

Pope County CUSD #1
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
2022-2023 School Year

This document is an ever changing outline based upon the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the CDC and may be updated based on school community, and county positivity numbers. Modifications to this plan could include increased mitigation measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19. School strategies in this plan may be removed or increased based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms. This plan will be regularly reviewed, but no less frequently than every six months, taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the District will seek public input and take such input into account.

The District will be fully open for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2022-2023 school year. The following mitigation strategies will be considered based on the most up-to-date guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Remote instruction, which may include a multitude of delivery methods, will be made available for any student who is under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19.

If a student is not excluded from school or quarantined by IDPH, per their regulations, but requests remote learning due to a medical condition, the request for remote learning will be evaluated under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If the student has a qualifying medical condition, the student may be provided home/hospital instruction. The District will operate in accordance with federal and state guidance, consistent with its legal authority.

1. Face Coverings/Mask Use:

Students and staff may, but are not required to, wear masks. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking in communities with high COVID-19 levels. If community COVID-19 levels increase to medium or high transmission, students, staff, and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while indoors.

School staff members are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who choose to continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.

2. Physical Distancing:

Physical distancing and cohorting may be utilized as necessary based on community transmission levels.

3. Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:

The District will encourage frequent and proper hand washing and will continue to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes). Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) will be offered in addition to hand washing.

4. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation:

School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and may have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow. When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation. If a school building has had a person test positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the District will clean and disinfect the space. Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters by using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.

5. Exclusion from School Due to COVID-19 Positive Test or Symptoms: See Return to School Flowchart attached and incorporated herein.

A. Test Positive for COVID-19 -- PCR or Antigen Test (Exclude From School)

Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, shall be excluded from school and may return under the following criteria:

- Stay home for a minimum of five (5) days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from positive viral test for asymptomatic persons.
- Individuals may return to school after five (5) days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.
- Individual are strongly encouraged, but not mandated, to wear a mask around others, even when outdoors, for five more days after returning to school.

B. COVID-19- like symptoms (Exclude From School)

Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, shall be excluded from school and may return to school under the following criteria:

- Receives a negative test (PCR, Antigen, or Home) result that confirms the symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19 and symptoms have improved or resolved and the criteria to return for that illness is met;

or

- For a minimum of five (5) days and a maximum of 10 days until fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24

hours, and other symptoms have improved;

or

- Submit a note from the individual's treating physician confirming the symptoms are not related to COVID-19 and stating the individual is cleared to return to school. Student/employee should only return once symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition.
- Individuals are strongly encouraged, but not mandated, to wear a mask around others for five more days, even outdoors, after returning to school. Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.
- Employees may be required to take a COVID-19 test in order to determine his/her eligibility for COVID-19 paid administrative leave.

6. Remote Instruction:

The Board has approved a remote instruction plan, which includes a multitude of delivery methods. Remote instruction is available for students who are under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19. See attached Remote Learning Plan.

Student absences related to COVID-19 will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook). Social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss those needs.

High levels of infection within grade levels or a building may necessitate a return to remote learning. Any outbreaks will be reviewed with help from the County Health Department in consideration of Full Remote Learning.

7. Diagnostic and Screening Testing:

Parents can request COVID-19 diagnostic testing for their students by contacting the school's health care professional. Any staff member can request COVID-19 diagnostic testing by contacting the school's health care professional. Consent forms are required in advance of testing.

The District may implement screening testing when community COVID-19 levels are medium or high, and for participants of high-risk activities such as indoor sports and extracurricular activities, and when returning from breaks.

The District will not temperature check or screen students and staff until there is determined a need by the Superintendent based on current conditions. We will be asking all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students

home when they are not feeling well.

8. Promoting Vaccination:

Respectful of peoples’ varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

9. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs:

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immunesystems should contact their student’s principal to discuss the need(s).

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems or asincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil rights Act of 1964) should contact their school’s principal to discuss the need(s) and request accommodations. Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact theirhealthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

10. Collaboration with Public Health Officials:

District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Local Public Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, positive or suspected positive cases of COVID-19, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings. In accordance with State law, the District will provide the Local Public Health Department with the name and contact information of any employee or student who tests positive or is a suspected positive, along with the names of any close contract known to the District. The Local Health Department shall be responsible for conducting any contract tracing.

11. Review of Plan:

Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate based on school, community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.

Board Approval: August 10th, 2022
Board Review: _____
Board Review: _____