

COVID HEALTH & SAFETY



2021 - 2022

Penn-Delco School District

Parent/Guardian Guide
November 8, 2021



Your child's health and safety is important

Guidance for Parents and Students*

We are pleased to continue to have your students for in-person learning. Our goal in providing you with this guidance is to offer support to you and your family so your child may be prepared and ready for a different experience in their school building.

From daily health screenings at home, to mandatory masking, to washing and social distancing, you and your child will be asked to work with our administrators, teachers, and staff to create the safest environment possible for everyone to return to learn.

Please take the time to review these guidelines for returning to the classroom and then work with your child to learn, practice, and remember them.

Be assured that your child will also experience refreshers on health and safety guidance upon their return to school.

As always, thank you for your support as we follow health department and state mandates on safely returning to school. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your building principals as we finally open our doors to students.



COVID-19 Parent/Student Screening

Penn-Delco School District students must conduct the following screening before entering a school or school district building.

Do you have one of the following symptoms?

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Lack of smell or taste (without congestion)

YES

STOP

NO

Do you have two or more of the following symptoms?

- Sore throat
- Muscle pain
- Nausea
- Chills
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Congestion/runny nose
- Diarrhea

YES

STOP

NO

Are you taking any medication to treat or suppress fever? (For example, acetaminophen or ibuprofen)

- YES
- NO

YES

STOP

NO

Do you have a fever? YES NO

Mode

Walk through scanner

Auxillary and temporal

Oral

Temperature or fever

97.5

99.5 or higher

100.4 or higher

YES

STOP

GO? Enter the building!

But remember:

- Wear an approved mask
- Practice social distancing
- Tell you teacher if you are not feeling well during the day so they can have you see the nurse

GO

STOP?

Based on your responses you should not report to school. Please follow student absence procedures and contact the school nurse.

STOP



Illness procedures

If a **STUDENT** becomes ill with **COVID-19** symptoms or tests positive

Monitoring your child's health every day is one of the most important things you can do to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Please follow these protocols for the monitoring of your child's health.

Prior to arrival at school:

- Review the health screener with your child and take their temperature.
- If student responses result in STOP to any of the COVID-19 screening questions or has had known direct exposure, student should stay home and contact their physician and the school nurse.
- Follow absentee guidelines for your school building.

If a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms while at school:

- The teacher will contact the nurse and the student will be sent to the nurses office.
- Nurse will immediately separate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms into the designated isolation area in the nurse's suite.
 - Face coverings are required for individuals sent to the isolation room if medically possible.
 - Staff assisting individuals in the isolation area must wear mask, eye protection, gloves, and gowns
- The nurse may contact the parent/guardian for permission to administer the free BinaxNOW rapid test. If the student tested receives an unexpected result (meaning they are symptomatic but receive a negative result, or they are asymptomatic and receive a positive result) they may be referred for another more sensitive test, such as a PCR. Referrals for additional testing will be communicated promptly to the parent.*
- Any person testing positive will be sent home with parent/guardian with a referral to their healthcare provider. Parent/Guardian are to follow the PDS Health and Safety Plan guidelines.
- If your child does not pass the home screening test before school, **do not send them to school**. Contact your physician and the school nurse immediately.
- School nurses may contact PADOH staff for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.

****No student will be tested by the District without formal permission by a parent.***



Illness procedures

If a STUDENT becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive (continued)

- If a confirmed COVID-19 case, PADOH and/or the school nurse will contact the individual, or parent/guardian and school entity to provide guidance and recommendation, including isolation for the case and quarantine for close contacts unless eligible for the Test-to-Stay program. The building does not need to be evacuated.
- **If a student is identified as a close contact and vaccinated:**
 - Student should report the close contact exposure to the school nurse regardless of vaccination status.
 - If a student has no symptoms, they should get tested 5-7 days after their exposure. They should wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test results are negative. They can continue to report to school. Test results should be submitted to the school nurse.
 - If a student has symptoms, they should get a COVID-19 test and not report to school until the test results are known. If the test result is positive, 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 school.
- **If a student is identified as a close contact and unvaccinated:**
 - The student should report the close contact exposure to the school nurse, regardless of vaccination status. Students should not return to school until directed to do so by the school nurse.
 - If a student is identified as a close contact in school, the student may be referred to the Test-to-Stay program. [More information on the Test-to-Stay program is on the PDSO website.](#)
 - If a student has symptoms, they should be tested for COVID-19. If positive, the student 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 student can return to school.
 - If a student does not have symptoms, they should be tested 5-7 days after their exposure. They can return to school 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.

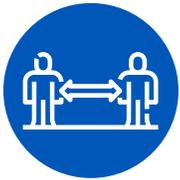


Illness procedures

If a STUDENT becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive (continued)

- 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 school. Students will need to provide proof of a positive test result to the school nurse that reflects a positive test result within no more than 90 days prior to the COVID-19 exposure.
- Once a student leaves the school premises, the custodian will be notified to thoroughly clean and disinfect the isolation area before reuse.
- The nurse will follow guidelines for proper use and disposal of personal protective equipment after treating students with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students/Guardians are to follow the district attendance policy guidelines.
 - If presenting with COVID-19 symptoms, regular attendance policies will be followed. Additional documentation may be required such as a doctor's note or documentation from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH).
 - If student has not been advised to quarantine prior to returning to school, the screening process must be followed and result in a GO.

More details on contact tracing, isolation, close contacts and quarantining can be found in the Parent Q & A.



Social Distancing

- Desks will be spaced 3 feet 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. The school district will continue to maximize physical distancing wherever possible.
- Non-classroom spaces will be maximized to increase physical distancing.
- Activities will be limited in classrooms and other spaces that do not support physical distancing.
- Six (6) feet of physical distancing will apply in the offices and staff lounges and during staff meetings.
- The distance between the teacher and other staff and student desks will remain at 6 feet to the greatest extent possible.
- Large gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities will be limited to those that can meet guidelines for social distancing. Virtual meetings will be utilized as often as possible to include but not limited to PTL, IEP/GIEP, 504 meetings etc.
- Cafeteria will be set up with 6 feet distancing where feasible not to be less than 3 feet between students.
- Arrival and dismissal will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing. Refer to your student handbooks for specific school information.



Face masks and other face coverings

Students and staff in grades K - 12 and all other employees will be required to wear face masks in accordance with the CDC, PADOH guidelines and the Governors order.

According to the CDC, when worn properly, ***wearing a mask helps reduce the spread of the coronavirus by reducing droplet transmission between people.*** As a reminder, face masks do not replace the need to maintain social distancing, frequent hand washing, and our rigorous cleaning and disinfecting routines.

- Exceptions to mask requirements will be made if wearing a mask is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.*
- Only in rare administratively approved cases would a face shield be an acceptable substitution for a mask. Face shields will be a viable alternative to masks for those with medical, behavioral or other conditions precluding them from wearing masks. See *procedures for Mask Exemptions*.
- All staff and students K - 12 will be required to wear masks when riding on District-provided transportation.
- Acceptable masks include disposable surgical masks, cloth masks purchased or made from household items, and gaiters. Clothing and household items (t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels) are **not acceptable** in original form for use as masks on District grounds.

*Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance, **will require appropriate medical documentation.** See Mask Exemption Procedure.



Approved face masks

A mask is defined as a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured with straps that loop over the ears or tie around the back of the head. Acceptable masks may be factory-made, sewn by hand or machine, or created by using materials cut or constructed from household or clothing items like scarves, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. These clothing items in their original forms are not themselves acceptable face coverings for use in District facilities and are not acceptable substitutes for the four types of face coverings approved for use on school district premises.

Please follow the guidance in this document for applying, removing, and cleaning the four types of masks approved for school district students. Plexiglass shields are approved as extra protection to be worn in addition to a mask. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after applying and removing a mask.

General guidance

- Students may wear personal, clean, well-maintained masks appropriate for the school environment that meet one of the approved face mask types identified in the chart in this document.
- Students must wear a face mask at all times in hallways, classrooms, public spaces, on buses and in other common areas across the district.
- Students should remain mindful not to unnecessarily touch masks except for removal for meals.
- Updated guidance from the CDC on wearing gaiters says: *wear a gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers.*
- Students will be permitted to remove face masks only when eating or drinking when:
 - Masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket, in their purse/book bag or on the lap. Placing it in a baggie is optimal.
 - Masks should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.
- Students should put their mask back on immediately after finishing eating.

*Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance, **will require appropriate medical documentation.** See Mask Exemption Procedure.



Approved face masks

approved masks



Hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.

Unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask. Fold so the inner part of the mask faces inward.

Dispose immediately into trash can.

putting on

taking off

cleaning



Secure ties to head or hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.

Untie or unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask. Fold so the inner part of the mask faces inward.

Wash after daily use in washing machine with other laundry OR by hand soaking in a solution of 1/3rd cup of household bleach per gallon of room temperature water. Rinse clear. Place in the dryer or hang dry.

*CDC updated guidance says:

Wear a Gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers.



Start with the gaiter on your neck, then pull it up to just below your eyes. Cover from nose to chin. Ensure that it fits snugly, especially around your cheeks and the bridge of your nose, not to leave gaps. Fold into two layers.

Remove from the back of your head, by putting your (clean) fingers under the neckline and lifting up from the bottom to top over your head.

Wash after daily use in washing machine with other laundry OR by hand soaking in a solution of 1/3rd cup of household bleach per gallon of room temperature water. Rinse clear. Place in the dryer or hang dry.

Face Shields are to be worn over a face mask, not alone unless exempt through the mask exemption process



Bending forward, hold face shield with both hands, expand the elastic with thumbs and place the elastic behind head, so that the foam rests on forehead. Ensure the shield covers the front and sides of the face and no areas are left uncovered.

Remove and pull up and away from face without touching the front of the mask. Check for cracks in the mask and discard if cracked or damaged.

Carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield with a disinfectant wipe.



Mask exemption procedure (for parents)

Masks are required

As per the current Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) guidelines, CDC and Governor's executive order, **students are required to wear a mask while in school buildings, play grounds and riding district transportation.** Masks are not required outdoors but recommended in crowded areas.

The district has outlined a process for parents to follow if they believe their child meets *medical criteria* to be exempt from wearing the required mask. The CDC has outlined medical exemptions to the required mask wearing. If you believe your child has a medical condition that precludes them from wearing a mask, **a note from a medical professional (MD) should be submitted to the building principal.**

Your building principal will forward this information to the school nurse. The school nurse will meet with the principal, IEP team, or 504 team and determine if the request will be honored and if a face shield will be a suitable alternative or if further clarification from a medical professional is necessary. Parents will be informed in writing of the team's decision.

If a parent feels their child needs an exemption from **all face covering PPE's, those requests should be directed to the Director of Pupil Services and Special Education.**

- Students with complex educational needs and/or are unable to remove the mask without assistance, and/or the cognitive ability to understand the use and purpose of the mask, may wear a face shield. If you believe your child is not able to wear a mask or a face shield, an IEP/504 team meeting will be convened to discuss and plan accordingly for your child.



Hand washing and personal disinfecting

General guidance

- When hand washing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry.
- Signs are hung at the entrance to buildings, in the bathrooms, by all sinks, outside the cafeteria, front office and outside the gym, mailroom, guidance suite, faculty room, pool area, locker room, etc.
- Staff will review handwashing expectations at the beginning of the day, before lunch and after lunch.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas, hallways, classrooms, or in all three, where sinks for handwashing are not available.
- Adequate supplies of sanitizer and cleaning supplies will be available to support healthy hygiene behaviors.
- Students are encouraged to bring in their own personal hygiene supplies.



Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

The Director of Facilities and Custodial Supervisor are responsible for ensuring an adequate amount of cleaning and disinfectant supplies are on hand at each site. They will monitor the custodial activities that are required to occur.

- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur on frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses at least daily, including (but not limited to) door handles, light switches where applicable, handrails, restrooms, sink handles, under hand dryers, elevator buttons, and drinking fountain/bottle fills. Door stops are being provided to reduce touch points such as door handles.
- All drinking fountains will be closed and mouth pieces covered, including elementary classrooms. Bottle fillers will be in use where applicable.
- Parents are encouraged to send water bottles with their students.
- Playground equipment will be washed weekly and disinfected on a regular basis.
- Cleaning materials will be provided to each classroom district wide to allow for more frequent cleaning of high touch areas in the classrooms during the school day.
- Nurses Suite isolation areas have been designated in each school building.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be accessible throughout the buildings. Elementary classroom sinks will be available for hand washing.



Transportation Expectation

Guidance for Parents and Students

Expectations for the bus stop, seating, masking and sanitizing on the bus:

- Students and adults should socially distance a minimum of 3 feet and 6 feet when feasible from one another when at the bus stop.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Maximum two students to a seat, one per seat when feasible.
- Sit with family member when possible.
- Front row will remain empty.
- Buses will be disinfected between runs.
- Per guidelines, in order to maximize air changes within the cabin and increase ventilation, at least 4 bus windows will be left open to the extent possible and weather permitting.
- Arrival and dismissal at each school will be modified to maximize social distancing.
 - See school specific handbooks/school website for details.