



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

December 10th, 2021

Dear PC #535 Families & Community:

As shared in previous updates, we remain steadfast in our focus to provide in person learning at PC #535. Throughout the past few weeks, we have experienced a consistent trend in new cases leading to numerous students being excluded as close contacts. Trends over the whole year thus far show that most close contacts are due to seating arrangements during lunchtime. In response, all schools have been evaluating lunchtime logistics to reduce close contacts and exclusions.

Prior to winter break, PCPS and PCES will be implementing new procedures to ensure appropriate distancing at lunchtimes. These changes will ensure that no student has to be sent home due to close contact resulting from lunch. (These changes were not made before because cases were relatively low early in the year.) At PCJH, seating is already spaced to meet this need. At PCHS, logistics for spacing are difficult due to available spaces and supervision. However, students will be provided with an option to eat in an area designated for spacing that guarantees the student would not be excluded due to contact at this time of day. Please contact the respective building Principal if you have any questions about these updated procedures.

The surge in cases as well as the need to test symptomatic students has also increased our need for staff to support procedures. We have posted two vacancies to hire additional staff and ensure we maximize in person learning by providing safe and healthy environments. (See “Vacancies” for more information.)

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and collaboration in keeping our schools safe for students, staff, and visitors!

Safety & Security

PC #535 remains committed to the safety and security of all students, staff, and visitors. We remind all families that our District coordinates with both PC Sheriff's Office and Granville Police Department on all matters related to safety. We also ask that any concerning behavior or threats be reported to appropriate staff/administration or through the [anonymous tip line](#).

Weekly Screening Testing

We have been experiencing delays in starting the weekly screening testing with Midwest Coordination Center (MCC). See last week's update for more detailed information. We anticipate notice of signup being sent to parents/guardians early next week.

Student Vaccinations

Students who are fully vaccinated do not have to be excluded from school when identified as a close contact as long as they remain asymptomatic. Verification of vaccination is required for this consideration. Parents/guardians may submit proof of vaccination to Mrs. Main at any time using the following link:

[Vaccination Verification Form](#)

COVID Response

Among the four schools, 2 students at PCPS, 3 students at PCES, 2 students at PCJH, and 2 students at PCHS were reported as testing positive for COVID in the past two weeks. From those 9 cases, 19 students and staff were identified as close contacts. There were 29 other students and staff who would have been considered close contacts if prevention strategies were not in place.

Vacancies

PC #535 currently has a few vacancies across the buildings. Recent postings include School Nurse (short-term) and COVID Testing Facilitator. Please see the following link for more info: [Vacancies](#)

Thank you for your continued support of all students and their learning at PC #535, and have a great weekend!

Dr. Clayton J. Theisinger, *Superintendent*