



**Academics★ Justice ★ Leadership**

2021-2022

# Safe Learning Plan

As recommended by the COVID-19 Incidence Response Team

August 2021

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Safe Learning Plan is to ensure a layered mitigation system to decrease the possibility of the spread of COVID-19 at Twin Cities Academy for students, staff, and families.

Twin Cities Academy bases its Safe Learning Plan on *Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year*.

**Current Conditions:**

Approximately 90% of Twin Cities Academy staff are fully vaccinated. All students over the age of 12 are eligible for vaccination and TCA regularly offers on site vaccine clinics to support student vaccination. The percentage of students vaccinated is unknown. The Delta variant is increasing in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. At this time vaccinated people are highly unlikely to develop severe illness from the Delta variant, however unvaccinated people, especially young people are more likely to contract COVID-19 as the Delta variant is more contagious than prior variants. TCA also has a cohort of its youngest students who are not yet old enough to receive the vaccine (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

Through the mitigation strategies in place during the 2020-2021 school year, TCA reported no school-based spread of the virus, and was able to contain contagion quickly through quarantining and contact-tracing, along with other mitigation strategies.

**Role of the Incidence Response Team:**

The Incidence Response Team (IRT) includes a parent, teacher, administrator and health professional and is designed to review county and city level COVID data, and has been granted permission by the school board during the 2020-2021 school year to make “real time” decisions to ensure the safest learning environment possible for students, staff and families.

## **Mitigation Strategies:**

- Mask Mandate Indoors Only (All People) – Based on city level data and may be eased as the spread within St. Paul decreases
- Sanitation stations in all classrooms
- Block schedule (less classes during each day)
- Staggered Passing Time
- Upgraded Ventilation System
- Expanded seating for lunch to allow for 3’ social distancing by limiting four students per table
- Weekly rapid COVID testing required for all unvaccinated staff members
- Bi-monthly rapid COVID testing for all staff
- Rapid COVID testing for any student coming to the health office with symptoms is available with parent permission
- Home test kits sent home for each student at the beginning of the school year to be administered at home if a close contact or symptomatic
- Isolation room in the school for any student with symptoms prior to being picked up to go home
- Any student needing to be quarantined or isolated due to COVID will have access to all course work via Schoology and the teacher virtually
- Masking on all school buses and school transportation required by federal law
- Athletic Mitigation:
  - All players and coaches remain masked for any indoor practices
  - All players and coaches remain masked when on the sidelines during indoor competitions
  - Any unvaccinated athletes are required to rapid test for COVID one time per week – administered at school or provide a test result from an outside provider
  - Vaccinated athletes are encouraged to test weekly as well
  - Spectators for indoor sporting events must provide proof of vaccination and be masked at this time. A new high-tech online option is now also available for spectators to watch in “real” time virtually if needed
- Semester long online learning options for medically vulnerable students and families.

## **Quarantine & Isolation Requirements**

- Vaccinated students and staff are not required to quarantine after a close contact under most situations. Proper mask fitting, if masks are required is one consideration.
- Any close contact is strongly encouraged to test three days after exposure to a person testing positive for COVID whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- Unvaccinated students and staff are required to quarantine up to 14 days after a close contact exposure to someone testing positive for COVID. Close contact includes less than 3 feet for 15-20 minutes in a 24-hour period.
- Unvaccinated students and staff can shorten quarantine if they test negative between 3-5 days after exposure and are symptom free. Minimum quarantine is 7 days and maximum 14 days for asymptomatic unvaccinated people.
- A staff or student who tests positive for COVID whether vaccinated or unvaccinated is required to be symptom free without any medications for 72 hours and test negative for COVID prior to returning to school.
- Any student or staff member with COVID symptoms while at school will be tested using a rapid test (parent permission required for students).
- Students or staff testing positive for COVID or not testing but exhibiting symptoms for COVID are required to immediately isolate in the isolation room, and go home as quickly as possible.
- Staff are provided an additional 7 days of sick time for COVID related incidences. After the additional 7 days is used, staff may use their regularly contracted sick and PTO time as needed.
- TCA is prepared to do all contact tracing as needed to inform any/all close contacts
- In the event of whole class, grade level or school quarantine or isolation requirements, TCA has received conditional permission for the Minnesota Department of Education to deliver instruction in an online format

