



ALL-IN TO REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS



Pittsburgh
Public Schools

Health and Safety Plan

July 22, 2020



AGENDA:

1. Type of Reopening
2. Pandemic Coordinator/Team
3. Key Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
 - i. Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation
 - ii. Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols
 - iii. Monitoring Student and Staff Health
 - iv. Other Considerations for Students and Staff
4. Health and Safety Plan Professional Development
5. Health and Safety Plan Communications





All In Health & Safety Subcommittee Resources that Informed Our Plan:

- Center for Disease Control Guidelines
- Pennsylvania School Reopening Task Force Report
- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- COVID 19 checklist and recommendation for school opening based on confirmed cases
- COVID19 Reopen America's Schools—AFT Plan to Open America's Schools
- American Academy of Pediatrics

**Plan has been reviewed by Dr. Bogen, Allegheny County Health Department*





Per the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), each school entity must:

- Create a Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the local guidelines for all instructional and non- instructional school reopening activities.
- Informed by Governor Wolf's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania
- Have plan approved by the Board prior to the reopening of school
- Make plan public and post on website prior to the reopening of school



Health and Safety Plan should:

- Be tailored to the unique needs of each school entity
- Created in consultation with local health agencies
- Incorporate enough flexibility to adapt to changing conditions in the **Green**, **Yellow**, **Red** phases.
- Focus on professional learning and communications to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed and prepared for a local phased reopening of school facilities
- Consider the adoption of new policies or modification to existing policies
- Be monitored throughout the year and updated as needed



Red, Yellow and Green Phase

The Wolf administration has categorized reopening into three broad phases.

Red Phase:

- Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning,
- Provisions for student services such as school meal programs should continue.
- Large gatherings are prohibited.

Yellow Phase

- Schools may provide in-person instruction

Green Phase:

- Schools may provide in-person instruction



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2020-2021 Reopening Options



Blended In-School Model

Mix of In-School
Instruction and E-Learning



4,026 students
have enrolled in
full-time E-Learning

**Full-Time E-Learning
by Choice**

Teacher-led Instruction
(Synchronous) &
Independent Student Work
(Asynchronous)

Full-Time E-Learning for ALL



Cross-functional team developed the health and safety plan. The PPS team includes members from:

- Superintendent's Office
- Office of School Performance
- Safety Committee
- Health Services
- Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers
- Allegheny County Health Department
- Department of Human Services
- Parent led organizations

Pandemic Team will:

- Facilitate the local planning process
- Monitor implementation Health and Safety Plan
- Monitor local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year.





- **Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation**
- **Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols**
- **Monitoring Student and Staff Health**



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Clean, Sanitize, Disinfect, and Ventilate

Procedures to properly clean, sanitize, disinfect, and ventilate buildings and buses:

- Sanitize and/or disinfect all areas of our buildings with special attention to high touch surfaces.
- Daily cleaning of classrooms, hallways, and other areas.
- Water fountain bubblers will be turned off but bottle filling stations will remain on.
- Deep cleaning on Wednesday of each week when no students are in the building (AA/BB cohort schedule).
- Classroom doors left open when it is safe to do so.
- Ensure proper operation of all ventilation equipment
- Use OSHA and CDC approved disinfectant supplies, including electrostatic sprayers, intermittent disinfectant solutions and Tyvek suits.
- Bus drivers will disinfect in- between routes.



AA/BB Cohort Schedule

- AA: Monday, Tuesday (In-school): Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (E-Learning).
- BB: Thursday, Friday (In-school): Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (E-Learning).
- *Student cohorts will remain consistent. Consideration to have siblings in same cohort*

Classrooms/Learning Spaces

- Distance of 6 to 8 feet maintained between desks and between students seated at tables.
- Seats will all face the same direction.
- Screens or dividers installed as in labs and shops with fixed equipment.
- Desk shields provided to all teachers and service providers.

Communal Spaces (cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, playgrounds, fields and stadiums)

- Limited occupancy and 6 to 8-foot distance will be maintained between students.
- Screens or dividers installed if cafeteria tables cannot accommodate the prescribed distance.
- Outdoor spaces will be used for recess and other activities.
- Floor markings will be placed to ensure social distancing.



Masks:

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks over the age of 2.
- Special accommodations will be available for students:
 - with IEPs and 504 plans
 - at higher risk for severe illness, according to the CDC
 - who depend on mechanical ventilation and children with tracheostomies
 - need nebulizer treatments

Hygiene Routines:

- Bathroom breaks will be scheduled to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and age appropriate protocol will be followed for emergency bathroom visits.
- Students and staff required to wash hands with soap and water before and after eating.
- Procedures for handwashing (where, when and how) will be posted.
- Use of hand sanitizers stations.



Schedules & Hallways

- Students will remain in the same classroom with teachers rotating in.
- Daily schedules and dismissal times will be staggered.
- Hallways and stairwells will be marked for social distancing.
- One-way traffic will be implemented where feasible.
- Students will be permitted to go outside for recess but must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Art, Music & Library

- Teachers will come to the classroom to limit hall congestion.
- Enough materials will be provided to enable limited sharing.
- Appropriate materials to clean supplies that must be shared.
- Musical instruments will not be shared. Each student will be provided their own instrument.
- Upon return, books will be set aside for 2 to 3 days to ensure they are not contaminated.



Gym Class

- Class sizes will be limited and schools will not combine any full classes.
- PE teacher and classroom teacher will ensure safe transitions.
- All forms of cardiorespiratory activities and movement-based activities will be replaced with static, low resistance or individualized activities (e.g., yoga, stretching, etc.)
- Any utilized equipment will be sanitized at the end of each class.
- Anytime possible, outdoor space will be utilized and doors and windows will be opened to aid in air flow.

Supplies, Textbooks and Instruments

- Where feasible, supplies and materials will not be shared among students, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after use.
- Once a book is circulated it will not be used for 2 to 3 days.



Extracurricular

- School clubs, plays & intramural practices will be discontinued, or a protocol will be developed to continue with less students participating at a time.

Visitor Access (including parents, volunteers and itinerant staff)

- No one will be admitted without an appointment or building permit.
- All visitors who need to enter a building will be required to have a temperature check.
- Parents/students will not be permitted to congregate during pick-up at the end of the school day or after practices.
- Designated pickup areas will be established at each building.

Building Permits

- Approved on a 1:1 basis with a criteria that has a focus on educational opportunities for PPS students
- Only issued for school-based activities and to Board-approved educational partners/providers to service students on AA/BB schedule.



Related Services

- Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech/Language, and other specialized personnel provided with cleaning protocol to be used in between related service sessions.

Protocols to Meet Students with Special Needs

- Appropriate developmental instructional strategies used to help students understand PPEs such as social stories and visual cues.
- Provide clear masks and shields where possible to limit the anxiety and fear of students with significant intellectual disabilities.
- Individual protocols established for each child with a personal ventilation need.
- Situation specific protocols for toileting will be established.
- Proper safety training on removal and disposal of gloves, gowns, facial masks and any other protective equipment.





Student Transportation

- All students will be required to wear a mask/shield (IEP, 504 Plan Exceptions)
- Assigned seating with students required to sit one to a seat and closest to the window.
- Daily attendance of students riding will be taken.
- Schedules will be adjusted depending on the number of buses a school has.
- All buses will have signage that encourage staying at home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often.





Monitoring Student and Staff Health

PPS will employ the following strategies to monitor student and staff health:

- Each day, at intake, all students and staff will have their temperatures checked.
- Parents will be encouraged to screen their children before school.
- Hand sanitizer stations in place, along with signage regarding use of PPE.
- When feasible:
 - Staff common start time to be screened and assist with student intake.
 - Separate or multiple entrance/exit doors for staff and students (e.g., one for bus riders and one for walkers; one based on grade level)





Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Student Exposure in School

- Quarantine area established
- Follow protocol for safe return of students and staff who have been isolated/quarantined.

Positive Case Reported:

- Notification disseminated to impacted staff, students and families
- Facility/School closed for a minimum of two days or until next cohort
- Facility/School sanitized and disinfected with electrostatic sprayers and backpacks
- Bus or vehicle taken off-line immediately to be sanitized and disinfected

Reopening School /District Facility After a Positive Case:

- Daily temperature check and health screenings of all students, staff and visitors for 14 days after positive case





Professional Development

- COVID-19 Safety Awareness training provided to all district staff, bus drivers, and substitutes
- Implementing social distancing in all learning spaces and bus schedule planning to principals
- Resocialization to Sports for coaches, volunteers and trainers



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Parent Communications & Engagement

Our Strategy:

- Parent Academy Webinar (Facebook Live)
- School Readiness Videos
- Frequent Household Mailings
- Personalized Parent Mailings
 - Home Access Acct and Student ID# Information
 - Student Schedules
- School-level who to Contact Sheets
- Parent Fact Sheets on the Reopening
- Weekly Email Blasts
- Campaign for Accurate Information
- Engaging Website
- Social Media Posts
- School Signage and Educational Posters

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Timeline

Activity	Date
Post Draft PDE Health and Safety Plan on Website	July 22
Special Public Hearing	July 29
Special Legislative Meeting	August 4
Education Committee Meeting	August 4

