



On Monday, December 7th, Tri-County Primary (TCP) and Tri-County Intermediate (TCI) will return to in-person instruction, while Tri-County Jr/Sr high school will continue with remote instruction for the week of Monday, December 7th thru Friday, December 12th. Currently, the goal is to reopen Tri-County Jr/Sr High School with in-person instruction on Monday, December 14th. All extra-curricular activities, practices, and events in each building are postponed during this hybrid model.

While everyone agrees high quality, in-person instruction is the safest and most effective way to educate students, the difficult decision to transition to remote learning for the Jr/Sr. High School is the best choice at this time. While there were confirmed positive cases in each building during the Thanksgiving Break and subsequent week after the break, the Jr/Sr. high school required too many staff to be out that we could not adequately staff the building. Although the original goal was to reopen all three buildings for in-person instruction this upcoming week, as new information was collected late in the week, keeping the Jr/Sr High School on remote learning was our only viable option.

It was not a single positive case that caused the Jr/Sr. High school to remain in remote learning, but it was a combination of factors that contributed to this decision. The students and staff who have communicated with the administration, coaches, and teachers should be commended for their honesty and integrity when communicating with the school. If these brave students and staff had not taken the necessary and appropriate actions to report positive tests, the spread of COVID-19 would be prevalent within the school. Thankfully, the spread of COVID-19 remains minimal within the school as evident by the updated data on cases in our schools. Updated information can continue to be found at our website, trico.k12.in.us.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance for families to continue to follow the CDC guidelines of physical distancing, properly wearing face coverings, and frequent hand washing while at school and in the community. Also, if feeling ill for any reason, please stay home. As we approach the Christmas Break, it is critical families adhere to these guidelines.

Lastly, the CDC recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the CDC did provide the option to shorten quarantine. Tri-County School Corporation will consider ending a quarantine after day 10 without testing, if asymptomatic during daily monitoring. A building-level administrator will contact families if the change in the CDC guidance impacts your child's ability to safely return to school.

Tri-County will continue to require self-isolation for students and staff considered a close contact. It is important to self-isolate from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Preventing the spread will hopefully allow Tri-County to successfully re-open and conduct extra-curricular activities.

Thank you, students and parents/guardians for the patience and flexibility throughout the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Yours in Education,
Patrick Culp, Superintendent