



**2023-2024**  
**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction**  
**&**  
**Continuity of Services Plan**

*March 13, 2024*

## **Student Attendance**

Schramm Educational Center and Rogers Academy students will receive special education services in-person daily. Daily attendance and engagement of students should be expected whether students are participating in classes in-person or remotely. Staff should make daily contact with all students and families, especially those who are not in attendance or not engaging in classes, whether in-person or remotely.

Remote instruction will be made available for students who are under quarantine due to diagnosis of COVID-19. Remote instruction will occur through a mutually agreed upon Temporary Individual Remote Learning Plan developed in consultation with parents/guardians and on-going documentation recorded in a Remote Service Log for each student.

Teachers, SLPs, OT/COTA, and/or PT/PTA will provide educational materials and on-line learning activities that students can access at home. Instructional activities will be based on student IEP goals/objectives, which reflect Illinois Learning Standards and incorporate life skills activities. This includes, but is not limited to, cooking, chores, cleaning, hygiene, and social conversations, etc. Games, toys, or household items to which the students and parents may have access to may be utilized. Teachers will develop and implement a Temporary Individualized Remote Learning Plan to assure accessibility of instruction to all students in collaboration with parent and related service providers for each student on their caseload. Attendance will be taken daily for students. Staff will contact remote learners by phone call or email daily. Teachers will send a schedule and activities for remote learners to complete daily, and documentation will be maintained in the Remote Service Log.

Teachers, SLPs, OT/COTA, and/or PT/PTA will be available via email during regular work hours and keep a daily log of remote activities. Students/parents will have access to communicate with teachers via web-based or phone on a regular basis. Teachers will respond to parent emails/phone calls within 24-48 hours. Assistive technology will be provided to students as needed on an individual, case-by-case basis to access learning activities. Teachers will notify their Program Coordinator of any technology access issues noted by families. Teachers will notify the kitchen staff if families request any assistance with meals.

## **Assessing Students' Skill Levels**

Teachers and related service personnel should identify IEP goals/objectives that were not covered during remote learning. Data will be reviewed from remote learning days and collected upon student return to school based on current progress of IEP goals/objectives for appropriate continuation of educational programming and services. Some regression during remote learning is expected, and collaboration between staff and parents will take place on an individual basis to address learning loss. IEP team meetings will be scheduled as needed, and student performance data and Progress Reports will be shared with parents.

## Special Education Considerations

Districts remain responsible for ensuring that special education students receive a free appropriate public education. They are required to address the individual needs of students eligible for special education services. Districts must adhere to timelines for annual IEP meetings and required evaluations. There continues to be limited flexibility from complying with federal and state laws. All Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 timelines remain in effect. IEP teams should meet to determine whether any amendments to students' IEPs are necessary to address students' current levels of performance.

IEP teams must make individualized determinations regarding placement and where special education students receive services. Students must receive education in their least restrictive environment, according to federal and state laws.

## Safety Plan

We are committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families.

- Masks are optional for all staff and students in the school building.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Health Screenings
  - Only students and staff who are healthy should report for in-person learning. Students and staff with any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses should stay home.
  - Sending students to school is parent certification that the student is temperature and COVID-19 symptom free.
  - Any student with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibiting any other symptoms must report to the Nurse's Office and may be rapid-tested (if given consent).

## Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick

TMCSEA/Schramm Educational Center/Rogers Academy will be prepared and able to respond effectively when there is a case within the school community. Parents, guardians, or other authorized individuals should pick up ill students within a reasonable amount of time; students should not be allowed to utilize the school bus for the return to home. Families and staff should also report cases to the school where the individual attends school or works. Individuals who exhibit symptoms should be referred to a medical provider for evaluation, treatment, and information about when they can return to school.

Monitoring of continual communicable disease diagnoses and monitoring of student and staff absenteeism should occur through collaboration of those taking absence reports and school nurses/school health personnel. Employees and families are encouraged to report COVID-19 diagnoses when reporting absences. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to the local health department by the school health personnel or designee as required by the [Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting](#) requirements issued by IDPH.

### ***Exclusion of Students and School Personnel***

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| <b>If you test positive for COVID-19 (exclusion)</b> | <p>For 24 hours until both are true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fever-free without using fever reducing medications; AND</li><li>2. Symptoms are improving overall.</li></ol> <p>Then, choose to wear a mask around others for five more days after returning to school<br/><u>OR</u> remain home for five additional days after meeting both criteria listed above.*</p> <p><i>Upon return to school and for the next 5 days, CDC recommends enhancing hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distance from others when indoors as much as possible.*</i></p> |
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Symptoms of [COVID-19](#) are fever (a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. When interacting with students or staff who may be sick, school nurses and personnel should follow CDC guidance on standard and transmission-based precautions.

Due to wide-ranging symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection, Rapid Point-Of-Care (POC) Tests may be useful diagnostic tools for testing individuals in the early stages of COVID-19 infection when viral load is generally highest. The test involves the insertion of a nasal swab less than one inch into the nostrils, and the results are delivered in just 15 minutes. The benefit of POC Tests in schools is that the results may be used to expedite quarantine requirements and to inform infection prevention and control measures, thus preventing transmission.

TMCSEA/Schramm Educational Center/Rogers Academy will perform COVID-19 Rapid POC Testing for staff and students who are experiencing symptoms while at school. Please see the [Fact Sheet for Patients](#) to help understand the potential risks and benefits of using this test for the diagnosis of COVID-19. Written parent/guardian consent is required in order for us to perform Rapid POC Testing for our students at school, and written consent is required for any staff member wishing to be tested at school. Consent for Rapid POC Testing is valid for this school year and through the Extended School Year Program. Additionally, consent may be withdrawn at any time by contacting a School Nurse, Program Coordinator, or Director.

Student COVID vaccination documentation will be maintained in the Nurses' Office. Schools are permitted to verify student vaccination status in a number of ways, including requesting proof of vaccination records, reviewing I-CARE records, and allowing individuals to attest to their vaccination status. If staff voluntarily turn in a copy of their COVID vaccination card, this health documentation will be kept in the employee health file in the Administrative Office. Remote instruction will be provided to students who are self-quarantining, if they are well enough to engage in learning. Teachers and staff who are self-quarantining may request to work remotely if they are well enough to do so, which requires Program Coordinator/Director approval.

## Hand Hygiene

TMCSEA encourages frequent and proper handwashing. Availability of supplies, such as soap and paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc., for classrooms, therapy rooms and in all common areas of the building will be provided. Cloth towels should not be used. Handwashing with soap and water is always the first recommended line of defense, but where this is not feasible or readily accessible, the use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used.

Hands should be washed often with soap and water for 20 seconds. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; before food preparation or before and after eating; before/after routine care for another person, such as a student; after contact with a person who is sick; upon return from the playground/physical education; and following glove removal.

## Symptom Screenings

Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

All staff and visitors should monitor symptoms prior to entering school buildings. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or currently have known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, or diarrhea, should not enter school buildings. Individuals who exhibit or self-report symptoms should be referred to a medical provider for evaluation, treatment, and information about when they can return to school.

## Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be available to and used by staff, as needed, based on exposure risk. Training to staff will be provided on the proper use of PPE. Employers are required to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration [standards](#) on bloodborne pathogens, including the [proper disposal of PPE and regulated waste](#). Staff should request any specific PPE needs to their Program Coordinator through the established purchase requisition procedure.

## Illness and Diagnoses Monitoring

TMCSEA will institute a tracking process to maintain ongoing monitoring of individuals excluded from school due to COVID-19 diagnosis. Tracking ensures CDC and local health authority criteria for discontinuing home quarantine are met before a student or staff member returns to school. Tracking methods include checking in with the school nurse upon return to school to verify resolution of symptoms and that any other criteria for discontinuation of quarantine have been met.

Continual communicable disease diagnosis monitoring and the monitoring of student and staff absenteeism should occur through collaboration of those taking absence reports and school nurses. Employees and families are encouraged to report COVID-19 diagnoses when reporting absences. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported as required by the Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting requirements issued by IDPH.

## **Mental Health**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established “988” as the nationwide, three-digit phone number for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors.

## **Itinerant and Related Services for Students**

It is important to consider services for students with disabilities, English Learners, and other students so that such students may receive services, but also to assure adherence to equity, integration, and other requirements of civil rights laws, including federal disability laws. Mitigation measures should be taken to limit the potential transmission of infection, including providing any necessary PPE for staff/students.

Itinerant teachers and visiting specialists must continue to provide services to students with disabilities as necessary to provide free appropriate public education (FAPE). In-person services should be coordinated to ensure adherence to social distancing and other health and safety guidelines. Services may be provided remotely as necessary, and telehealth visits may be considered, if feasible.

In-person instruction at home is allowed for medically homebound students. Local public health officials may be consulted to ensure compliance with health and safety guidelines and procedures. Find additional information on homebound instruction [here](#).



**TMCSEA**  
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"Equal Educational  
Opportunities for All"

**KRISTINA D. NEVILLE, SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR**  
Terrie Schappaugh, Administrative Assistant

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Staff Consent for Point of Care (POC) COVID-19 Testing

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give consent to receive rapid Point of Care COVID-19 testing performed by a TMCSEA school nurse. I have received a copy of the "Fact Sheet for Patients" regarding the COVID-19 testing. This fact sheet has been provided by Abbott Diagnostics and lists the potential risks and benefits of this test.

I understand that a positive result will be considered a presumptive positive, the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) will be notified of the results, and I will need to isolate according to TMCSEA exclusion guidance. I further understand that TMCSEA is required to provide all test results to TCHD, and nurses may share test results with the TMCSEA Director and Program Coordinator(s) as appropriate.

I waive any claims I might have against TMCSEA, its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, its member school districts, its employees and agents arising out of this testing including but not limited to possible exclusion from school. In addition, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify all of these parties from and against any and all claims, damages, cause of action or injuries incurred or resulting from the administration or attempted administration of the Point of Care COVID-19 test or otherwise connected to this testing.

This consent is valid through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, as well as for the summer 2024 Extended School Year Program. I further understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to allow POC Antigen COVID-19 testing to be performed.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do NOT want POC Antigen COVID-19 testing performed.

Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Member School Districts; 50-District No. 50 Schools; 51-Central Grade School; 52-Washington Elementary Schools; 76-Creve Coeur Schools; 85-Robein School; 86-East Peoria Elementary Schools; 98-Rankin School; 102-North Pekin-Marquette Hts. Schools; 108-Pekin Public Schools; 137-South Pekin Grade School; 303-Pekin Community High School; 308-Washington Community High School; 309-East Peoria Community High School; 606-Spring Lake Community Consolidated; 701-Deer Creek-Mackinaw Community Unit; 702-Tremont Community Unit; 703-Delavan Community Unit; 709-Morton Community Unit; 126-Havana Community Unit; 189-Illini Central Community Unit; 191-Midwest Central Community Unit

## TMCSEA

### TAZEWELL-MASON COUNTIES SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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**KRISTINA D. NEVILLE, SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR**

Terrie Schappaugh, Administrative Assistant

#### Parent Consent for Point of Care (POC) COVID-19 Testing

As the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I give consent for him/her to receive rapid Point of Care COVID-19 testing performed by a TMCSEA school nurse. I have received a copy of the "Fact Sheet for Patients" regarding the COVID-19 testing. This fact sheet has been provided by Abbott Diagnostics and lists the potential risks and benefits of this test.

I understand that a positive result will be considered a presumptive positive, the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) will be notified of the results, and my child will need to isolate according to TCHD exclusion guidance.

I also understand that if the result is negative, and my child is symptomatic of COVID-19, he/she will still need to be picked up from school as soon as possible, with recommendation for further testing, and required to follow the COVID-19 School Exclusion Guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

I understand that the test will not be performed should my child not be cooperative with the testing process. I further understand that TMCSEA is required to provide all test results to TCHD/IDPH, and nurses may share test results with the TMCSEA Director and Program Coordinator(s) as appropriate.

I waive any claims I might have against TMCSEA, its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, its member school districts, its employees and agents arising out of this testing including but not limited to possible exclusion from school. In addition, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify all of these parties from and against any and all claims, damages, cause of action or injuries incurred or resulting from the administration or attempted administration of the Point of Care COVID-19 test or otherwise connected to this testing.

This consent is valid through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, as well as for the summer 2024 Extended School Year Program should my child attend. I further understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time.

☐ Yes, I agree to allow POC Antigen COVID-19 testing to be performed on my child.

☐ No, I do NOT want POC Antigen COVID-19 testing performed on my child.

Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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