

Teton Science Schools' Covid-19 Operations and FAQ

For Field Education Programs

Updated June 2022

Protocols will be assessed and updated as the CDC, State of Wyoming, Teton County, and National Park Service guidelines evolve. If you have questions about these protocols and guidelines, please contact one of the Directors of Field Education at fedirectors@tetonscience.org.

1. Face masks are currently required for all staff, participants, and chaperones, when indoors and in vehicles, except when eating or sleeping, regardless of vaccination status. This includes entry ways, hallways, common areas, and stairwells.
 - a. In residential dorms and individual rooms, when TSS staff and members of other visiting groups are not present, groups may follow their own masking policy at times when local guidance allows for optional masking.
 - b. Face masks are not required outdoors except for when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - c. Exemptions: masks will not be required for the Young Adventurers Summer Camp, anyone who cannot wear a face covering because of a medical or mental health condition, developmental disability, those claiming a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or those who fall under the CDC's guidance for not covering one's face.
2. Visiting groups must screen all participants and chaperones for any Covid-19 symptoms and for any close contact with Covid-19 positive individuals before arriving at Teton Science Schools **AND** daily prior to the start of each field day.
 - a. Use the following screening questions:
 - i. Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 5 days with someone diagnosed with Covid-19?
 - ii. Has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you/someone in your household and advised you/them to quarantine within the last 14 days?
 - iii. Is anyone in your household unwell with an undiagnosed illness?
 - iv. Do you have any of these symptoms?
 1. Fever (>100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)
 2. Chills
 3. Sore throat
 4. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 5. Muscle aches not caused by another health condition
 6. New or worsening headache that is not normal for you or caused by another health condition
 7. Cough
 8. New loss of taste or smell
 9. Nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal pain

- v. Have you recently been diagnosed with Covid-19?
3. Staff, participants and chaperones may not participate in TSS programming if they have been diagnosed with Covid-19 within 5 days preceding their visit or been in close contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19 within 5 days preceding their visit, or according to current CDC guidelines.
4. Time outdoors will be maximized.
5. During meals, table groups will be kept small when numbers allow, and participants will be spread out as much as possible.
6. If someone shows symptoms of Covid-19 and/or tests positive while they are staying at TSS or participating in a TSS program, we will isolate that person as much as possible, contact their parents if they are a minor, and contact public health for guidance. We will do the same for any close contacts, which will include that person's roommates. The symptomatic and/or positive individuals and close contacts would not be able to continue to participate in TSS programming. Most likely, TSS will facilitate getting all isolated individuals home as soon as possible, though we recognize that in some circumstances "as soon as possible" will simply be the end of the program. TSS is unable to offer accommodations after the program's official end.

FAQ

Why are we requiring masking indoors and in vehicles?

Field Education participants frequently travel to our campuses from communities across the United States and around the world. Participants and staff work together in small groups that may change on daily or weekly bases. Given the difficulty of tracking Covid-19 risks across these variables, we are requiring masks in places where the risk of transmission is greatest. Doing so will not only protect our participants and their communities, but will also keep TSS staff healthy and able to continue delivering excellent programs and educational outcomes. Notably, the majority of time participants spend at TSS is outdoors where masks will not be required.

Will you require negative tests upon arrival?

We will not require proof of negative Covid-19 tests upon arrival. We encourage groups to coordinate testing before and after travel to TSS and relay any positive results to your local public health officials and TSS program coordinators. Groups must conduct their own screening of Covid-19 symptoms and exposure prior to arrival at TSS. Anyone with a positive test or close contact to a positive case may not attend nor arrive at TSS.

Do you require vaccinations for TSS staff members?

Currently, we are not requiring staff vaccination, though we highly encourage vaccination for all employees. Going forward, TSS will follow all federal mandates regarding vaccination of employees.

Do you require vaccinations for all visiting participants and chaperones?

We highly encourage and recommend vaccination for all visitors and participants of TSS programs.

What happens if our group chooses to cancel due to Covid-19?

If your group chooses to cancel your program due to Covid-19, please let us know by emailing fielddeduction@tetonscience.org. We will reach out to you to discuss the details and options. For any cancellations made by your group outside of 120 days, deposits may be refunded or applied to a program rescheduled prior to June 1, 2023. For any programs that must be canceled due to local, state, or national public health orders, deposits may be refunded or applied to a program rescheduled prior to June 1, 2023. We will work with you to reschedule your program but cannot guarantee that there will be availability or that we can meet your preferred dates. We will work with you to retain your historic dates for the coming year to the best of our ability. For programs canceled by your group within 120 day for reasons other than public health orders, deposits will be forfeited. As a reminder, every group is required to pay for their contracted minimum number of participants.