



Reopening Schools Plan

Traditional

All Day, Everyday

Revised July 21, 2021

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff;

It has been a long year. The pandemic has taken its toll on our families, children, and community members. Over the past year, we have learned much about COVID-19 and the mitigation techniques. As of right now, Arizona is going in the right direction in our fight against COVID-19.

As we enter phase 3 of this pandemic, schools are looking for ways to not only re-open full time, but to also stay open full time. As the CDC continues to get more information about this virus, schools are able to use that information to our advantage.

Our goal is to provide an environment that is safe for our students and staff members. School will look different for a while, but our primary concern is for the safety and well-being of all who enter our gates. The following pages will outline what Parker Unified School District will be doing and how school will look under our COVID-19 protocols. We will continue to ask for your cooperation and patience.

Respectfully,

Brad Sale
Superintendent
Parent

School Reopening Plan

Traditional Model

Reasoning:

To provide a traditional school experience while practicing safe school protocols and mitigation techniques to combat the spread of COVID-19. This model allows students, parents, and teachers to return to a school that is as normal as possible.

Background:

This model allows Parker Unified to use common sense as well as the guidelines from the Center's for Disease Control (CDC), Arizona Department of Education (ADE), The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), and Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS).

Parker Unified will be open when the community spread is mild to moderate. In generalized terms, Parker Unified may be open with a case count from 0 per 100,000 people to 100 per 100,000 people. Even these numbers are just a recommendation. Research is showing that the safest place for children in this pandemic is school. Parker Unified will stay open unless closed by health officials.

School Hours:

Please don't bring your children prior to 7:30AM on any of our 6 campuses. There is no supervision of playgrounds prior to this time, and gates may be locked.

Blake Primary School: 8:00AM to 2:40PM. Early Release Friday 1:30PM

Wallace Elementary School: 8:00AM to 2:55PM. Early Release Friday 1:50PM

Le Pera Elementary School: 8:00AM to 2:40PM. Early Release Friday 1:30PM

Wallace Junior High: 8:00AM to 2:55PM. Early Release Friday 1:50PM

Parker High School: 8:00AM to 3:16PM. Early Release Friday 1:48PM

Parker Alternative School:

Morning: 8:00AM to Noon:

Afternoon: Noon to 4PM

Parker Unified will be using a variety of mitigation strategies to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The techniques we use will help keep our schools open for in-person learning longer.

Mitigation Techniques:

Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Appropriate Distancing/Social Distancing

- Students and teachers are reminded to stay 3-6 feet apart whenever possible
- Decals may be used to ensure appropriate distance in hallways, lines, cafeterias
- Classroom desks will be at least 3 feet apart
- Student seating in cafeteria will be limited with appropriate distance in-between students
- On the playground, students will be reminded to not congregate in large groups
- On the bus, students will sit normally. Family members are encouraged to sit together.
- No more than one family in a school office at a time
- Physical barriers (plexiglass) may be used to protect staff and students

Staying home when Appropriate

- Students and staff should stay home when they don't feel good
- Students and unvaccinated staff should stay home when they have had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19. Currently, there is conflicting information regarding this from the Governor's Office and the AZDHS. The Governor is saying students may stay in school when in close contact while AZDHS says students should isolate for 10 days. PUSD will recommend isolation, but at this time it is not required.
- Students and staff should stay home when they have had a recent COVID-19 test and are awaiting the results
- Students and unvaccinated staff are recommended to stay home if anyone in the immediate family has tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- students and staff should stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff should stay home if they have a temperature over 100 degrees and showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Hand Hygiene/Respiratory Etiquette

- Students/Staff should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand washing should be done several times daily.
- When soap and water is not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Classrooms have hand sanitizer available.
- Wash your hands after touching your face or hair.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing with a tissue.
- Several hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the school campus for student use.
- Students/staff should sneeze into a tissue or at minimum into the elbow. Students/staff should immediately wash their hands afterwards or at minimum use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol.

Face Coverings/Masks

- According to CDC guidance, a well fitting cloth facemask should be worn when social distancing can't be maintained. Masks should cover the nose and mouth with no gaps.

- Governor Ducey has repealed the mask mandate and AZ Legislature has passed legislation allowing mask use to be optional in public schools. Therefore, the wearing of masks while at school, on the bus, at athletic events is optional.
- Face Coverings are optional when outside (on playground) and social distancing is able to happen. Masks are not required on any campus of Parker Unified.
- If a family chooses to send their child to school with a mask, the best masks are tightly fitted and breathable cotton.

Signs and Messages:

- Signs will be posted at the entrance, classrooms, restrooms, and hallways to promote everyday protective measures.
- Link CDC website on our websites so information is readily available
- Updates and important announcements are on our website www.parkerusd.org

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Teachers will wipe down and use disinfectant spray on frequently touched items in the classroom at least two times per day.
- School buses will be disinfected daily.
- Routine school cleaning will be increased.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized daily.
- Communal areas if being used will be sanitized after each use.

Shared Objects:

- Teachers will discourage shared objects in the classroom, but if objects must be shared, students should at minimum sanitize their hands before use and after use.
- Students should have their own school supplies to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- On the playground students may use a common playground toy. The toy should be sanitized after recess.

Ventilation:

- Outside air will be used when possible. This includes having the door open and windows open to allow the ventilation of air inside the classroom.
- Newer AC units will be ordered. These units have better circulation of air and will include bi-polar ionization to purify the air.
- 100 in-duct air scrubbers using the Active Pure technology have been ordered and installed. All facilities in Blake and WES are using this product as well as areas in WJH and PHS.
- 50 air purifiers using the Active Pure Technology have been ordered for Le Pera Elementary and all special education rooms, libraries, and areas where congregation happens.

Classroom Set Up:

- Desks will be spaced appropriate distance from each other. PUSD will use the CDC recommendation of 3 feet.

- Desks should be facing the same direction. If using tables, students should try to sit 3 feet apart from each other. If possible, blockers may be used.
- Where appropriate, sneeze guards or plexi-glass dividers may be used.
- Teachers may use face shields (for the teacher) or barriers for small reading groups.
- The use of outside ventilation is encouraged
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available
- Students should be in cohorts to provide for easier contact tracing

Bus Set Up:

- Parents are encouraged to take their child's temperature prior to leaving home.
- Hand sanitizer is available as students enter the bus
- Students will sit as family groups while on the bus.
- School buses will be sanitized daily
- The seats around the bus driver will be left open as much as possible
- Face coverings are optional to ride the bus

Food Service Operations:

- students will observe appropriate distancing guidelines while waiting to get their meals
- If communal areas are open, students will sit one student every three feet or at least one space in between children.
- Communal areas will be sanitized after each use
- Outside eating will be encouraged if allowed by USDA

Maintaining Healthy Operations:

At Home

- Check for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to going to school
- Take your child's temperature. If greater than 100 have the child stay home
- Encourage your child to wear a proper fitting face covering
- Purchase enough school supplies so sharing isn't needed
- When your child is sick, have them stay home
- Teach and reinforce proper hand washing techniques at home

At School

- Playground equipment will be sanitized daily
- Face Masks are optional per Governor Ducey and AZ State Legislature
- Enhanced cleaning will happen at each school
- Teachers will sanitize and wipe down frequently touched surfaces throughout the day
- Signage will be posted around the schools
- Staff and students will hand wash frequently.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer frequently
- Outside air will be used in the classroom when appropriate
- Desks will be appropriately distanced
- Social distancing will be encouraged
- Communal areas will be limited in use

- Cohorting of groups will be used as much as possible.
- Contact tracing in combination of isolation/quarantine in collaboration with the La Paz County Health Department will be used in for students/staff who test positive.
- Binex testing is available to those students/staff members who are showing symptoms. Students can only be tested with parent consent.

On the Bus

- Students and staff will have the option to wear face masks
- Students will sit in family groups as much as possible
- Students will use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus
- Signage for reminders will be posted on the buses
- Outside air will be used when possible. AC will not be in recirculation mode
- Buses will be sanitized daily

As good neighbors, Parker Unified School District has been offering our facilities to provide sites for vaccination clinics. PUSD will continue to provide these services free of charge. Once vaccinations are approved for student use, PUSD may offer vaccination clinics on our campuses. As with any medical procedure, parent consent is required.

Parents:

Parker Unified knows you are the first line of defense to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We ask that you do the following:

1. Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
 - a. Fever
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Flu like symptoms such as muscle aches, sore throat, headache, fatigue
 - e. Vomiting
 - f. Diarrhea
 - g. New loss of taste or smell
 - h. Other symptoms as they are released by CDC
2. We ask that you do a health screening on any school age child prior to sending them to school.
 - a. Take child's temperature. Do not send to school if the child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.
 - b. If your child is exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms of COVID-19 keep child at home.
 - c. If your child or your immediate family has been in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 keep your child at home.
 - d. If your child is not feeling well, keep them at home.
 - e. If you have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results, please keep your child home.
3. Reinforce proper handwashing techniques at home. Everyone should be using soap and water and scrubbing their hands for at least 20 seconds.

4. Remind children to cover their cough and/or use a Kleenex or tissue to cover their mouth when sneezing or coughing, then immediately washing their hands with soap and water. If you are unable to wash with soap and water, then use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
5. If you are able to drive and drop off your child at their school, this will save bus space allowing for more appropriate distancing on the school bus.
6. Only one set of parents will be in the offices at a time. This is to keep the number of people in close contact to each other to a minimum. You may be asked to wear a mask if you go onto the campus to visit. This is for the safety of the children and our staff. The new law does not say anything about visitors not wearing a mask, only staff and students.
7. Don't be offended if we don't allow you to wait on campus to pick up your child, visitors will be at a minimum until the COVID-19 Pandemic subsides.
8. Until the COVID-19 Pandemic is over, Parker Unified will not be giving awards for perfect attendance. If your child is not feeling good, we want them and need them to stay home. The school will provide missing work for your child to complete.
9. Parents will need to inform school of any health related issues that may accidentally present themselves as a symptom of COVID-19.

Employees:

You are essential to the smooth operation of school activities. We ask you to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by doing the following:

1. Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - a. Fever
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Flu like symptoms such as muscle aches, sore throat, headache, fatigue
 - e. Vomiting
 - f. Diarrhea
 - g. New loss of taste or smell
 - h. Keep up to date on information handed down by the CDC regarding symptoms.
2. Do a self-health screening prior to reporting to work each day. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 stay home. If you are not feeling well, stay home.
3. Use and model proper handwashing techniques at school and home.
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or handkerchief and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If you are unable to use soap and water, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

5. Have lessons and any work needed available for your room each day. If you have to miss due to illness, we want those items prepared in advance so you don't come to work.
6. Face Masks are optional. If you want to wear a face mask or use a shield, you may do so, but are not required.

How is School Going to Look?

The schools at Parker Unified will be running a little different during the pandemic. This is for the safety of all involved.

On the Bus:

1. Bus drivers have the option of wearing a mask.
2. Parker Unified will have mask wearing as an option.
3. There will be signage on the bus reminding students of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and that they should not enter the bus with any symptom of COVID-19.
4. Transportation department will work to have more bus stops so they are closer to student's homes. High school age students who live within two miles of PHS will not be transported due to the number of students who can ride the bus. PUSD is encouraging all parents who are able to transport their own children to school to do so.
5. Each student when they enter the bus will be asked to sanitize their hands. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available as the student walks up the bus steps.
6. Students will sit with immediate family members as much as possible. This allows the school district to have more than one student per seat.
7. The natural size of the bus seat in front acts as a barrier to sneeze or coughs.
8. Buses will be loaded back to front and offloaded front to back to minimize students passing by other students.
9. All other bus rules are in effect.
10. When weather permits, windows will be down to allow plenty of ventilation. AC units will not be on recirculation mode.
11. Buses are sanitized after daily.

At School:

1. Parents will need to inform school of any health related issues that may accidentally present themselves as a symptom of COVID-19. If the staff member in the isolation room is noticing symptoms other than a fever, such as shortness of breath, they may call to confirm child has asthma or other respiratory ailment and return them to class.
2. Students will be reminded about appropriate distance. Parker Unified classifies appropriate distancing as 3 feet apart per CDC guidelines.
3. There will be signage at all campuses reminding students about staying home when sick, not to enter campus or if already on campus to report to the health aide if they are showing any symptoms. There will be signage reminding students to properly wash their hands. There will also be signage reminding students the symptoms of COVID-19.
4. You will see hand sanitizing stations throughout the campus. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands frequently in the classroom and outside of the classroom.
5. Playgrounds will be open. Students will be reminded of appropriate distancing. All playground equipment will be sprayed with our sanitizing agent a minimum of once per day.

6. Students and employees may wear a face covering according to the face covering policy. It is optional, not required.
7. There may be colored dots on the sidewalks and multi-purpose floors. These are reminders to appropriate distance.
8. All K-8 students will remain with the same groupings throughout the day.
9. School is cleaned thoroughly every evening.

In the Classroom:

1. Class sizes in Parker Unified average around 21 for our k-3 classrooms and around 25 in our 4-8 classes.
2. There will be more signage inside of the classroom about washing hands, and know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
3. Desks will be in rows. We will have appropriate distance between our desks. Which according to the CDC is 3 feet.
4. Teachers may wear personal protective equipment such as masks or face shield especially for close reading groups.
5. There may be plexi glass dividers on desks in some rooms, this is a decision made by the individual teacher at each school. This includes at group reading stations.
6. Students may wear face masks. We ask that students are trained how to wear a mask at home so they are not playing with the mask or excessive touching of their face because of a mask. Reminder, students are not required to wear a mask.
7. Students should avoid touching their face as much as possible.
8. Teachers will be wiping down frequently touched surfaces several times per day.
9. Students are asked to have their own school supplies. Supplies will not be shared during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
10. Computer keyboards will be wiped down using a micro-fiber cloth after the class is finished.
11. When weather permits, outside ventilation will be used. Doors and windows will be opened to allow plenty of air to circulate the classroom. Teachers will be permitted to teach outside when weather permits.
12. Specials (music, pe) teachers may travel but are not required to travel to the homeroom class instead of the class traveling to a separate room.

Lunch Room/Cafeteria:

1. Hand sanitizing stations will be available for student use.
2. Students will sit every other seat at the cafeteria tables. The seats will be marked where children may sit.
3. Students will use appropriate distance in lunch lines.
4. Masks are optional while in the cafeteria.
5. Breakfast will be grab and go bags.
6. Grade levels may be split to allow for more appropriate distancing.
7. We will ask that sharing be prohibited.

Playground:

1. Playground items such as kick balls, footballs, jump ropes, etc may be used as long as students have sanitized their hands prior to recess and items get sanitized at end of recess.
2. Hand sanitizing stations will be available for use.
3. Students will need to keep appropriate distance while standing in line to use playground equipment.
4. Playground equipment will be sprayed with a sanitizer solution at least daily.
5. Students may wear mask, This will be a personal choice.

Bathrooms:

1. The number of students allowed into the bathroom at one time will equal the number of stalls/urinals that are in the bathroom.
2. Students need to wash their hands with soap and water. Remember, to wash for at least 20 seconds.
3. Bathrooms will be sanitized at least twice during the day.
4. Students are reminded that the bathrooms are not play areas.

Offices:

1. There will be plexi glass dividers in place to protect our office staff.
2. We will limit the number of parents in the office.
3. Parents will need to observe appropriate distancing while waiting to get into the office.
4. Employees may wear masks, it is optional. Parents may wear a mask when they enter the school offices.

Activities:

1. Schools may limit awards ceremonies, back to school nights, carnivals and other types of congregate activities during the pandemic. These activities will be reinstated when possible.
2. Schools will not award perfect attendance during the pandemic.
3. Field trips will be limited to prevent exposure.
4. Schools may cancel certain events if the case numbers warrant a cancelation.

Procedures that will be followed if there is a positive COVID-19 Test or Symptoms:

1. Confidentiality will be maintained. Principals at each school will be contacted. Principals can contact the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.
2. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, they will be separated from other employees, students and visitors. A rapid test may be administered to see if the symptoms are COVID or not. If positive, arrangements will be made to send the employee home in a safe manner. If the employee can self-transport, they may do so. If the employee is unable to self-transport then an emergency contact will be called. If the employee is in medical distress, 911 will be called.
3. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the student will be separated from other students and staff. The exception is the one staff member who is supervising the student. This staff member will wear PPE or at minimum a cloth face covering and will maintain a distance of 6 feet from the student. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up child. If child appears

to be in medical distress, 911 will be called. If rapid testing is available, student may be tested with parent permission to determine if they have COVID-19 or not.

4. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student for a prolonged period will be closed off. Areas will be cleaned and disinfected. The district has purchased UV lights to disinfect rooms.
5. School officials will need to determine whether other employees or students have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for longer than 15 minutes. If it is determined that has happened, those individuals will be notified of potential exposure. The name of the individual who was sick will not be disclosed. Those students or staff members who have been vaccinated will not have to quarantine, but those who are not vaccinated and were possibly exposed will be asked to monitor their health closely and will be recommended to self-quarantine for a minimum of 7-10 days.
6. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until either of the following has occurred:

Scenario One

- There has been a resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medicines for at least 24 hours
- 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms

If student or adult has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 as a close contact, they can wait 10 days to determine if symptoms occur, and return on day 11 or if they receive a negative COVID-19 test on day 5, 6, or 7, that person may return on day 8.

Regardless, the student or employee will follow the directions they receive from the county health department or I.H.S. on when they are able to return to school/work.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

By following the mitigation strategies, our schools should remain open and ready to do business. Over 2/3 of our staff have been vaccinated which allows our schools the ability to have teachers continue to teach even if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Student's academic needs

- School will remain open full time unless ordered to close by the La Paz County Health Department, AZ Department of Health, Governor's Office, or tribal authority for those schools on tribal land.
- If cases become substantially spreading in the community, Parker Unified may resort to hybrid learning and other mitigation factors to maintain at least some in person learning activities. If hybrid learning has to take place, students will be asked to log into their google classroom to get in person instruction.
- At minimum, while students are not attending in-person learning, they shall be given homework packets to maintain academic standards.

Student Food Services

- While school is open full time, students are able to eat at the cafeteria or if go bags are offered, to go outside to sit and eat. Meals that are offered are breakfast and lunches. Students may eat at the appropriate times.
- If schools have to be on hybrid learning, students who attend in person will eat at their normal times. For those students who are off campus, to go bags for breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup from 7AM to 9AM
- If schools are closed by the Governor, etc, students will be able to pick up their breakfast and lunches via go bags from 7AM-9AM. If schools are closed for a prolonged period of time, the school will have multiple areas for students to pick up meals.

Students/Staff social, emotional, mental health needs

- While school is open full time, students have access to teachers, counselors, and school psychologist. Schools/teachers have been trained in Sanford Harmony, Random Acts of Kindness, Capturing Kids Hearts, PBIS, and trauma informed schools.
- If schools have to be on hybrid learning or if they are closed, then teachers are directed to be on the lookout for signs of trauma, depression, anxiety, and to report those items to the building administrator who will facilitate community and district resources for help.
- All signs of child abuse will be reported per mandatory reporting.

Will Schools have to Close for COVID-19?

By following the mitigation strategies, the number of COVID-19 cases should be contained. Even with mitigation being followed, there is a chance some students and teachers will develop COVID-19. Our teachers will continue to cohort their students so we know who may have had a possible exposure. With that information, we will have only those students who are within 6 feet of the student/staff member for a prolonged period of time quarantine. Our goal is to keep our schools open for business all day every day..