

COVID SAFETY 2021 - 2022

Employee Q and A

Masking

Am I required to wear a mask in school?

- Per Governor Wolf's order and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), universal indoor masking is required for all teachers, employees, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Masking is also mandated on school buses, regardless of vaccination status.

Do masks have to be worn outside?

- Masks do not have to be worn outside. Masks are recommended to be worn outside when in a crowded area.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantining

Who is considered a close contact?

- A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask. (There are circumstances where 15 cumulative minutes, or less than 15 minutes, may be used.)
 - The exception in the K-12 classroom setting is the close contact definition. If both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time, students will not be considered close contacts. This exception applies to students only. This exemption does not apply to teachers.

If an employee is identified as a close contact and vaccinated, will they have to quarantine?

- Employees should report the close contact exposure to HR, regardless of vaccination status.
- If an employee has no symptoms, they should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure. They should wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test results are negative. If negative, they can continue to report to work. If they test positive, quarantine 10 days from test date. Test results should be submitted to HR.
- If an employee has symptoms, they should get a COVID-19 test and not report to work until the test results are known. If the test result is positive, isolate for 10 days from the time the symptoms first appeared. Once employee is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved after the 10-day isolation period, employee can return to work. If the test is negative, the employee is not required to quarantine.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantining (continued)

If an employee is identified as a close contact and unvaccinated, will they have to quarantine?

- Employees should report the close contact exposure to HR, regardless of vaccination status. Employees should not return to work until directed to do so by HR.
- If an employee has symptoms, they should be tested for COVID-19. If positive, the employee should isolate for 10 days from the time the symptoms first appeared. Once they are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved without fever-reducing medication after 10 days, the employee can return to work.
- If an employee does not have symptoms, they should be tested 5-7 days after their exposure. They can return to work with a negative test after day 7. They should wear a mask indoors and outdoors and in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Will an employee have to quarantine if they have already had COVID-19?

- If someone who has had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months, has recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms, they do not need to quarantine and can continue to report to work. Employees will need to provide proof of a positive test result to HR that reflects a positive test result within no more than 90 days prior to the COVID-19 exposure.

What should an employee do who has symptoms and is unvaccinated?

- If an employee is unvaccinated and has symptoms, they should stay home, report that they are symptomatic to HR and be tested for COVID-19.
- If positive, the employee must isolate for 10 days from the time the symptoms first appeared. Once they are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved after the 10- day isolation period, they can return to work.
- If negative, the employee can return to work as soon as they are well enough to return. Proof of a negative test is required.

What should an employee do who has symptoms and is vaccinated?

- Employees should stay home, report that they are symptomatic to HR and get a COVID-19 test.
- If positive, isolate for 10 days from the time the symptoms first appeared. Employees may return to work after the isolation period when they are 24 hours fever free with no fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
- If negative, employees can return to work as soon as they are well enough to return. Proof of a negative test is required.

Will the screening tool be the same this year?

- The CDC has updated the symptom check to say that *if you have one or more of the following symptoms*, the person should stay home, contact their doctor and HR and get tested. ***It is no longer scaffolded.*** The symptoms include fever and chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea.

Physical Distancing

What will the spacing of desks be in classrooms?

- Desks will be spaced 3 feet apart to the greatest extent feasible. The CDC recommends when it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to layer multiple other strategies such as wearing a mask.

Will there be physical distancing in the hallways?

- Students will be encouraged to maintain a distance of 3 feet or more from others whenever possible. Masks are mandated. Classroom dismissal will be staggered when possible.

Will there be physical distancing in the cafeteria?

- Where possible, cafeteria seating will be 6 feet apart, to the greatest extent feasible, and not less than 3 feet. Students must put their mask on once they are finished eating, as long as any mask order or requirement is in effect.

Transportation

Will my child and all adults have to wear a mask on the bus?

- Masks are mandated on school buses, regardless of vaccination status, per CDC order.

Will there be physical distancing on the bus?

- Students will be encouraged to sit with family members and space themselves to the greatest extent possible. Employees who cannot physically distance will have PPE and shields available for use as an extra mitigation measure.

What if an employee or child is unable to wear a mask, will they still be able to ride the bus?

- Per CDC guidelines, students, drivers and aids are required to wear a mask on all public transportation.
- Employees should contact HR if they have a medical issue keeping them from wearing a mask on the bus.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Are masks required?

- Per the Governor's Order along with the PADOH states that when engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face coverage do not have to wear a mask.
- When participating in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals, masks do not have to be worn.
- When a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors, masks do not have to be worn.
- When visiting other schools, the PIAA mandates that the home school's health and safety plan must be followed by all visiting athletes and spectators. For example, if the home school has a mask mandate, all students and visitors must abide by it.

Cafeteria/Recess

Will there be physical distancing in the cafeteria?

- Cafeterias table/desk setup will be 6 feet distancing wherever feasible and no less than 3 feet.

Does my child and employee have to wear a mask in the cafeteria?

- Masks are required except when eating and drinking. Masks should be put back on immediately after.

What will the playground look like this year?

- Playground activities will be similar to last year with cohorting of groups of children. Masks are recommended for indoor recess and outside recess when in a crowded space.

What will indoor recess look like?

- Children will be divided into cohorts during indoor recess and masks are required for both the child and employees.

Instruction

How will a student access instruction if they need to quarantine or isolate?

- Any student missing time due to COVID-19 related medical issues will have access to asynchronous course content available on Schoology. Students will be responsible for all missed assignments. Students will not attend class virtually.

How will attendance be recorded if a student needs to quarantine or isolate?

- Student absences due to COVID-19 will be marked as medical absence. Appropriate documentation and notes will need to be submitted to the attendance secretary in the school office.

How will attendance for employees be recorded if they need to quarantine or isolate?

- Employees will be required to use their available sick time in the event that they need to be absent due to needing to quarantine or isolate. More detailed information is available through HR. Vaccinated employees are encouraged to submit their vaccination record cards to HR to minimize the amount of time they may be required to be out of work due to quarantine.

Cleaning and Ventilation

What is the cleaning procedure for the classrooms this year?

- Routine cleaning of our building, classrooms, common areas and office spaces will be done with PA approved disinfectants for use against COVID-19. Additional cleaning and disinfecting will occur if a known case is identified.
- Ventilation systems will be managed to COVID-19 specifications.
- Windows and doors will be open when possible.

Visitors

Will visitors be allowed in the buildings?

- Visitation of non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited.
- When possible, IEP, 504, and large gatherings such as Back to School Night will be held virtually.

Dashboard

How will the community be notified of active cases in the schools?

- The Penn-Delco COVID-19 Dashboard will be activated on the website beginning September 7, 2021. Numbers will be updated daily.

Travel

Are students and employees required to quarantine after traveling out of state?

- At this time, there are no travel bans within the United States. Refer to the CDC website for updates on both domestic and international travel.

Screening/Testing

Will employees be able to sign up for weekly BinaxNOW assurance testing?

- The BinaxNOW screening information will be forthcoming.