



# PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Blythe, California

# School Reopening Plan

Guidelines, Resources, and Best Practices for the Safe Reopening of  
Palo Verde Unified School District Schools in COVID-19 Conditions  
Subject to revision. Updated 03/22/2022

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# INTRODUCTION

## PVUSD Reopening Plan

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and willingness to pivot with us during these most challenging of circumstances.

This document has evolved and has been revised based on changing public health guidelines, input from our reopening planning committees, staff, families, and ongoing reviews. With this collaboration and open communication, your ideas and insights have been helpful as we continue to move forward in our planning.

Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD) staff continue to work diligently within and across departments to develop plans to safely and effectively reopen our schools.

In light of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements, the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, and Riverside County Public Health Orders, this document serves to provide PVUSD schools and families with information related to the return to instruction and the safe reopening of school facilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

Please note that this document is based on current knowledge, and will continue to be updated based on information from the California Department of Public Health and Riverside County Public Health orders.

We know there are unique challenges facing each school site and their respective communities. It is the hope of PVUSD that this School Reopening Plan will provide our educational community with ongoing information and transparent planning in an ever-changing, rapidly evolving landscape. We know this school year will look different and will require adjustments and flexibility. Our ultimate goal is to ensure a safe return to instruction and to continue to provide a healthy learning environment for each and every student.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PVUSD Reopening Plan

Guiding Principles .....	4
Health and Safety .....	5
• Screening at Home .....	5
• Established Protocols if a Temperature of 100.4 Degrees Fahrenheit or Higher is Detected .....	6
COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year .....	7
• Hand hygiene .....	7
• Facial coverings .....	7
• Physical distancing .....	7
• Testing of Staff and Students .....	8
• Maintenance and Operations .....	9
• Food service recommendations .....	11
• COVID-19 Protocol and Notification .....	12
• Additional Considerations for Other Populations .....	15
• Considerations for Partial or Total School Closure .....	17
Additional Resources .....	18
Stay Connected .....	19

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For Opening School Safely

## OUR PRIORITY

Ensure students and staff confidently return to a safe environment conducive for learning and work.

The following guiding principles drive the work of PVUSD's Governing Board of Trustees, administrators, teachers and staff to ensure a safe 2021-2022 school year for all:

- ❖ Follow Public Health guidelines
- ❖ Maintain District values and priorities
- ❖ Establish systematic protocols
- ❖ Provide timely and transparent communication

# HEALTH and SAFETY

## IN-PERSON, ON-CAMPUS TEACHING AND LEARNING

PVUSD will follow all public health requirements. PVUSD will continue to focus on academic instruction as well as the programs that are crucial for the mental, social emotional, and physical wellbeing of students.

### Screening at home:

- Students are required to self-screen for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, runny nose and fever at home before coming to school.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4°F or more should not go to a school site. Those experiencing symptoms including persistent cough, shortness of breath, or runny nose should not attend school, even if no fever is present. Staff members are required to self-screen and complete a daily temperature check prior to entering any PVUSD site.
- Here is a full listing of COVID-19 symptoms from the CDC Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea



**ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS  
IF A TEMPERATURE  
OF 100.4°F OR HIGHER  
IS DETECTED:**



- Students and staff with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be admitted and shall be sent home.
- Notify a health care provider if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- Notify the school administration of any positive COVID-19 test results.
- School will notify health officials, staff and families of any positive cases. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- If a student develops a fever while at school, the student will be isolated from other students and the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the student up. Please ensure you provide your school site with current contact information.
- Sick staff and students will be advised to isolate according to CDC and local Public Health guidelines.
- Stay home when sick and get tested for COVID-19.

# COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year

## Hand hygiene

- Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- Touchless hand sanitizer will be available at all school sites and all classrooms have sinks or hand sanitizing stations.
- Visual reminders are posted for staff and students.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

## Facial coverings

- Schools will continue to provide high quality masks with good fit and filtration upon request. CDPH recommends continuing to mask indoors in K-12 school settings. The mandatory mask mandate was lifted beginning March 12, 2022.

## Physical Distancing

- CDPH recommends focusing on the other mitigation strategies provided in this guidance instead of implementing minimum physical distancing requirements for routine classroom instruction.



## Testing of Students and Staff

- Symptomatic and response testing:
  - The District has contracted with Valencia Labs (Color) and Primary Health through CDPH to offer free on-site student and staff COVID-19 testing. Our nurse and LVNs have been trained to provide testing as an additional option/choice for staff and students. Staff members and students may also test at any appropriate testing sites that offer Public Health approved COVID-19 tests. These tests are at no cost to the employees and students/families.
  - Additionally, free community testing locations are available:
    - Free 15-minute rapid antigen testing is available at 811 W. Chanslorway (between Twin Palms Continuation High School and the new Ag Barn) Monday-Friday 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
    - Free PCR 48-hour testing is available at the Doris Morgan Community Center, 445 N. Broadway Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
    - Use of over-the-counter antigen tests are also acceptable to end isolation or quarantine for students.
  - Families may take students to Rite Aid to obtain COVID-19 testing. Rite Aid allows for testing of students four years of age and older. Staff members may also go to Rite Aid to obtain COVID-19 testing.

PVUSD will continue providing Staff Training and Family Education so that staff and families are educated on the application and enforcement of the School Reopening Plan and the COVID-19 Prevention Plan as updates are made.

# MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

## Safety Equipment

PVUSD has committed to securing additional safety equipment to maintain the cleanliness of campuses, including but not limited to:

### ✓ HAND SANITIZING STATIONS

Hand sanitizing stations have been installed and are located in common areas such as lunch areas, front offices, and priority locations identified by the staff.

### ✓ PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STAFF

All students and staff may wear face coverings. Disposable masks and gloves are also available, as needed.

### ✓ MERV 11 FILTERS AT ALL CAMPUSES

The District has installed highly rated Merv 11 filters in each HVAC unit. HVAC systems are scheduled to run at least an hour before and after school. All HVAC units in classrooms and offices exchange air inside the buildings with air from outside. Additionally, all classrooms have been supplied with an EPA-approved HEPA air purifier. Replacement of Air filters are on a schedule and have been increased above what is recommended.

### ✓ CLEANING and DISINFECTING RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces.

Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

## Other Safety Considerations...

- ✓ Restrooms are cleaned and re-stocked with soap and paper products throughout the day.
- ✓ Disinfecting sprays and/or disinfecting supplies are available at every site.
- ✓ Campuses follow guidelines developed by the CDPH for cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation of school sites. Drinking fountains are opened and may be used by students and staff. Drinking fountains are routinely cleaned.
- ✓ Students should bring their own water bottles and may refill their bottles at water filling stations on campus.
- ✓ Paper towels are available for use in restrooms.

# FOOD SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing. Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

# COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

California Department of Public Health

Protocols for when a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, is in contact with someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19. The following steps have been provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

## 1. Case reporting, group tracing and investigation

Schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with group tracing and investigation. PVUSD COVID-19 Public Health Liaison is Lois Shaffer, Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability.

## 2. Recommendations for students exposed to someone with COVID-19 in a K-12 school

Schools should notify parents/guardians of students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g. classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.

- Notification should occur to “groups” of exposed students (e.g. classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.) rather than contact tracing to identify individual “close contacts” (e.g., those within 6 feet).
- Notifications should be provided to all individuals considered exposed, including those who are vaccinated and/or recently infected.
  - For example, if a student in tenth grade is diagnosed with COVID-19, the school should notify groups with whom that student interacted as per the criteria above, such as those in the same classes, sports team, and/or other extracurricular cohorts.

Exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, should get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained 5 days after last exposure, unless they had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

- Exposed students who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested with an antigen test.
- In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, broader (e.g. grade-wide or campus-wide) once weekly testing for COVID-19 may be considered until such time that exposure events become less frequent.
- Any FDA-authorized antigen diagnostic test or PCR diagnostic test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new active infection. Repeat antigen testing and/or confirmatory molecular testing should be considered in individuals who receive a negative result with an antigen test but have symptoms specific for COVID-19 (such as loss of taste and smell).

Exposed students may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. They should test as recommended, report positive test results to the school, and follow other components of this guidance, including wearing masks as is strongly recommended.

- Exposed students who develop symptoms should follow quarantine recommendations.
- Exposed students who receive a positive test result should follow isolation recommendations.

### 3. Quarantine recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested

If students or staff are symptomatic, get tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19.

- Students and staff are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met these criteria:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications; AND
  - Other symptoms are improving; AND
  - They have a negative test for COVID-19, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
  - If the student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, follow the guidance for isolation.

### 4. Isolation recommendations

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms:

- Stay home for at least 5 days.
- Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen (antigen test preferred) collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
- If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after day 10.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 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, it is strongly recommended that persons wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

## Additional considerations for other populations

### 1. Disabilities or other health care needs recommendations

When implementing this guidance, schools should carefully consider how to address the legal requirements related to provision of a free appropriate public education and requirements to reasonably accommodate disabilities, which continue to apply.

Refer to the CDC K-12 guidance section on “Disabilities or other health care needs” for additional recommendations.

For additional recommendations for students with disabilities or other health care needs, refer to guidance provided by the CDC, AAP, and the Healthy Kids Collaborative.

### 2. Visitor recommendations

Schools should review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities.

Schools should limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Schools should not limit access for direct service providers, but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies.

Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

### 3. School-Based Extracurricular Activities

The requirements and recommendations in this guidance apply 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, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs.

Indoor mask use remains an effective layer in protecting against COVID-19 infection and transmission, including during sports, music, and related activities, especially activities with increased exertion and/or voice projection, or prolonged close face-to-face contact. Accordingly:



- Masks are strongly recommended indoors at all times for teachers, referees, officials, coaches and other support staff.
- Masks are strongly recommended indoors for all spectators and observers.
- Masks are strongly recommended indoors at all times when participants are not actively practicing, conditioning, competing, or performing. Masks are also strongly recommended indoors while on the sidelines, in team meetings, and within locker rooms and weight rooms.
- When actively practicing, conditioning, performing, or competing indoors, masks are strongly recommended by participants even during heavy exertion, as practicable. Individuals using instruments indoors that cannot be played with a mask (e.g., wind instruments) are strongly recommended to use bell coverings and maintain a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between participants. If masks are not worn (or bell covers are not used) due to heavy exertion, it is strongly recommended that individuals undergo screening testing at least one weekly, unless they had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

# CONSIDERATIONS for PARTIAL or TOTAL CLOSURE

Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health

When staff members or students test positive for COVID-19, the District will contact the Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health. Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health will help the school determine if the classroom or school needs to be closed. Any school or District closure will be determined by Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO LEARNING IF A CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL CLOSES?

If a classroom or school needs to close, the students move to Independent Study with their existing teacher until they can return back to campus. When cleared to return, the students and teacher resume their on-campus learning in person.

## **Additional Public Health Information:**

Riverside University Department of Public Health (RUHS-PH) RUHS-PH  
for COVID-19 consultation and guidance email [rivco-schools@ruhealth.org](mailto:rivco-schools@ruhealth.org)

Department of Public Health (CDPH) [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) <https://www.rcoe.us>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/index.htm>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>

California Safe Schools for All  
<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

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