



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

Return to Learn Plan – 2023-2024

Revised: September 20th, 2022

Reapproved: March 21st, 2023

Reapproved: June 20th, 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.

Ventilation

- All buildings HVAC units will be set when necessary 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.

Vaccinations

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

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

- Any student or staff testing positive for COVID will be excluded from school in accordance with student handbook procedures.
 - Parent/guardian must contact the school for direction/guidance on returning to in person learning as soon as possible. In general, students will not be allowed to return to school until they are free from fever, diarrhea, and/or vomiting for 24 hours without the help of fever reducing or other medication.
- Any student reporting illness or COVID symptoms while at school should immediately report to the office and remain in a supervised area. A school nurse will attend to the student and provide guidance to the parents/guardians of the student.
- 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. (With the end of the Public Health Emergency on May 11th, 2023, remote learning under Sections 10-30 and 34-18.66 of the School Code are no longer applicable.)
- Students and staff who are close contacts do not have to be excluded from school as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Masks

- Masks are optional but recommended. Persons who are immunocompromised are encouraged to wear a mask or respirator that provide proper protection.
- Positive Case: Masks for students and staff returning on days 6 through 10 are highly recommended for individuals who were positive for COVID.
- 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

- If required, 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.