

17 August 2022

Tallmadge City School District
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan
2021 - 2024

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. The federal template also includes a requirement that districts receiving American Rescue Plan funds must publish a local “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans” by June 24, 2021. This document is created to meet this requirement and set forth plans for the safe operation of Tallmadge City Schools for the 2021 - 24 school years.

This document updates the Tallmadge Safe Return Plan published in June 2021 for the 2022-23 school year. In collaboration with the Summit County Health Department, Akron Children’s Hospital and other City school districts, Tallmadge K-5 students returned to full in-person instruction in August 2020 while middle and high school students successfully navigated a hybrid – every other day model of blended in-person and remote instruction.

As vaccination has increased and case counts have decreased, the Board of Education opened all district schools for in-person instruction in August 2021 five days per week. The district fully complied with state and local health orders. School officials will continue to communicate with the Summit County Health Department to implement any new or changed safety protocols. This plan is updated to reflect the [latest guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health](#).

To begin the 22-23 school year:

Tallmadge City Schools will no longer be recommending the “Mask to Stay, Test to Play” quarantine alternative for schools. Instead, according to ODH, if students or staff feel sick or suspect they might have COVID-19, they should stay home and take a rapid test. If positive, students and staff should stay home from school for at least five (5) days and longer if necessary until fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.

Additionally, after isolation ends, students and staff should continue to take precautions as they resume normal activities by wearing a mask for five (5) days (or after two negative tests 48 hours apart).

The approach is subject to change as conditions evolve.

[View Summary Infographic and District Message.](#)

Facial Coverings:

For the 2022-23 school year, the wearing of facial coverings (masks) for students, staff, and the public is voluntary, but is recommended for those who have elevated health risks or have not been vaccinated. If state or local health orders change during a time of elevated communicable disease community spread, the superintendent may require the correct use of facial coverings.

Handwashing:

In accordance with [CDC guidelines](#), staff, students, and visitors are encouraged to frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer is provided in every classroom, office, and common areas and handwashing signs are placed throughout the facilities.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities:

1. The district utilizes electrostatic disinfectant sprayers throughout the facilities and on buses. Common areas are also disinfected between groups and throughout the day.
2. Staff and student training is provided to ensure adherence to the safety protocols. Signage and public announcements are used to inform the community of the expectations.
3. All district school buildings K-12 operate with state-of-the-art HVAC systems. The systems are operating with MERV-13, or higher, filtration per recommendation. Staff are encouraged to open windows on days when outside temperatures allow.
4. When practical, buses will open vents or open windows to increase outside air flow.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine:

1. Visitor access to the campus is limited. Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is not permitted on school grounds. All visitors must enter through a vestibule plus buzzer door system at the main office of the building where they will verify that they are not experiencing illness symptoms.
2. In accordance with the protocols established by the Summit County Health Department, the district nurse will monitor absences for staff and students.
3. If required, the nurse will report weekly positive cases to the Summit County Health Department.
4. The district will follow Summit County Health Department protocols for the quarantine and isolation of staff and students.

Diagnostic and screening testing:

1. Any student or staff member experiencing symptoms is immediately isolated to the Clinic at the building. Caregivers are contacted in order to safely transport the student or staff member safely away from school.
2. The district will follow Summit County Health Department protocols for the quarantine and isolation of staff and students.

3. Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits are available for use by parents, adult students, and staff members. Individuals are encouraged to confer with their personal physician on treatment.

Vaccination Efforts:

1. The district has collaborated with Akron Children's Hospital and hosted three vaccination clinics for staff and students to date (as of June, 2021).
2. The district will continue to partner with local health officials to provide vaccination opportunities for staff, students, and the community.

Accommodation for children with disabilities:

1. The district will provide health and safety accommodations in accordance with students' Individual Education Plans.
2. The district will make every effort to collaborate with families regarding individual special needs. Various forms of communication are available to facilitate this process, including, but not limited to: email, U.S. mail, text messaging, Remind App, Google Classrooms, phone calls, Zoom meetings, and physically distanced face-to-face meetings.

Continuity of Services:

1. The district plans to continue full in-person learning moving forward.
2. In the event of school closure due to pandemic, the district will pivot to remote instruction.
3. The district will utilize the APEX program to provide instruction to students who have health conditions that could prevent their regular attendance in-person.
4. The district will continue to offer extended learning opportunities for after-school and summer learning experiences.
5. The high school will continue to utilize the APEX program for credit recovery purposes.

Social and Emotional and Mental Health Needs:

1. The district utilizes Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) K-12.
2. School counselors have provided age and grade appropriate teaching resources for social, emotional and mental health related classroom based instruction.
3. The district partners with Red Oak Behavioral Health for on-site social, emotional and mental health services
4. The district employs seven full-time school guidance counselors as well as school psychologists who work directly with staff and students daily in each of our schools.

Student Health:

1. The district enjoys a strong relationship and partnership with Akron Children's Hospital through which school health services are provided. A full time RN is assigned to the district along with school health aides in each building clinic.
2. In partnership with Akron Children's Hospital, all staff and students have full-access to a virtual health clinic during school hours. Virtual visits are facilitated by the district nurse and patients see a licensed physician.

3. Akron Children's Hospital also provides a full-time athletic trainer to support student health during extracurricular activities. The trainer assists in the assessment, identification, and assessment of illness.

The district will continue to assess and adjust procedures in accordance with state and local guidelines. This document is posted on the district website and will be reviewed every 6 months.

Anyone wishing to comment on this plan or for any questions or concerns, please contact: email info@tallmageschools.org or call 330.633.3291.