

Thursday, January 15, 2021

PCS Families,

The Putnam County Schools "Roadmap to Responsible Return" adopted by the Putnam County Board of Education in August of 2020 has not changed. The Plan was developed to be a fluid document and continues to take into consideration any Executive Order that may be issued by Governor Justice and guidance from state and local health officials. We have developed a **PCS Recovery Guide** as communication that families can reference to better understand all safety protocols and additional mitigation procedures. It can be found on our website at [putnamschools.com](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1078055/PCS_Recovery_Guide.pdf) or by visiting the direct link at https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1078055/PCS_Recovery_Guide.pdf. For example, Putnam County Schools has partnered with a local pharmacy to provide weekly testing for all employees at their school/job site. By the end of this work week, approximately 800 PCS employees will be vaccinated with the first round of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

Putnam County Schools will return to in-person learning for students in Pre-K through 8 starting Tuesday, January 19, 2021. PCS high school students will follow the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' (WV DHHR) Daily County Alert System Map (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>). High school students will return to in-person learning if Putnam County is not red on the map. If Putnam County becomes red on the Daily County Alert System Map, students will enter remote learning for a two-day minimum. The return from remote learning will be determined using this same map.

PCS will honor family choice regarding their child's instructional delivery model. These include the 5-Day/In-Person Model or Putnam Virtual (PCS Distance Learning/WVVS).

It is important to note that guiding principles from Putnam County Schools' initial Comprehensive Guide to Re-Entry Plan have not changed and will continue to be followed. For example, on page eleven of the Re-Entry Guide, our blended learning model guidance is outlined. It states, "blended learning will only occur based upon guidance from the Governor and/or health officials."

Throughout the return to in-person learning, PCS will continue monitoring health conditions in the community and schools. Our conversations with state and local health officials are ongoing. We will continue to work closely with the Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) and state and local health officials to determine if additional or increased mitigation measures are necessary.

Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of our school community remains our top priority. PCS will continue to implement a variety of health and safety measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses including:

- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette
- Social distancing to the largest extent
- Eliminate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Contact tracing in collaboration with the PCHD.

You can find additional details, including health and safety measures and student and family support resources, under **PCS Recovery Guide** on our website at [putnamschools.com](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1078055/PCS_Recovery_Guide.pdf) or by visiting the direct link, https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1078055/PCS_Recovery_Guide.pdf. I encourage you to review this document carefully and wish to thank families for entrusting their children to the employees of Putnam County Schools as we all pledge to provide the very best education possible.

Again, please know that the health, safety, and well-being of our school community remains the top priority. We will continue to follow sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the health of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

