

Tamaroa Elementary School

2021-2022

Return to Learn

(Updated 8/05/21)

On August 4, 2021, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced that all K-12 schools must mandate the wearing of masks indoors. On August 5, 2021, our Return to Learn plan was changed to meet the requirements of that mandate. If the mandate should be rescinded in the future, this plan will automatically go back to the original plan that was adopted at the July 20, Tamaroa School Board meeting that made the wearing of masks highly encouraged but not mandatory except for instances where the school district may decide to implement mandatory masks wearing based on local COVID numbers.

Tamaroa Elementary School is committed to providing every student with a high-quality public education and the opportunity to succeed in a safe and secure environment. This set of guidelines and protocols was approved July 20, 2021. This document is an ever changing outline based upon the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the CDC, Illinois State Board of Education and IDPH and may be updated based on school community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials. This plan should be considered a living document and is subject to change based on the needs of our students, staff, and community.

Instruction and Learning

The school day will run from 8:20 am to 3:10 pm. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 am to 8:15 am. Students should not be dropped off before 7:45 am. Daily attendance will be taken. Grading will be traditional grading. In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Tamaroa Grade School will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year unless a local COVID breakout would require a short switch to remote instruction. There will no universal remote learning option this school year unless required by a physician.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

Physical Distancing

- To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing to the extent possible by:
 - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet and movement, when possible
 - maintain seating charts
 - coordinate bathroom/restroom breaks to eliminate high levels of congestion
 - providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
 - developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.
 - School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating will be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting).
 - The release of classrooms to the cafeteria may be considered to help ensure social distancing while students wait in line.
 - Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

Face Coverings and P.P.E.

- In accordance with the CDC and the IDPH, universal masking is required for all teachers, staff, students and visitors in K-12 schools, regardless of their vaccination status. It is expected that each child will bring a mask with them to school each day.
 - During school transportation: CDC's Order applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order.

Hand Hygiene

School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by

- continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- assisting young children with handwashing;
- reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;

- using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible;
- continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
- providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored (up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age).

To the greatest extent possible, visitors will be restricted from entry into the building. Face coverings are required to enter a building and must be worn at all times.

All custodial/maintenance staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection as recommended by the IDPH and will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:

- a. Desktops
- b. Door handles
- c. Countertops
- d. Handrails
- e. Light switches
- f. Drinking fountains
- g. Restroom fixtures

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be disinfected daily. Extra sanitation efforts will occur during in-class learning which will address high traffic/common areas.

Health

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.

Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.

Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Students should provide documentation of their COVID-19 vaccination cards to their school's office to avoid a possible quarantine; staff should provide documentation of their vaccination cards to their immediate supervisor. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. Quarantine decisions will be made and communicated by the Perry County Health Department.

Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs. Remote instruction will only be made available to students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine only while they are under quarantine or excluded consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or IDPH.

To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with Perry County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.

Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the CDC guidelines to determine when they can return to school.

Student, Staff, and Visitor Health Checklist

Parents are required to complete the COVID-19 Daily Student Checklist for their child(ren) each day before sending their child(ren) to school. If you answer YES to any of the questions below, have your child(ren) STAY HOME.

In order to attend school, all students must be screened by their parents for symptoms of COVID-19 and other criteria. All staff must also screen themselves for this criteria prior to reporting to work. By attending school, all students and staff are certifying that they meet the following criteria:

1. They do not have a temperature over 100°F.
2. They are not taking fever-reducing medicines, such as those that contain aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen, in order to reduce his/her fever.
3. They have not been directed to self-quarantine by a healthcare provider.
4. They have not been directed to self-quarantine by the County or State Department of Public Health.
5. They do not have any of the following symptoms:
 - New Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue from unknown cause
 - Muscle or body aches from unknown cause
 - New onset of moderate or severe headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Visitors will be restricted to essential personnel only during the school day. Proper mask use is required by all visitors. Visitors to the building must report directly to the main office for a wellness screening.