



TELESIS CENTER FOR LEARNING COVID-19 SCHOOL MITIGATION PLAN

In preparation for offering on-site support services and in-person instruction, and in an effort to minimize risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in the school environment, Teleses Preparatory Academy (the “School”) has adopted this mitigation plan (“Plan”), following consideration of mitigation strategies and recommendations as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Arizona Department of Health Services.¹ This Plan may be revised by the School administration as necessary to reflect the most current public health standards, without the need for Governing Board approval of the revised Plan.

Introduction

CDC guidelines recognize that “extended school closure is harmful to children,” resulting in negative impacts “on the social, emotional, and behavioral health, economic well-being, and academic achievement of children, in both the short-term and long-term.”² At the same time, the CDC recognizes that “opening schools – like opening any building or facility – does pose a risk for the spread of COVID-19.”³

Following consideration of “the full spectrum of benefits and risks,” “the available evidence provides reason to believe that in-person schooling is in the best interest of students, particularly in the context of appropriate mitigation measures similar to those implemented at essential workplaces.”⁴

The mitigation measures contained within this Plan recognize that it is impossible to completely eliminate risks that COVID-19 – or any other communicable disease – will be transmitted within the school environment.⁵ As such, this Plan does not guarantee against potential transmission of COVID-19 in the School. Rather, it reflects the School’s continued commitment to, and reasonable efforts aimed at, maintaining a safe and healthy educational environment, despite risks acknowledged by the CDC and other health experts.

The School will determine which of the strategies set forth below are appropriate and will be implemented when the School is operating in a traditional model (students on-campus physically), a hybrid model (some students on-campus physically and others distance learning), and a virtual model (all students distance learning with on-site support services). Because community spread levels will change and intermittent emergency school closures are possible, the appropriate strategies will also change from time-to-time during the school year.

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

The School’s designated point of contact for COVID-19 related concerns, including reporting positive test results or COVID-19 symptoms, are:

- Main Office and Attendance Clerk for Students
- Human Resources for Staff
- Administration (notified by Human Resources and Main Office of COVID-19 related concerns)

Proactive Mitigation Strategies⁶

As applicable, and except as otherwise directed by or after consultation with local health officials, the School will implement the following proactive mitigation strategies in attempting to minimize the spread of COVID-19:

A. *Staying Home when Appropriate.*

The School will require employees and students to stay home when they feel sick, have tested positive for COVID-19, or are showing COVID-19 symptoms based on the most current CDC guidelines and Arizona Department of Education COVID-19 guidelines. The School will encourage employees and students to monitor their symptoms when they have recently had “close contact”^{*} with a person with COVID-19, including any household member. Students or staff members who become sick at school or are identified as having had close contact with a person with COVID-19 will be health screened, be provided a mask, encouraged to monitor symptoms and possibly sent home. The School will encourage students/families to notify the School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact if the student has COVID-19 symptoms. Staff members must notify the School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

**“Close contact” is defined as “any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”⁷*

B. *Hand Hygiene.*

The School will encourage and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after bathroom use, before and after recess, entering classrooms and at other appropriate times during the day. The School will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer.

C. *Respiratory Etiquette.*

The School has provided each classroom with Air Purifiers to be activated during school hours. The School will encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes and follow hand-hygiene protocols immediately thereafter. Students or Staff will be provided with a mask if they don’t already have one.

D. *Signs and Messages.*

The School will post signs whenever possible in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures (e.g., hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette) and describe how to stop the spread of germs.⁸

E. *Cleaning and Disinfection.*

The School will clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the School, when reasonably feasible. The School will follow cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible.

F. *Absenteeism.*

The School will monitor absenteeism patterns among both students and staff and will identify and plan for alternative coverage with respect to critical job functions and positions. The School may alert local health officials about large increases in student and staff absenteeism, particularly if absences appear to be due to respiratory illnesses.

G. *Gatherings and Meetings.*

Gatherings and meetings will be allowed. Staff members, students, or other attendees who wish to socially distance during the gathering or meeting will be given the opportunity to do so. Masks are always optional.

Cohorting. To the extent appropriate and feasible, the School organization has grade level cohorts and staff groupings so that they are as static as reasonably possible – i.e., limit mixing between groups, if possible.

Reactive Mitigation Strategies²

When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the School will communicate with and follow the guidance of local health officials in making decisions regarding appropriate reactive mitigation measures, including the extent to which School operations should be monitored for potential temporary restricted or closed time periods, in whole or in part, and if so, for how long.

A. *School Notification of Positive Test.*

The School will encourage staff and students/families to notify the School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact regarding any positive test result for COVID-19 with respect to any student or staff member.

B. *Coordination with Local Health Officials.*

Upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test result in someone who has been in the School, the School will promptly seek guidance from local health officials to determine an appropriate course of action in light of the circumstances. At a minimum, the affected individual will be quarantined from the School on-site environment (including on-site support services or in-person instruction) and other responsive actions will be taken, as directed in consultation with local health officials or in compliance with their guidance.

If an outbreak* (as determined by local health officials) of COVID-19 occurs at the School, the School will notify the local health department using any required or suggested notification method. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Short-term limitations on, or restrictions for, on-site support services or in-person instruction with respect to a particular student, cohort, or the School generally.
2. Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of areas of the School used by the affected individual.
3. Extended school dismissal/closure, either for a portion of the School or the School entirely.¹⁰

** An “outbreak” is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases upon contact tracing, that is among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting.¹¹*

C. *Communication with Staff, Parents, and Students.*

Consistent with privacy requirements, including those of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), and in consultation with local health officials, the School will provide notification to appropriate staff and parents regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases in the School.

Re-Entry Mitigation Strategies¹²

When a student or staff member has been required to stay home from school: (a) following a positive test for COVID-19; (b) after showing symptoms of COVID-19; or (c) has been advised to self-quarantine by a medical professional or public health official, the School will implement the following mitigation

strategies related to re-entry on the School campus. Such individuals will be permitted to return to School for on-site support services or in-person instruction after the following mitigation strategies have been met:

	SYMPTOMATIC (HAS Symptoms)	ASYMPTOMATIC (NO Symptoms)
Awaiting Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home away from others, wear mask to protect loved ones and wait until results are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No isolation required. Wear a mask and take everyday precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19
Tested Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home away from others until you have had no fever 24- hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved; AND At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND Wear a mask upon return until other symptoms clear. 	<p>Positive Non-Antibody COVID-19 Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home away from others until 5 days have passed since specimen collection, take everyday precautions, wear a mask <p>Positive Antibody COVID-19 Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No isolation required. Wear a mask (optional) and take everyday precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19.
Tested Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home away from others until you have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever; AND Other symptoms have improved, wear a mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No isolation required. Take everyday precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19.
Has NOT Been Tested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home away from others, wear a mask until you have had no fever for 24-hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND* Other symptoms have improved; AND* At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May return after fever-free for 24-hours if fewer than three symptoms 	<p>Close Contact Exposure To a Confirmed COVID-19 CASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No isolation required. Take everyday precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19

Compliance with Applicable Guidance

If any part of this Plan conflicts with applicable local, county, state law, regulation, or public health guidance, the School will comply with the applicable law, regulation, or public health guidance.

1 CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>; AZDHS, “Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction”:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-personinstruction.pdf>.

2 “The Importance of Reopening America’s Schools this Fall,” CDC website,

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html> (hereafter, “Importance of Reopening”).

3 “Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020,” CDC website,

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html> (hereafter, “Preparing for Safe Return”).

4 Importance of Reopening.

5 As the CDC acknowledges, “even when a school carefully coordinates, plans, and prepares, cases [of COVID-19] may still occur within the community and schools.” Preparing for Safe Return.

6 Adapted from “Considerations for Schools: Operating Schools During COVID-19,”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html> (hereafter, “Considerations for Schools”).

7 AZDHS “‘Release from Isolation and Quarantine’ Guidance,” at Glossary of Terms,

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/public-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf>

8 Sample signs available via CDC Print Resources at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>.

9 Adapted from “Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19),” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>.

10 Per CDC guidelines, “In most instances, a single case of COVID-19 in a school would not warrant closing the entire school.” FAQ for School Administrators (What should schools do if a student or school staff member tests positive for COVID-19?).

11 Definition is provided by AZDHS, “Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction”:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf>.

12 Adapted from “When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19,”

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-homeisolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-gettingsick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html. See also, “Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance,” Arizona Department of Health Services,

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/public-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf>