

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



## School District of Tomahawk

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# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of Tomahawk will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.
- Students, staff, and bus drivers must wear a face covering on school buses/transportation
- The District recommends students be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend school.
- The District will continue building level mitigation strategies at school, such as social distancing as much as possible, hand sanitizing practices, cohort grouping in the elementary for various grade levels, and following lunch and recess procedures.
- The District will have the opportunity to provide free COVID-19 testing for students and staff. No student will be required to be tested. Parents will need to consent to participate in the school testing program. More information and consent forms will be provided to parents as soon as they are available.
- Once a student or staff member tests positive, CDC contact tracing and quarantine guidelines will be followed.
- All fall events will be open to the public, with the same guidelines above.

Highlighted Information From Tomahawk Website

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The School District of Tomahawk will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning. Students who are quarantined receive instruction virtually through the use of synchronous and asynchronous learning models using our various learning management systems.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Tomahawk will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for

summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The School District of Tomahawk employs one (1) school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with independent counselors that provide services.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

The Tomahawk School Board has not adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. Wearing of masks is recommended

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

### Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-

touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are treated with a nano-technology barrier solution on a bi-weekly basis. This solution is rated to last 30 days on surfaces, and the District elects to retreat surfaces at the rated half-life of the product.

The School District of Tomahawk provided rooms with Medify MA-40 Air purifiers with H13 True HEPA Filters.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

The School District of Tomahawk will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

The School District of Tomahawk will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process. Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

The School District of Tomahawk recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. Should the District see the need for on-site testing, students could have the option to be tested with parent permission when they are identified as close contacts or become symptomatic.

### **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Resources and locations are provided to staff and students regarding vaccinations.

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

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations

are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

### **Coordination with state and local health officials**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices*

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The School District of Tomahawk continues to work with Lincoln and Oneida Counties Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

### District response on continuity of services

**The School District of Tomahawk will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The School District of Tomahawk has implemented a summer school program to assist students in grades K-12 in need of academic support. Students in grades K-8 are identified based on academic needs in the areas of ELA and Math. Students in grades 9-12 are provided opportunities for academic recovery due to failure of a course or lack of credits. The credit recovery option is held during a three-week time period. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional training and resources have been provided to staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals were provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under through June 30, 2021.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.



# Periodic Review

## Overview

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The School District of Tomahawk will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

# Public Input

## Overview

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The School District of Tomahawk has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.tomahawk.k12.wi.us/district/covid-19-updates-and-information.cfm>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Tomahawk School District Board of Education meetings on November 7 and 21, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the October 25, 2021, Board meeting. The Board was updated on March 21, 2023.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.