

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools Addendum to Safe Re-Opening Procedures

According to the Center for Disease Control

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as hand-washing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this guide. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school staff can take to help lower the risk of exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).

One of the actions that can be taken to help lower the risk of exposure is the use of face coverings. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be repeatedly reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings (CDC, 2020).

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally experience mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all-inclusive. Other symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

Universal Precautions Recommended by the CDC

Hand Washing

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Physical Distancing

Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Masks and Face Shields

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover or a plastic face shield when around others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a mask or shield when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face cover or plastic shield is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.

All students should have a mask or face covering available for use when necessary as part of their school supplies

- **Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19, and our policy concerning masks may change under the advice of the state department of education and state health officials.**

Although masks will not be required at this time, CDC guidelines provide scientific reasons why wearing masks can help limit the spread of the virus.

- COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arm lengths).
- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.
- Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
- Cloth face coverings can be made from household items. (CDC Guidance - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)

Response to Disease Levels:

Level 1: We anticipate opening at this level on August 12th and reassessing conditions daily.

- No positive cases of COVID-19 on campus
- School is fully open with COVID-19 well-being protocols in place.
- PPV will offer parents the option of either in-person instruction or virtual program (semester-long commitment).
- If virtual option is chosen, that student will not participate in extracurricular activities.

Level 2: The increased threat of COVID-19

- A blended model will be implemented if the following occur:
 - The threat has increased due to confirmed or suspected cases on campus
 - PPV officials determine that a reduced capacity of traditional learning days is needed beyond what is possible with increased community spread.
- Students previously in the traditional track will transition to a blended instruction model that will consist of periodic virtual/digital instructional days that will take the place of traditional instruction days. This alternate schedule will be published in conjunction with the new information that is available at that time.
- Students previously on the virtual/digital track will remain in the virtual/digital model.

Level 3: Virtual/digital learning for all students due to the increased threat of COVID-19 and/or mandated closure.

- 100% virtual/digital learning platform will be implemented if:
 - Health or government officials direct schools to close in order to mitigate COVID-19 transmission.
 - PPV officials determine that closure is needed.