



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. We are once again revising this plan to reflect the September 1, 2021 CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-2022 school year.

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.

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.

- All staff will wear masks/face in all indoor areas unless they are medically exempt.
- All students in TK through 8th grade will be required to wear a mask/face covering at all times while indoors, unless medically exempt.
- Staff and students are encouraged to bring their own mask/face covering to school each day, however, all campuses will have masks available for individuals to use. Staff are encouraged to wear disposable 3-ply surgical masks, which are more effective than cloth face coverings.
- Staff may use transparent face shields with a drape when necessary to conduct educational activities.
- CDPH recognizes there are some people who cannot wear a mask/face covering. People are exempt from this requirement if they are under age 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that impedes them from properly wearing or handling a mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired. This medical condition must be documented in an IEP or communicated to the school or Human Resources by way of a physician's order. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- The district will provide Independent Study as an alternative educational program for students who do not wish to use a mask/face covering while indoors
- Mask/face covering use is optional when outdoors for both students and staff.
- Masks/face coverings should be removed for meals, snacks, and naptime.

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.
- Students and staff members **must stay home** if they have been in close contact with someone who (a) is COVID-19 positive, (b) is being tested for COVID-19, or (c) is ill with symptoms of COVID-19. The student may not return to school until cleared to do so by Butte County Public Health, a medical care provider and/or school personnel.
- Any student or staff member who exhibits any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above, while at school, will be sent home immediately.
- Any student who exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms while at school will wear a mask and be sent directly to the Health Office on campus where they will be evaluated by the nurse or healthcare assistant.
- 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, being identified as a close contact to a confirmed positive individual 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 at least 10 days have passed since the start of symptoms, the symptoms are improving and they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication OR they receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test and symptoms are improving 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.
- All students will be encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day, as drinking fountains will not be used.

- 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.
- Faculty and staff that will be handling or serving food will be required to use gloves and face coverings

Transportation

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

- Masks/face coverings will be required for **All** students, unless there is a documented exemption, in TK through 8th grade.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands before boarding the bus.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited at all times.
- Buses will be cleaned between routes and at the end of the day.
- 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.
- Indoor and outdoor areas used for lunch periods will be cleaned between each lunch period.
- 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.
- Frequently touched surfaces, including outdoor play structures, will be cleaned daily and throughout the day as needed.
- Students will be issued individual supplies, whenever possible, in order to reduce the sharing of supplies.
- Drinking fountains will not be available for student use. Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle from home.
- 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, and not return until 10 days have passed from the onset of symptoms, symptoms have improved and they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- **Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms**, regardless of vaccination status, who test negative for COVID-19 or provide documentation

from a healthcare provider that their symptoms are due to a non COVID-19 health condition may return to school/work site after they have been fever free 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and all other symptoms have improved.

- **Unvaccinated individuals who are a close contact of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case** will be excluded from school/work site for 10 days from their last exposure to the positive individual. A close contact is defined as within 0-6 feet of the positive individual for longer than 15 minutes. All close contact exposures will be reported to BCPH.
- **Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals who are a close contact of a confirmed positive case** will not be excluded from the school/work site.
- **Individuals who are positive for COVID-19**, regardless of vaccination status, will be excluded from school/work site for 10 days from the symptom onset date or if asymptomatic, for 10 days from the specimen collection date. 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

The indoor masking requirement applies to all extracurricular activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and ALL activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours. Activities include, but are not limited to, sports, band, chorus, or clubs.

- Masks are required for all persons while playing all indoor sports, unless wearing a mask during play has been identified as a choking hazard by a well recognized health authority.
- For the playing of musical instruments that cannot be done with a face covering or when wearing a mask during playing of the instrument poses a choking hazard one of the following options is required: conduct these activities outdoors OR use modified face coverings and bell coverings when playing brass and wind instruments and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing OR undergo weekly screening testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

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.

