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ITCA BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

COVID-19 has created unique challenges for education in Idaho and around the country. Schools are struggling to find a way to open in the fall, and to be able to provide a quality education for students.

Fortunately, as a virtual school, our school is expected to continue normal operations. However, we may experience changes related to special education services, school trips, testing, and other events.

Though the situation is changing rapidly, it is important to know that the ITCA staff is closely monitoring the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE), Central District Health (CDH), and other state Health Districts' guidance to ensure that all required recommendations are being met.

This plan will outline the Idaho Technical Career Academy (ITCA) model for returning to school in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year through the 2023 -2024 school year.

It is the Idaho Technical Career Academy's priority that our students and parents remain informed and stay healthy and safe.



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INTRODUCTION

The ITCA plan is modeled on the Idaho Back to School Framework (The Framework), advocated by the Idaho State Board of Education.

The Framework outlines 3 categories used to identify the level of transmission/risk, which, in return, provide guidance for action based on the level of transmission. The definitions, taken from The Framework are:

FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKING

	Category 1: No Community Transmission	Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission
Definitions	Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.	Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.
Level of Operations	School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation	School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation	Targeted, short-term, or extended building closure

Additionally, once a category is communicated to the public, the following table identifies the corresponding learning model to be adopted based on the level of transmission associated with the stated category:

IDENTIFY LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION/RISK

Level of Community Spread	Learning Model	Response
Category 1 No Community Transmission	Traditional	School buildings open
Category 2 Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Traditional	School buildings open
	Hybrid/Blended	Limited/Staggered Use of School Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Closure • Short-term Closure (1 to 4 weeks) • Mid-term Closure (4 to 6 weeks)
	Full Distance/Remote Learning	Minimal Use of School Building - Limited in-person instruction for special education and special needs populations
Category 3 Substantial Community Transmission	Full Distance/Remote Learning	School Buildings Closed for Extended Period of Time (longer than 6 weeks)

ITCA is a virtual school, and therefore, operates in the Category 3 environment as a matter of normal operations. School related in-person interactions will be added when required, and when safe to do so.

SCHOOL RELATED IN-PERSON INTERACTIONS

For activities where in-person interaction is considered, ITCA will follow the State Board of Education's *Back to School Framework 2020*. ITCA students and staff live throughout the state. Therefore, the local Health District's status for each affected area will be considered in any school-related, in-person planning.

Preventative measures, including PPE:

Category 1

- A. Personnel, students, and/or visitors:
 - i. may wear masks/face shield protection.
 - ii. exhibiting symptoms will be required to exit the premises as soon as possible and will wear a mask until able to exit.
 - iii. will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer upon entering and before exiting the premises. The school will ensure hand sanitizer is available.
- B. Sneeze guards will be used in appropriate locations.
- C. Non-latex gloves will be utilized when engaging in direct student contact activities such as face cleaning, feeding, etc.
- D. Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- E. The school will encourage personnel and parents to screen themselves and parents to screen students prior to attending an in-person school event and not bring a student to an event if she or he is exhibiting any possible virus symptoms.
 - i. The school will provide the [CDC COVID-19 Self Checker](#) site.
- F. The school will encourage good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and face coverings.
- G. Alternate protective measures will be considered for medically vulnerable staff and students as well as students with special needs.

Categories 2 and 3

- A. Mask or face shield will be worn by all school personnel, students, and visitors. Local, state, or federal mandates will override school guidelines.
- B. Personnel, students, and/or visitors:
 - i. will be screened upon entry to the premises, including a check for low-grade fever with no-touch thermometer and/or symptom checking. Those exhibiting symptoms will not enter the premises.
 - ii. will follow *Preventative Measure Category 1.A.ii* and *Category 1.A.iii* guidelines above.
- C. The school will follow *Preventative Measure Category 1.B through Category 1.G* guidelines above.

Note: IDEA/Special Education will be addressed on an individual basis.

Testing:

If personnel, a student, or visitor tests positive, ITCA will support the local Health District in contact tracing and communicating to families and staff.

Note: IDEA/Special Education will be addressed on an individual basis.

Family Considerations:

Online schooling orientation, training, activities, and support will continue as usual. When in Category 2, consideration for continued in-person activities will be given to students with disabilities depending on individual needs and local Health District mandates.

Note: IDEA/Special Education will be addressed on an individual basis.

Staffing:

ITCA will:

- A. adhere to all board, state, and federal laws and policies.
- B. consider offering special accommodations to vulnerable staff for any school related in-person activities.
- C. will keep staff informed if/when there is a Category change.

Communications:

- A. ITCA will provide the *ITCA COVID-19 School Opening Plan* to personnel, students, and parents and will be available to answer any questions.
- B. When considering school related in-person activities ITCA will communicate the current Category to personnel, students, and parents.

Professional Development:

ITCA will:

- A. provide the school's *COVID-19 Reopening Plans* to staff, parents, and students.
- B. provide parent, student, and staff education on COVID-19 health and safety measures.

Student Assessment:

- A. ITCA will administer all state, and federally required assessments as directed by state and federal officials.
- B. ITCA will continue local benchmark and formative assessments as usual.
- C. For any in-person assessments, ITCA will follow the guidelines outlined in the [Preventative Measures, including PPE section](#) of this plan.

Instruction & Student Learning:

ITCA will continue instruction as usual. All board, state, and federal guidelines, rules, and regulations will be followed. IDEA/Special Education will be addressed on an individual basis.

Social Emotional Learning:

ITCA will implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) with all students utilizing *The 7 Mindsets*.

WORKING IN THE OFFICE – FACILITIES

ITCA will:

- A. Maintain a six-foot social distancing buffer
- B. provide hand soap and/or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trashcans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- C. clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.
- D. conduct deep cleaning of the office prior to reopening and schedule regular deep cleanings.

IF SOMEONE IS POSITIVE - CONFIRMED CASE IN THE SCHOOL

A confirmed case or contact when a staff member, student, or visitor has been present at a school related in-person activity or event may require different procedures based on the individual case dynamics in consultation with local public health officials. ITCA will coordinate with the local health district for contact tracing and will inform those who may have been in contact.

GUIDELINES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

ITCA follows the recommended guidelines of the State of Idaho, the State Board of Education and local health departments regarding opening school facilities safely. Outlined in the following webpages are the guidelines developed by each entity. Links provided in this plan are most recent available.

- State of Idaho – [Stages of Reopening](#)
- State Board of Education – [Back to School Framework 2020](#)
- Central District Health Department – [Guidance for Schools](#)