

Maintaining in person learning was the #1 priority for students, staff, and families in the end of year survey results. Our focus is on keeping our students and staff healthy and minimizing disruptions to high quality, in person learning. With this goal in mind, the school board discussed the [Updated CDC guidance as of 7.27.21](#) during a work session on July 30 and recommended protocols for the upcoming school year during the August 10 school board meeting. The American Rescue Plan federal funding program requires that school districts consider CDC recommendations and provide an opportunity for public feedback. We are weighing the impact to the community as a whole if Covid spreads within our schools, and striving to balance public health concerns with instruction and learning needs. There is concern about the highly transmissible Delta variant and how it will impact our school and community. There is also concern about universal masking for all students and staff and how it affects teaching and learning. Regardless of our personal beliefs or opinions, positive cases and close contacts are subject to Public Health quarantine rules, and will cause disruptions to in person learning. If student learning is disrupted due to decreased mitigation strategies and increased transmission and quarantines, the district reserves the right to tighten protocols as needed.

The two biggest topics of discussion with regard to protocols are masking and travel requirements. Other than masking, nearly all other things will look very much like school has in the past (pre-Covid), and we want to keep it that way (i.e. no class podding in the middle/high school, using the cafeterias regularly, full course offerings available to students, extracurricular activities, etc.).

#### Moderate Risk Plan

A local Health Advisory Committee will be created to advise administration and the school board in decision-making related to health and safety. This committee will meet weekly and will include: PSD school board representative, PSD superintendent, PSD principals/activity director, Public Health Nurse, PMC representatives, and PSD Union representatives. The school board will consider overall protocols during each school board meeting and receive an update from the local Health Advisory committee through the Superintendent. After consultation with the local Health Advisory Committee and when there is low community/school transmission, fewer masking protocols may be considered by the school board. Based on input from the Health Advisory Committee and school/community case numbers, the superintendent *may* tighten mitigations as needed throughout the month to prevent/address outbreaks.

All plans for in person learning assume some risk of Covid transmission, as well as other illnesses, regardless of protocols implemented.

There is still a risk for classrooms to be shut down due to transmission/exposure, and mitigation strategies may be adjusted; i.e. moving to red status and increasing masking protocols and/or tightening post-travel quarantine requirements. Masking will not keep students or staff out of quarantine if exposed to an unmasked person who is Covid positive.

We don't make Public Health directives, and we can't break Public Health directives. Students/staff may be out on quarantine multiple days/times throughout the school year, regardless of protocols in place. Allowing optional masking increases the chance of close contact quarantines, as opposed to universal masking. Under State Public Health directives, schools must comply with contact tracing requests and must comply with quarantine requirements for identified close contact exposures and positive cases.

## Universal

- PSD does not offer a full virtual learning option this year, except when in remote learning/school closures or special circumstances, as approved by the school
- Strict symptom free policy implemented for all staff, students, and visitors; masks required for visitors
- Continued emphasis on use of hand washing, sanitizer, desk/surface cleaning between classes, ventilation strategies
- Regular antigen testing available and encouraged for all students and staff (permission required for optional student antigen testing during school; bi-weekly antigen testing required for participation in secondary school-sponsored extracurricular activities)
- At home symptom/temperature screening for staff and students, but no screening/temperature checks at the door
- Emphasize 3-6' distance between students in classrooms
- Close contact quarantine, **per Public Health directive**, for unvaccinated students and staff:
  - *7-day quarantine + Negative PCR test on day 6 or later +No Symptoms-Return on Day 8*  
OR
  - *10-day quarantine + No Symptoms-Return on Day 11*
- Close contact quarantine is not required for vaccinated staff and students at this time, or for anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, **per Public Health directive**.
- Students who are within 3-6' of each other wearing masks consistently are no longer subject to close contact quarantine, regardless of vaccination status.

**Operationally: The '21-'22 school year will start with Universal Masking until Sept 14th (school board meeting) to allow for a slow transition while other routines and procedures are fine tuned. Decisions regarding retention or reduction of universal masking protocols will be based on school/community risk level at that time and medical recommendations, and may be different for each building. This moderate risk plan also allows administration to move between color designations as needed for "real time" risk assessments of positive cases/possible exposures in individual classes or grade levels.**

**Yellow:** community cases are low, low to no positive cases in the school (staff or student), contact tracing happening easily

- Indoor masking recommended for preK-12, regardless of vaccination status
- In person school open, secondary extracurricular activities in session as allowed per mitigation plans (including bi-weekly antigen testing)
- Travel policy in place addressing intra or out of state travel on Alaska Airlines or AMHS:
  - OPTION #1: Return to school with required masking until negative PCR test result received on Day 7, strict symptom monitoring, PCR test on Day 7 (option #1 required for staff/option for students)
  - OPTION #2: 10-day quarantine, strict symptom monitoring, no PCR test (option for students)

**Red:** community cases rising, several positive cases within the school (staff or student), contact tracing difficult

- Universal required masking indoors preK-12, regardless of vaccination status
- In person school open; secondary extracurricular activities in session as allowed per mitigation plans (including bi-weekly antigen testing)
- Travel policy in place addressing intra or out of state travel on Alaska Airlines or AMHS:
  - OPTION #1: Return to school with required masking until negative PCR test result received on Day 7, strict symptom monitoring, PCR test on Day 7 (option #1 required for staff/option for students)
  - OPTION #2: 10-day quarantine, strict symptom monitoring, no PCR test (option for students)

\*\*\*TRAVEL POLICY and POST-TRAVEL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE TIGHTENED based on school/community transmission.

**To provide feedback on this plan please follow this link [Feedback](#)**