized services will be delivered with staff adherence to wearing face coverings, physical distancing, increased hand washing, and sanitizing.

TRANSPORTATION

- Parent/guardian must screen student prior to boarding the bus by completing the: [TUSD COVID Daily Symptom Screener](#).
- Temperature may be checked before boarding the bus
- Students and the driver will be required to wear face coverings throughout transit.
- Students will fill the vehicle from back to front and practice physical distancing.
- If a student becomes ill during transit, they will be isolated in a dedicated seat directly behind the driver, and COVID tracing will be conducted.



ON CAMPUS SERVICE DELIVERY: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS

Initial and triennial Special Education one-to-one assessments will be conducted on campus by appointments scheduled with school assessors.

Upon arrival at the school, the parent/guardian will accompany the student to the school office & be greeted by the assessor. The assessor will then escort the student to the testing space.



Parents/guardians will not be permitted to accompany students to the assessment rooms or remain on campus for the duration of the assessment session(s).

Parents will need to pick up their student at the agreed upon time and also be easily accessible by phone should anything that requires immediate attention arise during the assessment session(s).

Multiple assessment appointments are likely to be necessary & each appointment will be scheduled with a school assessor.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Self Contained Classes: Students were invited to campuses for IEP-outlined and related services within small, stable cohorts. The first phase allowed for students in self-contained special day class programs to return to school sites for in-person services outlined in their IEPs that they had been unable to access through distance learning due to communication deficits, assistive technology and equipment needs, and/or necessary intensive support and prompting. Students who initially returned for on-campus IEP services will continue to receive curriculum and instruction via synchronous and asynchronous distance learning platforms until schools are permitted to re-open for full-day instruction and services.

General Education Instruction and IEP Services: TK-5th grade students who return to campus for instruction with their general education teachers will remain in their general education classroom settings to the greatest extent possible. Services outlined in IEPs will be provided virtually via synchronous and asynchronous distance learning platforms to enable students to remain in the least restrictive environment and access their general education settings during the time they are on campus until schools are permitted to reopen for full-day instruction and services.

English Learner Students: Students with the lowest levels of English proficiency, may be invited to campus to receive English Language Development supports, intervention, and assistance with synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Foster and Homeless Youth: May be invited to campus to receive a safe and secure learning environment, intervention supports, and assistance with synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

*Services delivered outside the classroom cohort will be provided one-to-one.

ATTENDING TO THE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF OUR STUDENTS



The TUSD Virtual Wellness Center is an online portal to help students, parents, and staff members access the mental health and wellness resources, when they need them, at any time. Students, parents, and staff can access a variety of tools and techniques to manage stress and create balance, in addition to connecting to their school site counseling website.

The Wellness Helpline is available from 9am - 3pm, Monday-Thursday (closed on major holidays) via phone at 424-757-4190 or by email at tusdwellness@tusd.org. Parents and staff can connect with TUSD mental health and counseling support staff, access a variety of resources, and receive mental health referrals.

If you have any questions regarding the Virtual Wellness Center, please contact tusdwellness@tusd.org.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL RESOURCES

TUSD provides a wide variety of resources to help families with their academic and social emotional needs. Partnerships such as [Building Bridges](#) and [South Bay Families Connected](#) provide parents with opportunities to participate in workshops and access essential resources such as referrals. Families can also access free tele-health and virtual therapy resources, 24/7, made through our partner [Care Solace](#).

OTHER RESOURCES

- [211 - Community Connect](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(Mental Health and Youth Statistics\)](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health](#)
- National Crisis Line – 1-800-273-8255

DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT @ THE YMCA

The YMCA is offering childcare and learning support at various TUSD school sites and their headquarters on Sepulveda from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Register online at www.ymcala.org (click Programs & Classes, then click on Child Care). For questions, call 310.325.5885.



ATHLETIC AND SPORTS CONDITIONING ACTIVITIES

Conditioning activities for youth sports continue to be permitted by the Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH) and TUSD. The purpose of these reopening guidelines for sports conditioning activities in TUSD is to ensure a safe environment for our students who choose to participate. Other extracurricular programs (i.e. Dance, Drill, Marching Band) are also authorized for conditioning activities.

Each high school has prepared an extensive and detailed plan for conditioning activities, including team/sport individual practice plans, practice schedules, entry/exit procedures, coach and athlete daily screening protocols, and all coaches must participate in COVID-19 required training on safety and hygiene practices. In addition to trained coaching personnel, school and district staff will monitor the allowable sports conditioning activities on a daily basis to ensure all health and safety protocols are followed.

Parents and students wishing to participate must first complete and submit to their school the required Athletic Participation Packet, which includes a current athletic physical examination as well as a COVID-19-related participant waiver. For more information, please check the high school website or contact the high school office via email or telephone.

TUSD athletic & sports conditioning activities will follow the guidance provided by the [Reopening Protocol for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports Leagues](#) and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) in determining the appropriateness for gradual physical return of athletic activities and competitions. Various sports teams allowed during the Purple tier (see table) will begin more skills-oriented practice activities & are authorized for approved inter-team competitions beginning in February 2021. All sports must continue to follow the safety guidelines for all conditioning, practice & competition activities and events. As LA County moves to lesser restrictive colored tiers, additional sports teams will be allowed to increase their level of activity & participation in competitions.

According to the CDPH (effective 2/26/21) competition for high- and moderate-contact sports is permitted to resume (i.e. - red and orange tier sports) if the county's adjusted case rate falls below 14 per 100,000

*This Table is not exhaustive, but provides examples of sports with different levels of contact so that the level of risk and appropriate Tier can be assessed for other sports

PURPLE TIER: WIDE SPREAD		RED TIER: SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	
Outdoor Low-contact sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross country • Dance (no contact) • Golf • Physical training programs (e.g., yoga, Zumba, Tai chi) • Swimming and diving • Tennis • Track and field <i>*No Spectators Allowed</i>		Outdoor Low-contact sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Cheerleading • Lacrosse (girls/women) • Softball <i>*No Spectators Allowed</i>	
ORANGE TIER: MODERATE		YELLOW TIER: MINIMAL	
Outdoor High Contact Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Football • Lacrosse (boys/men) • Soccer • Volleyball • Water polo 	Indoor Low Contact Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance (no contact) • Physical training • Swimming and diving • Tennis • Track and field • Volleyball 	Indoor Moderate Contact Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheerleading • Dance (intermittent contact) Indoor High Contact Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Wrestling 	



†All sports permitted in lower tiers, are also permitted in higher tiers

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\): Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[California Department of Public Health Industry Guidance: Schools and School Based Programs](#)

[California Department of Education \(CDE\) Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Reopening of California's Public Schools](#)

[Los Angeles County Office of Education: Rising to the Challenge of COVID-19, A Planning Framework for the 2020-2021 School Year](#)

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