

# **Reopening Plan for TK-8th Grade**

## **Updated 11/10/2021**

The following plan was developed to safely reopen our schools on October 26, 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.

As we reopen our schools for 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 Industry Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs.

We are open full day with in-person instruction with an option for distance learning via zoom or weekly packets with independent study contracts.

### **In-Person Instruction Protocols**

PUESD believes that in-person instruction and attending school, to the greatest extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, is critical to our students' educational and social-emotional development and well-being.

In order to follow all health and safety guidance, PUESD will provide reopening in-person learning opportunities designed to ensure that students and staff can follow social distancing protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Due to moving to a new school, we are staying in our own Cohort and keeping our students schedule separate from the Ophir students at this time.

- In order to receive attendance credit on Distance Learning days, a student must attend the class Zoom meeting and work on assignments before 2:30 PM.
- Students and staff will wear appropriate face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidance for schools.
- Parents/visitors will be allowed on campus and must use an appropriate face covering in accordance with CDPH guidance for schools.
- Campuses will begin checking in students at 7:45 AM at designated areas. Students may not be dropped off at school before 7:45 AM. Students will go straight to the cafeteria for breakfast when dropped off.
- Dismissal will begin at 2:30 PM, Wednesday is 1:30 PM. The After School Program operates until 4:30 PM and 3:30 PM on Wednesdays.

## **Masks/Face Coverings**

The protocol for the use of face covering 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 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.
- All staff will wear masks/face coverings in the classroom, all common areas, unless medically exempt.
- Staff may use transparent face shields when necessary to conduct educational activities.
- All students will be required to wear a mask/face covering at all times, unless medically exempt.
- All students in preschool through 2nd grade will be expected to wear a mask/face covering unless specified otherwise in other sections of this document.

- 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.
- According to CDPH guidance, if a student refuses to wear a mask/face covering, the student will be excluded from on-campus instruction, unless they are exempt from this requirement, until they are willing to wear a face covering. Students excluded on this basis will be offered other educational opportunities through distance learning.
- Masks/face coverings should be removed for meals, snacks, or outdoor recreational activities.

## **Health and Safety Protocols**

Although COVID-19 numbers are declining in our community, it is still an active virus that will continue to affect individuals as we reopen schools for in-person instruction. 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.

- Students will check in each day, at a designated location, and will not enter campus until they have had their temperature checked and have sanitized their hands. Students will be visually scanned for COVID-19 symptoms
- 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 B: Daily Home Screening Checklist for Students to assist you with daily home screening.)

- Students **must stay home** if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above. If able to do so, they will participate in the daily Distance Learning activities.
- Students **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 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 or awaiting test results will participate in distance learning opportunities while they are out.
- If a student has been kept home, or sent home from school, due to having COVID-19 symptoms they may not return to school until at least 10 days have passed since the start of symptoms, the symptoms are improving and they have been fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication OR they receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test and have been symptom free for 3 days 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...).
- All nonvaccinated staff will be tested weekly for Covid-19 with a PCR test. If results are positive, we will follow all BCPH guidelines.

## Protocols for Arrival, Dismissal and Non-Classroom Time

- Student drop-off will occur at designated entry points (all other gates and points of entry will be closed). Parents, School staff will monitor each designated entry point and facilitate the drop-off procedure.
- Student drop-off time is 7:45 AM. on Monday through Friday.
- Students will check in each day, at a designated location, and will not enter campus until they have had their temperature checked and have sanitized their hands and have been visually screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
- When arriving at school, masks/face coverings are required for **ALL** students, unless they have a documented exemption, in preschool through 8th grade while checking in or waiting to check in, and while walking to class.
- Social distancing will be maintained while students are waiting to check-in.
- At various times during the school day, masks/face coverings will be required for **ALL** students, unless they have a documented exemption, in preschool through 8th grade while they are moving around campus throughout the school day.
- Recess times will be staggered and students will remain with their assigned class cohort.
- Students will eat their breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria.
- When leaving class/school, masks/face coverings will be required for **ALL** students, unless they have a documented exemption, in preschool through 8th grade during the dismissal procedure each day.
- Students will leave campus at designated exit points during the dismissal period of 2:30 PM and 1:30 PM on Wednesdays.

## 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, teachers completed training on the importance of hand washing, social distancing, and the use of masks/face coverings.
- 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, 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”, maintaining social distancing.
- Faculty and staff that will be handling or serving food will be required to use gloves and face coverings
- Families will receive notifications regarding increased safety practices on campus.

## Transportation

PUESD will transport students daily to and from the Post Office in Berry Creek. Transportation will occur every morning, at noon for TK/Kindergarten students and at the end of the afterschool program which is 4:30 PM.

- Masks/face coverings will be required for **All** students, unless there is a documented exemption, in TK through 8th grade.
- Student temperatures will be scanned before boarding the van. Students with a temperature of 100.4 will not be permitted to ride the van.
- Students will be visually scanned for symptoms of COVID-19. Students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted to ride the van.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands before boarding the van.
- Seating will be assigned to promote social distancing. Seating will start at the back of the van.
- When unloading the bus, drivers will direct at the front of the bus to depart before the students behind them.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited at all times.
- Vans will be sanitized between routes and at the end of the day.
- Van 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 and sanitized daily.
- Indoor and outdoor areas used for lunch periods will be sanitized 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.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily and as needed throughout the day.
- Students will be issued individual supplies 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 will be supplied with hand sanitizer for student and staff use.
- PPE is available at all sites for student and staff use.
- Vacuums equipped with HEPA filters will be used when cleaning classrooms and work areas.

### **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.

**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.**

