



PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

INTRODUCTION

This plan provides the required 6 month update for the 2021-2022 school year and is designed to meet compliance requirements with the Federally Required Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. It has also been updated to align with the requirements outlined in the State of Nevada Emergency Directive 052.

PCSD Calendars 2021-2022

- Pershing County School District has submitted the 2021-2022 school anticipating fully opened schools for the 2022 school year
- Student instruction will begin on August 23, 2021
- Approval of original plan was July 20, 2020

Academic Options offered by Pershing County School District

- Enroll in a PCSD School
 - Instruction will be provided based on the approved phase plan as outlined in this document
- Enroll in PCSD Distance Education Program
 - PCSD has a process that requires all students and families interested in distance education to contact their school administrator to begin the process
 - There is an application process and enrollment may be limited
 - If approved, recognize you must have internet access and you can opt to use your own device or check a Chromebook out from your zone school
 - Once enrolled, students in 7th-12th DE will be required to stay in this placement for one semester. If after two weeks of enrollment a student demonstrates the inability to complete assignments, they will be transitioned back to their zoned brick and mortar school.
- A differentiated program of Distance Education will be provided for students that are placed on quarantine restrictions or have provided medical verification as defined under Academic and Social Emotional Supports
- Based on individual family circumstances, parents may consider Home School or Charter School options

Communication Strategies

- PCSD will provide ongoing communication to all PCSD stakeholders through social

media to include Facebook and district/school websites, local newspaper and radio stations and any other forms of communication as deemed appropriate

- It will be important that parents/guardians to update their contact information when it changes so that schools can provide the most recent information
- Superintendent reviews all COVID operating procedures as a standing agenda item at monthly School Board Meetings under the Superintendent Report. These meetings are open to the public
- Superintendent will seek stakeholder and/or community input by calling a meeting or requesting information via survey, no later than the following dates:
January 1, 2021, July 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, July 1, 2022

Family Engagement

- Parents are encouraged to be active participants and learners with their students. Families are encouraged to volunteer in schools and to engage with site administration and staff to address questions and concerns.
- In collaboration with Pershing General Hospital and Lovelock Community Health Clinic, PCSD has provided 2 vaccine clinics for staff and students ages 12 and older.

SAFETY

PPE Strategies and Screening

PPE Strategies - PCSD is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff members. To that extent the following procedures will be implemented:

- Masks will be optional for all students and staff as per Directive 052.
 - Per Directive 052, students and staff may opt to voluntarily wear masks
 - PCSD will have masks available for each staff and student as needed, to include N95 or KN95 masks
 - All students and staff will be offered free COVID-19 testing at their individual school sites through the nurses office.
 - IEP teams will work with the school nurse and/or licensed health care provider and parent/guardian to determine placements and if modifications are necessary
- Face Covering Requirements
 - In accordance with Declaration of Emergency Directive 052, the face covering mandate in Nevada was rescinded for schools, with the exception of school buses
 - Students and staff must comply with the Revised CDC COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance dated January 2, 2022
 - If the Local Health Authority declares a school-wide outbreak they “may require the mandatory and immediate use of face coverings for all students and staff in the affected school building”
- Classrooms will be adjusted to provide the greatest amount of spacing between desks and students as possible.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented (See below)
 - District will continue to work with local community health director on safety protocols

- Quarantine and contact tracking requirements remain in effect
- Any person exhibiting flu-like symptoms will be asked to wear a mask until leaving campus
- Each school will identify an isolation location for sick employees or students
- Establish and maintain hand sanitizer dispensers at key locations in the building and require regular hand washing schedules by classroom
- The district will disseminate information regarding community based vaccination opportunities for both staff and students
- Regular COVID-19 Testing Program
- COVID-19 testing is available for all staff and students as arranged through the Chief Administrative Nurse
- Individuals with a positive COVID-19 test result will be asked to follow the “Revised CDC Quarantine and Isolation Guidance”

Student/Family/Staff/Volunteer Self-Screening Procedures

All students/families/staff shall ask themselves the following questions daily before attending school:

- Since your last day of school have you had any of these symptoms that are not attributable to another condition?
 - Individuals who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are to notify their school and stay home until they are free of fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). A fever is considered having a temperature of 100.4° F or greater using an oral or touchless thermometer.

Individuals demonstrating any of the symptoms below will be sent home for the safety of all.

- Fever or Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Are you ill, or caring for someone who is ill?
 - Individuals who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should stay home unless you have been vaccinated or already been COVID positive
 - In the 10 days before you felt sick, did you:
 - Have contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - Live in or visit a place where COVID-19 is spreading?
- If the answer is YES to any of these questions:
 - Do not attend school.
 - Contact your school to notify your Individual’s need to be absent.
 - Contact your healthcare provider.
 - If you are able to manage symptoms at home, you may return to school when the following are true:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery- meaning that it has been 24 hours of the individual having no fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) without the use of medications and an improvement in respiratory symptoms like cough and shortness of breath; **AND**
 - At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** It has been at least 24 hours since recovery **AND** a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Classroom and School Environment

Classroom Environment

- Classrooms are scheduled to operate at 100% capacity, distancing provided to the extent possible
- Students and employees trained in and integrate handwashing, respiratory etiquette and mask use to mitigate exposure
- COVID cleaning procedures will be in place daily
 - Disinfect desks, keyboards, and screens at appropriate transitions
 - Custodial employees routinely clean highly touched surfaces in evenings
- Avoid and discourage sharing of food and utensils
- Students and employees use personal water bottles and water bottle filling stations
- Increased exchange rate increases air flow in classrooms

School Environment

- **Office Strategies And Other Non-Instructional Spaces**
 - Disinfect surface areas regularly
 - Hand sanitizer stations provided in each classroom
- **Hallways**
 - During transition times students will be asked to follow all safety procedures
 - Increased exchange rate increases air flow in hallways
- **Bathrooms**
 - Enhanced cleaning protocols in place
- **Visitors**
 - Limit visitors to parents, preferably by appointment
 - All other visitors must prearrange with the site administrator

Gatherings

- All school environments at 100% capacity
- **Nutrition-Cafeteria**
 - Students eating cold lunch are encouraged to bring disposable lunch items
 - Offer regular hot menu served in the cafeteria
 - Use of hand sanitizer at start of all serving lines
 - Encourage online prepayment via Infinite Campus or school office
 - Increased exchange rate increases air flow in cafeteria
- **Transportation**
 - Transportation resumes for K-12 students
 - Buses cleaned following each route
 - In accordance with Directive 052, mask requirements remain in effect on school buses
- **Plan Review**
 - This plan will be reviewed at a minimum of each 6 months, to include:
 - December 20, 2021
 - February 22, 2022
 - July 17, 2022

ACADEMIC and Social Emotional Mental Health - Phase III

Schedule, Curriculum and Learning Environment

Schedule

- Traditional school resumes in which K-12 students attend full day 4 days a week
- PreKindergarten classes will resume at full capacity
- School schedules can be accessed at www.pershing.k12.nv.us

Curriculum

- PCSD required curriculum:
 - All instructional employees will utilize PCSD approved curriculum

Learning Environment

- Conventional grading scale and report card grades assigned
- Attendance operates under normal PCSD procedures

Distance Education

- PCSD offers a Distance Education program that has been approved by the Nevada Department of Education
- In addition, PCSD will work with individual students and families that may require Distance Education services as defined in the Path Forward Program of Distance Education certification to support students during quarantine or who require supports due to medical recommendation

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Services

- Mental health services will be provided at each school site through district employed school counselors and social workers
- In addition, PCSD has contracted with external agencies to provide mental health services outside of the traditional school setting
- Utilizing ARP Funds- All mental health services provided by independent contractors and the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) within the school district, are provided to all students as well as employees of PCSD

Path Forward Programs of Distance Education

Distance Education Options

NDE Approved Plan of Distance Education

Distance Education Service

- PCSD offers a program of distance education serving students in Kindergarten through 12th grade

Distance Education for Quarantined and Medically Compromised Students

Distance Education for Quarantined and Medically Compromised Students

- Eligible students must be quarantined as defined in district guidance, or have documentation from a medical provider related to a condition that would be compromised by attending school in person
- A program of instruction will be designed based on duration of the quarantine of noted exclusion
- A licensed teacher (or substitute) will attempt to contact each student on a daily basis via electronic communication or telephone. If neither is available, alternative weekly contact will be established.
- Services are designed to accommodate students and each unique needs (EL, IEP, 504, etc)
- Support services by a licensed teacher (or substitute) will be provided during regular school hours
- Meal services will be offered through the district food service department, as provided to all students
- Progress monitoring will be conducted and tracked through the districts Student Information System (SIS)

Nutrition

Class Celebrations

- In order to ensure safety of all students and employees, all food contributions must be store purchased and in a sealed bag/container

PCSD Food Service Program

- PCSD will follow all nutrition safety guidelines for meal prep, meal service and meal environments
- Meal services will be offered for all students, to include students in distance education programs of instruction

SHORT TERM CLOSURE

In the event that a significant outbreak is confirmed within a PCSD school community, the following procedures will be effective immediately.

School Confirmed Outbreak, Regardless of Community Transmission

- Identifying and Mitigating a School-Wide Outbreak of COVID-19
 - An outbreak will be defined per the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
 - “Multiple positive cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity” (CSTE, August 6, 2021)
 - The outbreak will be mitigated by following the guidance from the Local Health Authority, which may include the aforementioned face covering mandate
 - The outbreak will be monitored and closed under the direction of the Local Health Authority

APPENDIX

PCSD Self Screening Procedures

SAFETY- Screening

Student/Parent/Staff Self-Screening Procedures:

All students/families/staff shall ask themselves the following questions daily before attending school:

- Since your last day of school have you had any of these symptoms that are not attributable to another condition? [Stop the Spread](#)
 - Individuals who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are to notify their school and stay home until they are free of fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). A fever is considered having a temperature of 100.4° F or greater using an oral or touchless thermometer.

Individuals demonstrating any of the symptoms below will be sent home for the safety of all.

- Fever or Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Are you ill, or caring for someone who is ill?
 - Individuals who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should stay home **unless you have been vaccinated or already been COVID positive.**
 - In the 5 days before you felt sick, did you:
 - Have contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - Live in or visit a place where COVID-19 is spreading?
- If the answer is YES to any of these questions:
 - Do not attend school.
 - Contact your school to notify your Individual's need to be absent.
 - Contact your healthcare provider.
 - If you are able to manage symptoms at home, you may return to school when the following are true:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery- meaning that it has been 24 hours of the individual having no fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) without the use of medications and an improvement in respiratory symptoms like cough and shortness of breath; **AND**
 - At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** It has been at least 24 hours since recovery **AND** a health care provider has certified that the student does not have

suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- **Students in quarantine will be provided instructional materials to continue their academic progression.**
- In the case that a staff member is identified they will leave school campus and not return until the following are true:
 - AND**
- In the case that a student is identified at school as having a fever of 100.4 or above, the child will be placed in a supervised isolation area and parents/guardians will be required to pick their child up from the school within 30 minutes. Please refer to your child's school plan for pick up location. The student may not return to school until the following are true:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery- meaning that it has been 24 hours of the individual having no fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) without the use of medications and an improvement in respiratory symptoms like cough and shortness of breath; **AND**
 - At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** It has been at least 24 hours since recovery **AND** a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Procedures and Protocols For A Confirmed COVID-19 Case Among Students/Family/Staff:

Student/Family/Staff Responsibilities:

- If you have tested positive or have been confirmed to have COVID-19 or are living in a home with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
 - Do not attend school **unless you have been vaccinated or already been COVID positive.**
 - Notify your school of the positive test and your student's need to be absent.
 - Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have not been tested but were directed to stay home from school may return to school under the following conditions:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery- meaning that it has been 24 hours of the individual having no fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) without the use of medications and an improvement in respiratory symptoms like cough and shortness of breath; **AND**
 - At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** It has been at least 24 hours since recovery **AND** a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Notify the Health Assistant that you have a student/staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19. Health Assistant will contact the Chief Nurse.
- In collaboration with Health Assistant and Chief Nurse, assist with Contact Tracing and investigation to determine if the student/staff member contracted COVID-19 at school as needed.
- In collaboration with the Chief Nurse, assist the District with the implementation of the Pandemic Operation Plan For Confirmed Case in School.
- Principal, will notify school community members (staff, students) of their possible

exposure to COVID-19 in the classroom through a memo while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

District Responsibilities:

- Chief Nurse will contact the Superintendent to notify them of student/staff member testing positive for COVID-19 and to determine an appropriate course of action based on the specific situation.
- Chief Nurse, in collaboration with building principal, will assist with Contact Tracing and investigation to determine if the student/staff member contracted COVID-19 in the school as needed
- In collaboration with building principal, implement Pandemic Operation Plan for Confirmed Case in School in collaboration with appropriate personnel.