

## **Pleasantville Community Schools Back to School and COVID-19 Update**

Date updated: August 16, 2021

Date shared: August 21, 2021

Pleasantville Schools has and will continue to diligently engage with and evaluate the ongoing and ever-changing guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies. We anticipate that we will continue to receive updated guidance and clarity on this topic over the next several weeks.

We will continue to monitor and pay close attention to our local conditions as we prepare for the opening of school with students on August 26th. As we were last year, we will continue to be deliberate in our approach in planning for a successful 2021-2022 school year with a focus on student learning, engagement, and safety for everyone.

**All COVID-19 information is subject to change at any time as the situation evolves. Any changes in our COVID-19 plans, procedures, or policies will be communicated to families and staff through the usual channels such as email and social media.**

### **Daily Health Practices and Routines**

- The school district is well equipped and staff will be prepared to continue with “enhanced cleaning” strategies that were implemented and utilized with success last year.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing will continue to be emphasized throughout the district.
  - The district has an abundance of hand sanitizer on hand and will be made available to students, staff, and guests at school.

### **Monitoring and Reporting Illness**

- It is very important for parents / guardians to monitor their child’s health. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the child(ren) should stay home from school.
- Students who exhibit signs of any illness will be evaluated by school personnel and may be sent home in accordance with a typical illness.
- Symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea should be discussed with your healthcare provider.
- If your child is absent from school, please be sure to contact your school’s front office to report the absence.
- Please consider contacting the school nurse to report a positive case of COVID-19 and/or any potential exposure your child may have to a positive case of COVID-19.
- PCSD staff will not be conducting “contact tracing” this year.
  - A notice will be sent out from Nurse Ray for a positive COVID test case along the same lines of what is and has been done in the past with other communicable illnesses
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must remain home until they are no longer infectious. This applies to those who are unvaccinated as well as those who have been vaccinated.

- Students and staff exhibiting signs of COVID-19 are considered infectious until:
  - At least 10-days since symptoms first appeared AND
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND,
  - All other symptoms of COVID-19 have improved
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 (even if they do not develop symptoms) are considered infectious until:
  - 10-days have passed since the positive COVID test specimen was collected.

### **School Day Procedures**

- There are no plans to change the school district calendar that was approved by the PCSD school board on February 9, 2021. That calendar can be viewed at this [LINK](#).
- PCSD will be offering full-time, 100% on-campus (face to face) learning opportunities for students. Students will be on their regular school schedules Monday through Friday.
- At this time, PCSD does not plan to offer online instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the regular designated cafeteria / commons area in their school.
- Drinking fountains will be available for use throughout the school day. Students are welcome and encouraged to bring water bottles to school and use our touchless water bottle filling stations for drinks.
- Students will be allowed to use their lockers

### **Visitors at Schools**

- Visitors and guests are welcome to visit our schools as per usual. Guests and visitors are reminded that some staff and many children, including those 12 years and younger, have not yet been vaccinated.

### **Face Masks**

- Face masks and coverings are optional but encouraged for PCSD students, staff, families and visitors to school. This includes during the school day, on school buses, and at school events, ball games, practices, camps, and so on.
- In accordance with Iowa House File 847, which was passed during the last legislative session, local schools and school boards no longer have the authority to require students, staff, or visitors to wear a face covering at school.

### **Facilities Usage**

- Schools and approved outside organizations are welcome to conduct meetings and utilize school facilities in accordance with the board-approved [school facility usage guide](#).
- Parent / guardian meetings such as disciplinary conferences and IEP meetings may be conducted on site or virtually depending on the preferences of the parties involved.
  - Any potential changes with the status of parent-teacher conferences in November and February would be communicated at a later date.

OTHER:

- We do not intend to use the district COVID dashboard unless the decision is made to institute our enhanced tiers of mitigation.
- Will students and/or staff be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
  - No. While we do not have data on student vaccination rates, our best estimate is that over 80% of PCSD staff were vaccinated last spring.
- At this time we do not plan to start the year with temperature screening of students and visitors, however, this strategy will be considered as an enhanced COVID-19 mitigation strategy should it become necessary.
- The district has ordered an updated supply of disposable cloth masks should they become required.