

2021 - 2022



COVID HEALTH SAFETY

Parent Q and A

Masking

Is my child required to wear a mask in school?

- Per the statewide Health Order from the PA Department of Health, universal indoor masking is required in all K-12 schools, for all teachers, employees, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Masking is 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 when outside if 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 or more 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. The PA mask mandate has the practical effect of substantially limiting the number of close contacts and required student quarantines.

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

- Parents should report the close contact exposure to the school nurse, regardless of vaccination status.
- If the child 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, the child can continue to attend school in person. If they test positive, quarantine 10 days from test date. Test results should be submitted to the school nurse.
- If the child 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 the child is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved after the 10 day isolation period, the student can return to school. If the test is negative, the student is not required to quarantine.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantining (continued)

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

- Parents should report the close contact exposure to the school nurse, regardless of vaccination status.
- If a child **has symptoms**, they should be tested for COVID-19. If positive, the child 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 child can return to school.
- If a child **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.

Will my child 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 school. Parents 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.

What should I do if my child has symptoms and is unvaccinated?

- If a child is unvaccinated and has symptoms, they should stay home, report that they are symptomatic to the school nurse and be tested for COVID-19.
- If positive, the child 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 school.
- If negative, the child can return to school as soon as they are well enough to return. Proof of a negative test is required.

What should I do if my child has symptoms and is vaccinated?

- A child should stay home, report that they are symptomatic to the school nurse and get a COVID-19 test.
- If positive, isolate for 10 days from the time the symptoms first appeared. The child may return to school after the isolation period when they are 24 hours fever free with no fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
- If negative, the child can return to school 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 child should stay home, contact their doctor and the school nurse 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. The school district will continue to maximize physical distancing wherever possible.

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. Practical steps such as cutting table seating in half will enable additional physical distancing that otherwise would not be in place.

Transportation

Will my child 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.

What if my child can't 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 forms of public transportation.

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. Masks may be taken off indoors while athletes are actively participating in the event, but must be worn when on the sidelines inside a building.
- Masks are mandated on school buses, regardless of vaccination status.
- When visiting other schools, the PIAA mandates that the home schools 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 eating lunch.

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 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 my child receive 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 my child be marked for attendance if they need 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.

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?

- Visitors of non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited.
- IEP, 504, Back to School Night and other meetings will be held virtually when at all possible.
 - Masks are mandated for all visitors.

Dashboard

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

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

Travel

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

- There are no travel bans within the United States at this time. Refer to the CDC website for updates on international travel.

Screening/Testing

- The BinaxNOW screening tool will be available to students as recommended by the school nurse and with permission from the parent/guardian.