



# MARCH 2021\* SCHOOL OPENING & 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. SANDRA LYON

Dear PSUSD families,

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we moved from in-person to distance learning. Over this year, we have learned a lot as staff worked to prepare our schools for a return to campus whenever that would be possible. This document outlines our current plans which have been prepared with health and safety as our top priority. We have developed our plan with guidance from federal, state, and local education and health officials, and it was recently approved by our Board of Education.

The safety procedures outlined within our plans are aimed to mitigate health and safety risks related to COVID-19 transmission. We wish we could completely eliminate all possible risk. Until most California's citizens are vaccinated, that is not possible. What we are doing is minimizing the risks and implementing immediate interventions should we have any cases of transmission that need to be addressed.

We know that our families are in different places and situations that inform their thoughts and feelings on the return to a school campus. This, in combination with health and safety guidelines, have driven our decision to offer our families the choice to remain in full distance learning for the remainder of the school year. If you are a parent of an elementary student(s), you were recently asked to indicate whether you would like for your child to return to a hybrid program of partial in-person and partial distance learning instruction. At this time, we plan to move forward with phasing in that program later this month following Spring Break on April 12 and hope we can bring back our secondary students to a hybrid program later this spring if conditions continue to improve.

In closing, I want to thank our Leadership Team, employee labor partners, staff members and, of course, our families for your past, present and future support as we continue to navigate through these most challenging times. The health and safety of our students and staff remain our number one priority, and we will continue to work together to ensure that our plans and actions reflect that commitment. Please watch and listen for information updates via video messages, Auto Dialer calls and/or our website and social media platforms.

For more information or questions, please email [covidinfo@psusd.us](mailto:covidinfo@psusd.us) or call (760) 325-8778. Here is a link to a video that provides an overview of health and safety protocols for the hybrid reopening of campuses: <https://youtu.be/FUFPxJzG1mM>.



Sandra Lyon, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Public Health Recommendations

This plan was developed using recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, Riverside County Public Health, Riverside County Office of Education, California Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control.

## How COVID-19 Spreads

We now know that COVID-19 is primarily spread by respiratory droplets that are released when people talk, sing, laugh, cough or sneeze. There is also evidence that the virus can be contracted on contaminated surfaces with your hands and then spread to the nose, mouth, or eyes, potentially causing infection.

## Personal Prevention Measures to Stop the Spread

In order to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, students and staff will be required to take the following steps:

- Maintain physical distancing (6 ft)
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer
- Wear a face covering
- Observe cough/sneeze etiquette
- Perform daily personal symptom health check screening

# 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 via the Parent Acknowledgement form to monitor for symptoms daily prior to arriving to school and keep the student at home if symptomatic.
- If any symptoms of COVID-19 are exhibited, student/staff must remain at home.
- Any student/staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 10 days or have been in direct contact with a confirmed positive case within the last 14 days will be required to 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
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Nasal congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Any staff or student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be immediately directed to the CARES room for isolation and health screening. 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 Department 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 immediately directed to the Isolation/CARES Room to be assessed by a trained staff member or nurse. The student will be instructed to continue to wear a mask if not exempt. If deemed necessary, the parent/guardian/emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child.
- Student may be required to remain off campus for up to 10 days after symptom development.

## 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 THREE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- 1) At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared AND;
- 2) Overall improvement of symptoms AND;
- 3) At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications.

## Isolation/CARES Room

- The isolation/CARES Room is in a separate space from the student health office to ensure that well children are not interacting with potential COVID-positive students.
- A trained staff member always supervises the students to ensure safety.
- Students are required to wear a face covering if they are able. A mask will be provided to the student if necessary.
- Staff members in the CARES room always wear appropriate PPE as required by CAL/OSHA.
- No parents or other unauthorized persons are permitted to enter the CARES room.

## 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.

*(Contact Tracing continued on page 5)*

*(Contact Tracing continued from page 4)*

- Contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with an infection. The identity of the positive patients will remain confidential.
- BOTH of the following must be met in order to qualify for a potential direct exposure for contact tracing purposes:
  - » Be within 6 feet of distance to the positive case AND;
  - » For greater than 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period.

## 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 Safe School Reopening Plan assigned color tier. The testing cadence will be determined by status of Riverside County case rates within the California Blueprint for Reopening Tier System and agreement with the bargaining units.
- Voluntary testing is available for all staff and their family members on a monthly basis.

## Physical Distancing

- Staff and students will maintain 6ft of distance in all hallways, classrooms, walkways, bathrooms, office spaces and other areas of the campus.
- Parents should not form groups with other parents during drop off or pick up. Arrival times limited to no more than 15 minutes prior to the start of the school day.
- Visitor capacity limited to maintain physical distancing. Campus office access limited to staff, students and parents/guardians for official business only. Appointments for office visits are highly encouraged.

## Face Coverings

- In accordance with CDPH guidelines, all students in grades TK-12 are required to wear face coverings at all times while in the classroom, on campus, on school bus or at any school event unless there is a written medical exemption.
- PSUSD requires all staff, students and visitors to 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. Additional information regarding proper use, removal and disposal of face coverings will be provided by school sites. Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear face coverings.
- Face shields may be worn in addition to face coverings but not in place of mask or face covering.
- Students should not touch the face covering and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.



*(Face Coverings continued on page 6)*

(Face Coverings continued from page 5)

- Face coverings may be removed for meals (if and when they are being consumed on campuses) or when they need to be replaced. When face coverings are removed they should be placed in a clean location until they are put back on.

## Hand Hygiene

All students must wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, rubbing thoroughly after application. If soap and water are not available use district-provided greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. This district has provided written instructions and signage on proper hand washing techniques. The following guidelines are recommended for school settings. At minimum, students and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer:

- » Upon arrival to the school site
- » Before leaving the site
- » Upon entry to any new classroom
- » When using the restroom
- » When visibly dirty
- » After using a tissue, coughing into hands
- » Upon arriving home
- Avoid contact with eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Teach children to sneeze into a tissue or elbow and throw the tissue away into a waste container.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

## Ingress/Egress

*Campuses have established protocols related to and are monitoring ingress and egress.*

- Single ingress/egress points have been created in buildings and classrooms to alleviate crowding and congestion.
- Students and staff will maintain social distancing in hallways and corridors by adhering to one-way directional travel to the greatest extent possible.
- Directional signage has been added to assist in navigating travel to and around classrooms, hallways and corridors.
- Face coverings are always required while moving from place to place.

## 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 all classroom entrances.
- Classrooms will have doors open, when appropriate, to maximize ventilation.
- Supplies are provided and protocols followed to clean surfaces between classes or when student groups change.
- All bathrooms are equipped with soap, paper towels or hand dryers and refuse containers.
- Clear signage has been posted in bathrooms regarding occupancy and distancing rules and hygiene.

## Meal Service

- Students attending class are provided two meals as they are excused for the day. As students exit campus they are handed a Grab-and-Go Lunch that they can consume when they arrive home. They are also handed a Grab-and-Go Breakfast to be consumed the following morning. Grab-and-Go meals are provided to ensure the safety of both staff and students.
- Grab-and-Go meal service continues through the remainder of this school year.
- Curbside meal distribution, providing a week's worth of meals including fresh produce and milk for all students will continue each Wednesday through June 30, 2021.
- This video describes safety protocols relative to meal service during hybrid reopening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrk3441S8Y>.

## Recess/PE/Athletics

- Information regarding how recess will be conducted at elementary sites will be provided by individual site principals in accordance with state and county health guidelines.
- Physical Education classes will be conducted in a safe, physically distanced manner in accordance with state and county health guidelines.
- Athletic practices and competitions will be conducted in accordance with state, county and CIF guidelines.



## Transportation/Buses

- In order to adhere to physical distancing, seating capacity must be reduced, and students may be assigned seats.
- Distancing of at least six feet. at bus stops and while loading and unloading of bus.
- Parents are asked to check their child for possible COVID-19 symptoms and follow Stay At Home requirements if symptoms are present.
- All bus riders are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical exemption.
- Windows will be partially or fully open to ensure good ventilation.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting any student who might be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- This video describes safety protocols relative to bus transportation during hybrid reopening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n3Cngweo4M>.



## SAFETY MEASURES AT SITES

### Ventilation and Air Flow

*HVAC: PSUSD has committed to the following HVAC adjustments:*

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

### Cleaning/Sanitizing/Cleaning Supplies

- Cleaning “high touch areas” daily and nightly.
- Temporary substitute custodians to 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.



Photo courtesy of Karolina Grabowska

## Drinking Fountains

- All outdoor drinking water fountains are closed and covered.
- All classroom sink faucets and water bottle stations are open and available for use while maintaining physical distancing.

## STUDENT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS TOP PRIORITY

- District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly.
- 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 760-416-1630 or <https://www.psusd.us/Page/6840>.
- 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.com/psusdfamilies](http://www.Caresolace.com/psusdfamilies).
- For more resources, call Student Services at 760-883-2703, extension 4805103.

# 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>