



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

COVID Prevention Strategies and Plan – 2022-2023

Revised: September 20th, 2022

Reapproved: March 21st, 2023

School Day

- All schools will follow the District calendar and provide in person learning five days per week according to the daily school schedule.
 - Remote learning may be utilized for an entire school if and when an outbreak is identified in consultation with the BMP Health Department.

Ventilation

- All buildings HVAC units are and will continue to be set to maximize external air flow into the buildings.
- All buildings HVAC units are and will continue to have filters routinely changed by maintenance/custodial staff.
- Classroom windows may be opened and fans utilized to increase external air flow into learning areas.
- When possible, classes or other activities will be moved outdoors.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Students in PCPS and PCES will receive direct instruction on proper handwashing as well as follow-up monitoring and reinforcement of frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Students in all grade-levels will be provided reminders via announcements to practice respiratory etiquette.
- Visuals will be posted in all restrooms as a reminder to practice proper handwashing.
- All schools will be provided with handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies.
 - Hand sanitizer will be appropriately stored and provided in all classrooms based upon the students' age-level.
 - Hand sanitizer will be appropriately provided in all meal time areas with assistance from staff at PCPS and PCES.
- All students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer when sharing materials or other equipment, including before and after activities for physical education and recess.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Routine cleaning and disinfecting done according to task list managed by building custodians, including disinfecting of all high-touch surfaces and nightly spraying of all surfaces.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations are widely available in the community for students and families.

Reporting Illness/Staying Home When Sick/Symptom Screening/Contact Tracing

- Any student or staff feeling ill, testing positive for COVID, or reporting any of the COVID symptoms as listed by IDPH will be excluded from school.
 - Parent/guardian must contact the school for direction/guidance on returning to in person learning as soon as possible.
- Any student reporting illness or COVID symptoms while at school should immediately report to the office and remain in a supervised area while waiting for pickup.
- All student absences related to COVID will be considered excused.
- Remote learning will only be made available to students in accordance with State laws and ISBE regulations and directives.
- Students and staff who are close contacts do not have to be excluded from school as long as they remain asymptomatic. Any student or staff member who becomes symptomatic will be considered a probable or positive case and must be excluded from school according to IDPH and/or CDC guidance.
 - Parents/guardians of a class will be notified by the Principal if and when a positive case has been identified in their student's class.

Masks

- Masks are optional but recommended. Persons who are immunocompromised are encouraged to wear a mask or respirator that provide proper protection.
- The District will collect daily data on active COVID cases.
- Positive Case: Masks for students and staff returning on days 6 through 10 are highly recommended for individuals who were positive for COVID.
- Masks shall be worn at all times in the school nurse's office.
- All students, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, and visitors will remain respectful of the individual and family choices made in regard to prevention strategies, including the wearing of masks at any given time. District policy and student handbooks will be used accordingly to ensure a welcoming and learning-focused environment.

Social/Physical Distancing

- All learning areas will be arranged as best as is practicable to physically distance students in accordance with IDPH and/or CDC recommendations.
- All social/physical distancing will be done in an equitable manner that does not take into account the vaccination status of individuals.

Testing for COVID

- If logistically possible, PC #535 will provide testing for symptomatic students and staff.