

# THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
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<http://tfschools.org>

Lisa Goldey, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

Kerri Lee Walsifer  
Director of Special Services

Vincent Daniels  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

August 19, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians of Students in the Tinton Falls School District:

I hope this letter finds you well and you have enjoyed the summer months. As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, here are some important items for your review. We look forward to welcoming all our students to the district on September 8, 2021. Please make sure that you have reviewed the district calendar. [The district calendar](#) is available on the district website as well.

As you know, guidance continues to be fluid and changing when it comes to practices related to COVID-19. As guidance continues to be available, updates will be sent out to the community to keep you informed. Please reference this letter as you prepare your children to start the school year. Guidance implemented in the schools are taken from several sources. These include [The Road Forward \(NJDOE, 2021\)](#), [Center for Disease Control Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools \(2021\)](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(Healthy Children.org, 2021\)](#), and [the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools \(2021\)](#).

In addition to the health and safety of our staff and students, it is our priority to have all our students in school for full-day instruction in as normal a school environment as possible. No other format is being considered or is permissible unless the student is in quarantine due to COVID-19. Instruction will be provided through remote synchronous opportunities to students in quarantine only. It is the expectation that a remote option would start within a reasonable amount of time (one day) to allow the teacher to prepare to deliver instruction.

Please read the important information outlined below. Any questions that you may have regarding the procedures may be directed to the building or district administration. Additional guidance that is school-specific will be provided to you by the school's principal.

**Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy School Facilities:** The custodial staff will clean and/or disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often; such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, and phones at least daily. Similar cleaning protocols to last year in our lunchroom between classes will be followed.

We will continue to improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.

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**Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:** Staff and students will be required to wash and sanitize hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and in the lunchroom for use. Handwashing/sanitizing must occur after the use of the restroom and before and after eating.

**Health Screening:** Parents should screen students daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Parents will not be required to complete a screener. Students' temperatures will not be taken daily. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle and body aches, the new loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea and vomiting, and diarrhea. If your child is exhibiting symptoms, please keep them home and please speak to your physician. Please contact our school nurse to report the absence from school and any symptoms that your child has. One of the most effective ways of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our schools is to do our best to keep it from entering.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while in school will not be permitted to remain. We ask that if a student needs to be picked up due to illness, it is done as quickly as possible. Students with COVID-19 symptoms will need to be tested and show a negative test to return to school. If a student is waiting for test results, the student should not be present in school until results have been received.

It is critical that if your child tests positive for COVID-19, the school nurse is made aware of the test results immediately. A rapid test is permissible by the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission. A PCR test is preferred. A positive test begins a process of contact tracing. If your child is a household contact or had close contact outside of school, please contact the school nurse to report the student's need to quarantine.

**Masks:** The Governor has signed [Executive Order 251](#), effective August 9th until further notice, related to the use of face coverings inside of school buildings. It is required that all staff, students, and visitors wear masks while inside the school building regardless of vaccination status as outlined by [Executive Order 251](#). Adults who do not wear a mask will not be permitted to enter the school building.

For students who come to school without wearing a mask, the protocol listed here will be followed:

- Students will be provided a disposable mask to wear for the school day.

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- Students who will not wear a mask will be moved to a quarantine area and parents will be called.
- Parents will be asked to pick up their child(ren) if the student is still refusing to wear a mask.

There are limited instances in Executive Order 251 where masks are not needed inside the school building. Many of these circumstances are related to an individual's disability or a documented medical condition. Masks are also required to be worn at all times on the school bus as outlined by [Order under section 361 of the Public Health Service Act and 42 Code of Federal Regulations](#).

Please send your child to school with multiple masks. This way, masks can be changed as needed. Cloth masks should be laundered daily, and disposable masks should be worn only once.

Masks will not be worn when students are outside or when eating. Mask breaks will be incorporated into the school day as much as possible.

**Physical distancing:** Students will be physically distanced in the classroom of at least three feet. A plexiglass barrier will be used when social distancing cannot be maintained to the three feet recommendation. Students will be educated and reminded of social distancing requirements throughout the school day.

**Quarantine/Isolation:** As of now, quarantine guidelines are as follows (subject to change based on transmission levels and updated guidance):

- **Individuals who test positive for COVID-19:** Will need to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or from the positive test date if asymptomatic.

**Close Contact with a positive individual (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period):**

- Vaccinated individuals: Do not need to quarantine unless symptomatic.
- Unvaccinated individuals: Will need to quarantine for up to 10 days. If asymptomatic quarantine period can be reduced to 7 days with a negative test on day 5 to 7 of exposure.

**Social-Emotional Health:** The school district recognizes that this pandemic has impacted our community, families, and students in many ways. As a result, we are committed to providing

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staff and students with ways to focus on social-emotional health. As we embark on the 21-22 school year, we are in a place of recovery and hope to rebuild our own strength, stamina, and success. Therefore, the Tinton Falls School District is committed to supporting our staff and students in our Social-Emotional Learning. "SEL is the foundation, the heartbeat of the classroom," and an integral part of learning for all. Guidance counselors will lead the focus on this initiative. Wellness activities will be available for everyone. If you believe your child is in need of additional support, please contact your child's teacher, case manager, guidance counselor, or school principal.

**Visitors:** Opportunities for parents to visit our schools will be available. Determination about allowing visitors in our school will be determined by the COVID activity level report (CALI). When the area is experiencing a low or moderate activity level, visitors will be permitted. When the area is experiencing a high activity level, only school personnel and students will be permitted to enter the school building. More information will be provided by the school principal for opportunities to increase parent participation.

We appreciate the support that the community has provided to our schools. It is critical that we work together to maintain a healthy environment for our students to thrive in. We look forward to establishing positive routines, educational experiences, and social opportunities for all our learners. #resilience\_strength\_community #TFSPantherpride

Sincerely,

Lisa Goldey, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools