



Palermo

UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Building the Foundation for Success"

COVID-19 Safety Plan

2021 - 2022

The following plan was originally developed to safely reopen our schools on October 19, 2020 as allowed, when Butte County moved into the Red Tier based on our county's improving COVID-19 data. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a fluid and dynamic situation, therefore this plan is subject to change in response to changing data and updated guidance. This plan was revised again in January 2021 to reflect the updated CDPH guidance entitled "COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year" that was provided on January 14, 2021. Additional revisions were made to this plan to reflect the September 1, 2021 CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-2022 school year. The most current revisions reflect the changes made to the guidance in March 2022 and April 2022.

As we continue to provide in-person instruction, PUESD will continue to monitor local conditions, collaborate with the Butte County Department of Public Health and follow the California Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year released September 1, 2021 and the revisions that occurred in March and April of 2022.

Masks/Face Coverings

The protocol for the use of face coverings among students, staff and visitors has been developed to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and to also reduce the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses.

- Staff may choose to wear face coverings when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs.
- Students in TK through 8th grade may choose to wear a face covering when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs.
- All campuses will have masks available for individuals to use as needed.
- The district will provide Independent Study as an alternative educational program for students who do not wish to participate in in-person instruction due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and Safety Protocols

COVID-19 is still an active virus that will continue to affect individuals in the school setting. In order to provide for the screening of students and staff, identify potential exposure to COVID-19 and limit the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff, PUESD will follow all guidance as provided by CDPH.

- Staff members will complete a daily self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to the work site.
- Parents and guardians must screen students for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell) before bringing them to

school each day. (See Appendix A: Daily Home Screening Checklist for Students to assist you with daily home screening.)

- Students and staff members **must stay home** if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above.
- Any student or staff member who exhibits any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above, while at school, will be sent home immediately.
- Students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will wait in a supervised isolation area until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up.
- Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results may participate in Independent Study for the duration of the quarantine period.
- If a student or staff member has stayed home, or is sent home from school/work site, due to having COVID-19 symptoms they may not return to school/work site until the symptoms are improving **AND** they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication **AND** they receive a negative COVID-19 test **OR** they have documentation from a medical provider that their symptoms are caused by a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19 (asthma, migraines, allergies, etc).

Health and Hygiene Protocols

The following protocols will be followed in order to encourage proper hygiene and avoid the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

- In compliance with Butte County Department of Public Health guidelines and the guidelines of the State of California Department of Public Health, all staff members will complete training on the importance of hand washing, social distancing, and the use of masks/face coverings in indoor settings.
- Regularly scheduled hand sanitizing and hand washing will be taught, practiced and reinforced throughout the school day.
- Portable hand washing stations will be available for student use.
- Students and staff will use ethyl-based sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.

- Students, especially younger children, will be taught to use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, the proper use of tissues to wipe their nose, and to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their elbow.
- Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided in all classrooms and common areas.
- Students and staff will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom and frequently throughout the day.
- Classroom doors and windows will remain open unless in extreme weather conditions.
- Signage will be posted throughout the school, reminding everyone of good hygiene practices. Examples include, masking, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, “stop the spread of germs”, and maintaining social distancing.

Transportation

PUESD realizes that transportation to and from school is an important service that we provide for our students.

- Staff and students in TK through 8th grade may choose to wear a face covering when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited at all times.
- Bus windows will be open unless prevented by weather conditions.

Cleaning and Disinfection

PUESD will implement the following protocols for cleaning and sanitizing our school campuses and work environment as recommended by guidance from CDPH.

- Classrooms, common areas and other work areas will be cleaned daily.
- Classrooms and other work areas will be supplied with sanitizer and clean towels so that the area can be sanitized throughout the school

day. Used towels will be collected each night and replaced with clean towels.

- Restrooms will be cleaned daily and as needed throughout the day.
- HVAC systems will be set to provide the maximum amount of outdoor air and HVAC filters will be changed on a regular schedule.
- Classrooms and other indoor common areas are equipped with portable air filters/purifiers.
- Classrooms are equipped with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers and will be supplied with hand sanitizer for student and staff use.
- PPE is available at all sites for student and staff use.

Contact Tracing and Exclusion of Positive COVID-19 Cases, Close Contacts and Symptomatic Individuals

Contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case, or a suspected COVID-19 case, is an important strategy to limit or prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus on our school campuses. PUESD will take the following measures when a student or staff member has symptoms, is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 individual or is diagnosed with COVID-19:

- **Individuals with any COVID-19 symptoms**, regardless of vaccination status, will be excluded from school/work site, they may not return to school/work site until the symptoms are improving **AND** they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication **AND** they receive a negative COVID-19 test **OR** they have documentation from a medical provider that their symptoms are caused by a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19 (asthma, migraines, allergies, etc).
- **Individuals who are positive for COVID-19**, are required to: Stay for at least 5 days after the start of symptoms (or after the date of first positive test if no symptoms). Isolation can end after day 5 symptoms are not present or are resolving **and** a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day

10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves. If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. Per CDPH masking guidance, infected persons should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings (see masking section below for additional information). All positive cases will be reported to BCPH.

In the event that a student has been exposed or potentially exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 individual or the close contact of a confirmed case, the school will notify parents/guardians of the possibility of exposure via phone calls and/or NTI messages and/or written communication.

All district staff will be notified via email in the event that a positive COVID-19 case has been identified in the workplace.

COVID Screening Tests for Employees

Per the August 11, 2021 State Health Order, all employees, substitutes and volunteers who are not fully vaccinated are required to participate in weekly screening tests for COVID-19.

- Weekly Saliva PCR testing will also be provided as the primary option for employees to meet the testing requirement.
- BinaxNow Rapid Antigen testing (nasal swab) will be provided on a limited basis to employees who are required to participate in weekly screening testing.
- Employees who are fully vaccinated may also participate in the screening testing, if they choose to do so.

Sports, Band and Extracurricular Activities

- Students in TK through 8th grade may choose to wear a face covering when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs when participating in band, sports and other extracurricular activities.
- Staff involved in these events may choose to wear a face covering when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs.
- Spectators and observers may choose to wear a face covering when needed based on our local community conditions and their individual health needs.

Appendix A: Daily Home Screening Checklist for Students

Complete this Daily Home Screening for Students each day before you send your student to school.

If your child has any of the following symptoms they are required to stay home and will not be admitted to campus or their classroom.

- A fever of 100.4 or higher
- A cough
- A sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell

If the answer is yes to any of the following questions your child is required to stay home and will not be admitted to the campus or their classroom.

- Is my child a close contact* of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Is my child a close contact* of someone who has COVID-19 symptoms and is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test?
- Is my child a close contact* of someone who has COVID-19 symptoms, but has not been tested for COVID-19?

***You are considered to be a close contact if you have been within 6 feet of someone for at least 15 minutes cumulative within a 24 hour period, regardless of face coverings.**

Contact your child's school if they stay home for any of the reasons listed above to determine when your child may return to school.