



# Tri-County North Local Schools In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan

District Name:	Tri-County North Local Schools
District Address:	436 N Commerce St, Lewisburg, OH 45338
District Contact:	William Derringer
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On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law. Funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.

Districts and community schools were notified of the requirement for establishing a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan in a Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) on May 7, 2021. The "continuity of services plan" will continue to be revised and updated regularly with stakeholder input.

**Required elements of local plans:** The federal requirements go on to identify the elements of the most up-to-date Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that must be addressed in the plan:

- Each LEA plan includes, or will be modified to include, the extent to which it has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following mitigation strategies:
  - Universal and correct wearing of masks;
  - Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding);
  - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;
  - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or tribal health departments;
  - Diagnostic and screening testing;
  - Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible; and
  - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.
- Each LEA plan describes how it will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
- The LEA periodically reviews, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period and revises its plan as appropriate.
- The LEA seeks public input and takes such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the revisions to the plan.

The LEA should post the plan on its local website and then submit the website address that links directly to the plan to [continuityplan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@education.ohio.gov) by June 24.

Questions, comments and concerns can be emailed to: [continuityplan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@education.ohio.gov).



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## Required Elements of Local Plans

1. *The extent to which it has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following mitigation strategies:*
  - *Universal and correct wearing of masks;*
  - *Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding);*
  - *Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;*
  - *Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;*
  - *Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments;*
  - *Diagnostic and screening testing;*
  - *Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible; and*
  - *Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.*

**Universal and correct wearing of masks;** In attempting to keep all of our students and staff as safe as possible Tri-County North will be making facial coverings optional. This includes all students and staff as well as anyone entering the building. If parents choose, they may provide their child with an approved face shield that can be worn in place of a mask.

How to safely wear a face covering is as follows:

1. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.
2. Put the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
3. Fit the mask snugly against the sides of your face slipping the loops over your ears or tying the strings behind your head.
4. If you have to continually adjust your mask, it doesn't fit properly, and you might need to find a different mask type or brand.
5. Make sure you can breathe easily.

**Physical distancing;** The CDC is updating K-12 school guidance to reflect the latest science on physical distance between students in classrooms. Currently, CDC recommends students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in a classroom setting. It is recommended 6 feet apart in common areas, such as school lobbies and community settings outside of the classroom.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;** Tri-County North will have ongoing health education to teach students proper handwashing and reinforce behaviors, and provide adequate supplies. Ensure that teachers and staff use proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students, teachers, and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.



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- Some students with disabilities might need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors.
- TCN will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors. Adequate supplies such as soap, water, a way to dry hands, tissues, face masks (as feasible), waterless disposable hand wipes or hand sanitizers.

***Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;*** Cleaning of our classrooms and facilities has been increased tremendously. Our custodians disinfect areas such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, doorknobs, handrails, and lockers while our students are in session. Teachers and student desks and chairs are disinfected at the end of each class. In addition, there are hand sanitizing stations in the hallways, the cafeteria, and all entrances as well as hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students and staff are expected to wash their hands frequently during the course of the day. Finally, Tri-County North will be upgrading some HVAC units to improve building wide filtration to increase ventilation. These HVAC units will be serviced and will meet code requirements to improve air quality.

***Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments;*** Contact tracing is the process of finding out who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID. A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID for at least 15 minutes in a day. When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has been in the school during the 48 hour period before symptoms began (or before a positive COVID test for no symptoms), the administration will begin contact tracing using seating charts for the classroom, lunchroom and buses. Close contacts on school sponsored athletic teams and organizations will also be identified. TCN will report positive cases to the health department as soon as they are informed. School officials will notify families that someone in the school has tested positive.

***Staying at home when appropriate:*** Teachers, staff, and families will be educated about when they and their children should stay home and when they can return to school. Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

***Isolation:*** Isolation should be used to separate people diagnosed with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Students, teachers, and staff who are in isolation should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health authority about when it is safe for them to be around others.

***Quarantine:*** Quarantine should be used for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms. Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.

All staff and students, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who is a close contact possibly exposed in the classroom should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure. Any contact who develops symptoms should be isolated away from other students and adults and evaluated for COVID-19. Testing may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parent/guardians.

Systems and policy adjustments may be required for schools to change mask requirements for students and staff while continuing to ensure the safety of unvaccinated populations.



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## ***Diagnostic and screening testing;***

***Diagnostic Testing:*** TCN will offer referrals to diagnostic testing to any student, teacher, or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school. Students, teachers, and staff will be advised to stay home if they are sick or if they have been exposed to COVID-19. They will be encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider about getting COVID-19 test. As vaccine supply increases and more teachers and staff receive vaccines, CDC's priorities for testing will change and the guidance will be updated.

***Screening testing:*** Screening testing is intended to identify infected people without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission.

***Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible;*** Vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students can be administered at existing state and local COVID-19 vaccination sites. In addition, teachers, staff, and students can sign up for an appointment at more than 9,000 pharmacy locations participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination.

## ***Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:***

TCN will have an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan. Educators and school leaders will remain aware of their obligations under federal and state disability laws and should also consider adaptations and alternatives to prevention strategies, while maintaining efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19.

Some students with disabilities might need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors. TCN will consider prioritizing in person instruction for students with disabilities who require special education and related services directly provided in school environments.

6. Each LEA plan describes how it will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Students' academic needs will be addressed by identifying students through the use of NWEA MAP data and formative assessments and implementing and providing targeted intervention strategies to address the needs. Summer intervention will be provided for these targeted students along with the district implementing an intervention process for gap filling. The intervention will use data to identify students along with areas of focus. In addition, resources and instruction will be used that are aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards.

TCN has developed an "Approached to Academic Gap Filling" plan that contains steps that will be taken to remove and overcome barriers that may be associated with the gap filling process. Such steps are K-4 implementing a new ELA curriculum, 5-8 implementing and collecting data for ELA curriculum, and 9-12 using supplemental ELA curriculum to include resources to address deficiency of comprehension of informational text.



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Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be addressed through partnerships, resources, and district plans. TCN will continue the use of third party mental health therapists to identify students and provide individual and group therapy. In addition, teachers will have access to SEL resources and assessment tools to address social and emotional needs of students. Furthermore, district plans such as CCIP, improvement plans (OIP), and student success plan will have a focus on social emotional needs.

7. The LEA periodically reviews, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period and revises its plan as appropriate.
8. The LEA seeks public input and takes such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the revisions to the plan.

This plan was created on June 15, 2021.

This plan was reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_. After seeking input, these were the revisions to the plan.