



# 2022-2023\* ENDEMIC SAFETY PLAN

**Under COVID-19  
Conditions**



*\* THIS IS A FLUID WORKING DOCUMENT THAT MAY BE ADJUSTED AS CONDITIONS AND/OR GUIDANCE CHANGES.*

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. MIKE SWIZE

Dear Palm Springs Unified Families:

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year. We are so excited to launch the new year on August 10 in a full traditional schedule.

While the most stringent restrictions that resulted from the COVID-19 spread may be behind us, there are new variants that continue to manifest themselves, and even though many adults and children are vaccinated, immunity to these variants is not guaranteed. For these reasons we cannot let our guards down and need to still take as many precautions as we can to keep spread down as much as possible. While COVID-19 is no longer considered at the “pandemic” stage, it has now evolved into an “endemic” that is expected to be a part of our lives into the foreseeable future.

In addition to the recommendation to continue to wear face coverings in indoor settings, health and safety measures include reminding our students about the importance of frequent hand washing and sanitizing and daily cleaning of all high touch surfaces and classrooms. You will receive information and instructions from your principal regarding any procedures or protocols specific to your child’s school site.

As the superintendent for the Palm Springs Unified School District with a 33-year history beginning as a teacher and then moving into administration, I want all of our families to know that PSUSD’s Board of Education, administration and staff members are second to none when it comes to dedication and commitment to doing what’s best for each and every one of our students. The physical, social and emotional health and safety of our students is and always will be our top priority. We encourage vaccinations and boosters for all who are eligible, as recommended by health officials in order to maximize the health and safety of everyone.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we continue to navigate through these COVID-19 variants. For more information or questions, please email [covidinfo@psusd.us](mailto:covidinfo@psusd.us) or call (760) 325-8778.

Sincerely,



Mike Swize, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Public Health Recommendations

This plan was developed using recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Riverside County Public Health (RCPH), Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), California Department of Education (CDE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

## How COVID-19 Spreads

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person through inhaled respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, exhales, sneezes, or vocalizes. These droplets can enter the respiratory tract (mouth, nose, and lungs) of people who are nearby and cause infection. Although it is not considered to be the primary reason why the virus spreads, transmission may be possible by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

## Personal Prevention Measures to Stop the Spread

To prevent additional spread of COVID-19, students and staff are strongly recommended to take the following steps:

- Vaccination against COVID-19 if eligible
- Wear a face covering indoors
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer
- Observe cough/sneeze etiquette
- Optimize ventilation for indoor spaces
- Perform daily personal symptom health check screening

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

CDC and CDPH strongly recommend the COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible staff and students. Currently COVID-19 Vaccination is not required for students to attend school. Free vaccination clinics are available for all district families.

## SAFETY MEASURES REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

### Health Screening Measures

- Staff and students are required to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 at home daily. Parents will agree to monitor for symptoms daily prior to arriving at school and keep the student at home if symptomatic.
- If any symptoms of COVID-19 are exhibited, student/staff must remain at home.
- COVID-19 affects people in different ways. Infected people have reported a wide range of symptoms, from mild symptoms to severe illness. Signs of illness can include:
  - Fever (greater than 100.4) or chills
  - Headache
  - Cough
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Nasal congestion or runny nose
  - Fatigue
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Sore throat
- Any staff or student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be screened by trained medical personnel. If deemed necessary, the parent will be notified, and the student will be sent home.



## Identification of Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- PSUSD will consult with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Riverside County of Public Health (RCDPH) to ensure mitigation practices and response protocols are aligned with current guidance.
- If the District becomes aware of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19 or a direct exposure to COVID-19, the District will report to RCDPH and inform any persons who were possibly exposed, as appropriate.
- When a student is identified as showing symptoms of COVID-19 he/she will be assessed by a trained staff member or nurse. The student will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask if not exempt. If deemed necessary, the parent/guardian/ emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child.
- Students may be required to remain off campus for up to 10 days after symptom development. Short-term independent study may be available for 3-14 days, up to 20 days per year. Long term independent study options may be available through Desert Learning Academy.

## Requirements to Return to School After a Student is Diagnosed with COVID-19:

Once a student is confirmed to be diagnosed with COVID-19, the student may return to school when ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- 1) At least 5 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared AND;
- 2) A negative antigen test is collected on day 5 or later after symptoms present AND;
- 3) Overall improvement of symptoms AND;
- 4) At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications.

## Contact Tracing

- The purpose of contact tracing is to track illness and potential direct exposures to illness.
- Once notified of a positive case of COVID-19, the district designee will begin contact tracing notification of those with potential direct exposure.
- Contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with an infection. The identity of the positive patient will remain confidential.
- Students who are determined to have been in a classroom with a positive case will be notified via the Group Exposure Notification Letter being sent home to parents electronically.

## Testing for COVID-19 for Staff and Students

- Students and staff will have access to on-site symptomatic and response testing, as well as regular access to asymptomatic testing, as required by the California Department of Health. Testing will only be performed with written parental/guardian consent.

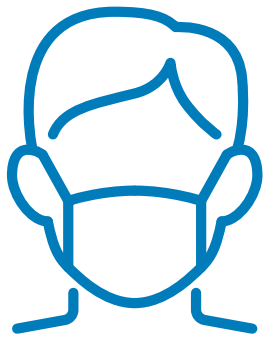
## Visitors on Campus

- Non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities will be limited when students are on campus.

## Face Coverings

All students and staff are strongly recommended to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. California Department of Public Health recommends all school site staff, students and visitors wear a mask or cloth face covering that fully covers the nose and mouth, secure underneath the chin and fit securely against both sides of the face. Face masks should be 2-layers.

- Schools will provide a face covering for any student by request.
- Students should not touch the face covering. Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.



## Hand Hygiene

All students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, rubbing thoroughly after application at various times throughout the day including but not limited to:

- Upon arrive to the school site
- Before leaving the site
- Upon entry to any new classroom
- Before meals
- When using the restroom
- When visibly dirty
- After using a tissue or coughing into hands
- Upon arriving home

If soap and water are not available use district-provided hand sanitizer. There are written instructions and signage on proper hand washing techniques at all schools. Hand hygiene guidance also includes avoiding contact with eyes, nose and mouth and teaching children to sneeze into a tissue or elbow and to throw the tissue away into a waste container.



## Classroom and Common Area Sanitation and Set Up

- Hand sanitizer has been placed in each classroom. Access to hand washing or hand sanitizer is provided at classroom entrances.
- Classrooms can have doors open, when appropriate, to maximize ventilation.
- In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential particles that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes many remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

(Classroom and Common Area Sanitation continued from page 5)

- If desired, staff can request additional cleaning supplies.
- All bathrooms are equipped with soap, paper towels or hand dryers and refuse containers.

## Meal Service

- Elementary schools will be offered both hot and cold menu options and fresh fruits and vegetables and milk daily for both breakfast and lunch. Students will be able to choose from daily available options.
- Middle and high schools will be offered hot and cold menu options along with a variety of side dishes including fresh fruit and vegetables and milk.
- Where possible students will have the option to eat outside. Students eating inside will be asked to maintain a safe distance where practical.
- Menus may change at a moment's notice as we continue to experience supply chain disruptions.

## Cleaning/Sanitizing/Cleaning Supplies

- Cleaning "high touch areas" daily.
- Custodial staff will assist with cleaning.
- Electrostatic touch-free disinfectant sprayers.
- 243 Green Neutral Cleaner (general cleaning).
- 764 Lemon Quat Disinfectant Cleaner (Keenan SafeSchools training required).
- Hot water pressure washers (outdoor lunch areas/playground equipment).
- Disinfectant spraying equipment for large assembly areas.

## Drinking Fountains

- All outdoor drinking water fountains are open and available for use. Students are encouraged to bring personal refillable water bottles.
- All classrooms sink faucets and water bottle stations are open and available for use.

## Transportation/ Buses

- Parents are asked to check their child for possible COVID-19 symptoms and follow "Stay At Home" requirements if symptoms are present.
- All students will receive hand sanitizer when they board the bus in the morning and in the afternoon when they return home.
- A minimum of one window will remain open to allow for cross ventilation on the bus.
- All buses will be sanitized at the end of each day.
- Drivers will have masks available to students, if requested.
- Any students showing symptoms related to Covid that are on the bus will be referred directly to the school nurse upon arrival to school.



## SAFETY MEASURES AT SITES

### Ventilation and Air Flow

*HVAC: PSUSD has implemented the following Standards:*

- Ionizers (air purifiers) are placed in classrooms.
- Classroom units upgraded to MERV-11 filters.
- HVAC systems are reprogrammed to run when windows and doors are open.
- During optimal weather, keep windows and doors open, if possible, to increase airflow.

## STUDENT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS TOP PRIORITY

- District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to students.
- Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, community building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services.
- Families and schools will need to work together to determine how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide the support they need during these challenging times. If your child is having emotional concerns, contact your child's school counselor first. Additional resources can be made available via the PSUSD Mental Health Dept. at 760-416-1360.
- Additionally, those in need of support may contact Care Solace, our partner, by email at [weserve@caresolace.org](mailto:weserve@caresolace.org), or [www.caresolace.org](http://www.caresolace.org).
- For more resources, call Student Services at 760-883-2703, extension 4805103.



Photo courtesy of Karolina Grabowska

## District COVID-19 Information or Questions:

[covidinfo@psusd.us](mailto:covidinfo@psusd.us) (760) 325-8778

## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PSUSD Website:

<https://www.psusd.us/>

State of California Safe Schools For All Hub:

<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

Riverside County Public Health COVID-19  
Information and Resources:

<https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

California Department of Public Health:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

California Department of Education Coronavirus  
Information and Resources:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools:

[childcare/k-12-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/childcare/k-12-guidance.html)