

Pearl City Community School District
200

RETURN-TO-SCHOOL
PLAN

2023-2024



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INTRODUCTION

This Return to School Plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021; is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. The plan has been displayed on the website since the beginning of the school year. The final plan will be discussed and approved at the Sept. 20th school board meeting. The approved plan will also be made publicly available on the district's website. School strategies in this plan may be removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed.

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the re-establishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to come back to full in-person learning. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Pearl City Administration.

Regular updates have the potential of being made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, IDPH and ISBE.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well being of our employees and students the following guiding principles have been put in place:

1. CONTINUE FULL IN-PERSON LEARNING
2. EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY MEASURES
3. HEALTH GUIDELINES

SECTION ONE: DISTRICT WIDE SOLUTION FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR 2023-2024

Pre-K-12- In-Person instruction Monday - Friday all day

- ***Pearl City CUSD #200 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2023-24 school year. Students will be in school from 8:00am-3:10pm. Remote instruction will only be made available for students under quarantine for COVID and/or extended medical leaves with approval by administration (Students may not utilize remote learning for personal days off, vacation, or short illnesses. School administration must approve remote learning use)***
- ***Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education Office, Pearl City CUSD #200 schools will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (June 2022) Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools, also adopted by the IDPH on June 2022. These guidelines include the following:***

Strategies for In-Person for everyday instruction:

- Students will be in-person learning for the Fall of 2023-2024. Students will be in school from 8:00am-3:10pm.
- Mask Use:
 - Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low. At a medium COVID-19 Community Level, people who are immunocompromised or at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should talk to their healthcare provider about the need to wear a mask and take other precautions (for example, avoiding high-risk activities). Since wearing masks or respirators can prevent spread of COVID-19, people who have a household or social contact with someone at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 (for example, a student with a sibling who is at risk) may also choose to wear a mask when the COVID-19 Community Level is medium.
 - At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE programs is recommended, as it is in the community at-large. When the COVID-19 Community Level is high, people at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should also wear masks or respirators that provide greater protection, such as N95s or KN95s.
- Preventative measures taken to attempt to keep supplies with only one student
- Typical in-person instructional practices to take place (whole group, small group, peer instruction, etc.) with social distancing when possible
- Students will attend Art and Music in the Special's classroom.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Cafeteria
- Students in grades 2-12 will continue to have and utilize an individual chromebook. K-1 will have chromebooks in the classroom.
- School staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:
 - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing and movement;
 - providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible
- Parents will be self-monitoring their child(s) health before getting on the bus or coming to school for COVID and any illnesses
- Signage will be posted throughout all buildings to help remind students of hygienic behavior.
- The district will be in continuous contact with the Stephenson County Health Department for guidance and reporting purposes.

Remote Learning

- **Remote instruction will only be made available for students under quarantine for COVID and/or extended medical leaves with approval by administration**
- **Students may not utilize remote learning for personal days off, vacation, or short illnesses. School administration must approve remote learning use**

Alignment to Priorities

Priorities	How they are addressed / considered
In-Person Learning	This plan allows for full in-person learning, while also trying to remain safe and cautious. This plan also would allow for a transition to an emergency day if needed.
Student & Staff Safety	We follow IDPH guidelines with the exception of strict social distancing for in-person instruction.
Social-Emotional Health of Students & Staff	This plan provides students and staff with the greatest potential for social-emotional connection and health.
Academic Achievement	The curriculum will be able to be covered in full. In-person learning will be available for all students. The grading policy will be enforced
Ability to be agile	In this modality, we can easily flip to the whole group or individual Remote Learning if necessary. This also allows to easily transition into Remote Learning

SECTION TWO: SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

- Once school resumes, visitors will need to self-monitoring before entering the building
- Classroom volunteers (reading, parties, etc.) will be allowed as long as they have self-monitored before entering the building
- Classroom guest speakers will be allowed as long as they have self-monitored before entering the building

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- Pearl City may limit staff travel to conferences and workshops until further notice unless pre-approved by the office of the Building Administrator or Superintendent

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

- To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees and students, we will be asking employees and students to complete self-screening before coming to school or getting on the bus each day a set of questions related to COVID-19 and other illness symptoms including:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills

- Muscle pain
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache or Body Aches
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

HEALTH PROTOCOL EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT

- If an employee or student becomes ill at school or if another person is exhibiting symptoms of COVID19 at work, they may be asked to take a COVID test, leave work and go home or to the nearest health center.
- Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic persons are not required to quarantine if named as a close contact to a known case of COVID-19. Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure to the case during the case's infectious period.
- Employees and students returning to school from an approved medical leave should contact the building administrator. You may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note before returning to work or school.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID19, you may return to school when all criteria are met:

1. Quarantine for 5 days from symptom onset or positive test
 2. At least 24 hours have passed since overall recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); no vomiting or upset stomach
 3. You have improvement in overall symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc)
 4. Wearing of mask for additional 5 days
- If you have symptoms that could be COVID19 and do not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID19, it is assumed that you have COVID19 and may not return to work or school until the three criteria listed above have been met.

GUIDANCE IF EMPLOYEE EXPOSED

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and those around you. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic persons are not required to quarantine if named as a close contact to a known case of COVID-19. Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure to the case during the case's infectious period. Please do the following if you have been vaccinated:

1. Contact your building administrator
2. If you have any symptoms refrain from coming into work and/or take a COVID test
3. Negative tested individuals can come to work if symptoms have improved.

Please do the following if you have not been vaccinated:

1. Quarantine yourself in a specific room away from others in your home
2. Contact the following (in order of priority), let them know you have been exposed to COVID19, then follow their instructions.
 - a. Your healthcare provider
 - b. District Office

- c. Your building Principal
3. Your Principal will work with the Nurse and Health Dept. to determine appropriate next steps.
4. In case of an emergency, call 911 and let them know you have been exposed to COVID19, then follow their instructions.

GUIDANCE IF STUDENT EXPOSED

A student may come to school if asymptomatic, but should notify the district office, administration or school nurse of exposure. If they start experiencing symptoms following exposure, they will need to quarantine for 5 days from symptom onset or test for COVID.

Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic persons are not required to quarantine if named as a close contact to a known case of COVID-19. Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure to the case during the case's infectious period and recommended to wear a mask.

Individual students who show symptoms should be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Quarantine area will be set-up by the Nurse's office. Individuals may then take a COVID test, may be sent home, or could return to class. If emergency services are necessary, call 911. When interacting with students that are sick, nurses and personnel should follow CDC guidance on standard and transmission based precautions.

A student may be COVID tested at school if approval is provided by a parent or guardian.

If the student tests negative the student may be sent back to class if they do not have a temperature or if they feel capable to return to class.

If the student tests positive the school district will follow the guidance of the local health department for the next steps. Parents of students that were also affected will be contacted by the school district after direction from the Health Dept.

The school will then provide cleaning for the areas that possibly were affected by students.

- Close off areas
- Open windows
- Wait 24 hours to clean according to CDC; if not possible wait as long as possible
- Clean other areas possibly affected by students
- Areas can reopen once cleaned

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. PC employees, students, parents, and visitors should practice social distancing in large groups. Social distancing will be practiced to every extent possible

- Hallway use may be limited to every extent possible by having modified schedule, controlled dismissals and limited hallway locker use
- Restrooms may have a limited capacity (2 or 3 at a time)

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TO HELP WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Students will enter right at 7:45am
- Breakfast students will be allowed in the cafeteria at 7:30am and will eat in the Cafeteria
- All students should go directly to homeroom or first hour class

- Students may take backpack with them through the day
- Students at the end of the day will be dismissed in a controlled manner

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE may be needed to prevent certain exposures. PPE can include:

Masking:

- Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low. At a medium COVID-19 Community Level, people who are immunocompromised or at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should talk to their healthcare provider about the need to wear a mask and take other precautions (for example, avoiding high-risk activities). Since wearing masks or respirators can prevent spread of COVID-19, people who have a household or social contact with someone at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 (for example, a student with a sibling who is at risk) may also choose to wear a mask when the COVID-19 Community Level is medium.
- At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE programs is recommended, as it is in the community at-large. When the COVID-19 Community Level is high, people at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should also wear masks or respirators that provide greater protection, such as N95s or KN95s.

Gloves: Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection. Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands. Please remember to wash your hands properly as it is the number-one defense against any virus. Additionally, the proper removal of gloves reduces the risk of being exposed to contamination.

- Not required but will be used by custodial staff when cleaning

In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow

PERSONAL WORKSPACE/CLASSROOM

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace (teacher desk, student desk between periods, phone, etc) throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.

- Teachers may be asked to help clean student desks in between periods with controlled dismissals
- Teachers may be asked to clean manipulatives or find a method to have individual bins for students
- Classrooms will be cleaned during the day and evening with disinfectant spray and materials
- Teacher lounge may be used, but individuals are responsible for cleaning up the eating area when done.

Classrooms may be modified by teachers to allow for spacing. Flexible seating may be modified by teachers.

- Teachers may utilize small group tables and grouping when necessary for in-person instruction.
- Try to keep kids in their space as much as possible
- Specials will take place in the special's classroom
- Assign textbooks and materials to individuals and keep in the classroom when possible

SHARED WORKSPACES

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own workspace multiple times throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. PC has alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The PC Custodial Team will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time.

Please note that proper equipment such as acceptable disinfectant and PPE should be used when cleaning individual workspaces.

There will be limited access to certain workspaces to reduce exposure to risks and ensure employee and student safety. Workspace usage is as follows:

Capacity– PC will be monitoring the number of employees and students in the offices while the risk of infection exists and begins to diminish.

Conference Rooms– Certain conference rooms may be closed or limited. Signage indicating closure/capacity limits will be placed on conference room doors. Meetings are encouraged to use Google Meets as a virtual option even for employees in the office or school.

Breakrooms or Teacher Lounge/Multipurpose Room–These spaces are open, however, these spaces could be closed for use at different times of the year. This includes the use of shared appliances such as coffee machines, refrigerators, and microwaves. While open please clean after each use.

Copy Room – There may be limited access to the copy room. Signage indicating restrictions will be posted as each phase is implemented.

FACILITIES CLEANING

The safety of our employees and students is a top priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated below.

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the beginning and/or end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves,	Daily

	Coffee Machines	
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end and/or beginning of each use/day
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	Throughout the day and evening cleaning hours
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

We will continue to use CDC and IDPH guidelines for cleaning. Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and may be closed for scheduled cleanings.

The Elementary Computer Lab will be open with cleaning completed after each class. JH/HS computers will be cleaned after each use. IMC computers will be available with cleaning after each use.

Cafeteria will be in full use and tables will be cleaned in between each grade level or lunch period.

DEEP CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOL

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID 19 based on testing. Deep cleaning should be performed as soon as the confirmation of a positive test, as practical. While the scope of deep cleaning is presumed to be the full site, sites may reduce the footprint to be deep cleaned if there is sufficient rationale to do so, and they gain consensus of the superintendent and the COVID19 Crisis Team.

SIGNAGE

Signage recommended by CDC, ISBE, and IDPH will be provided when school begins

- Maximum Capacity
- Please Practice Social Distancing
- Floor signs
- Wash your hands

FOOD DELIVERY/ CAFETERIA USE

Lunch may be brought from home. However, there will be no sharing of food or drinks. Snack items, candy, and drinks for school events should be store bought or wrapped until further notice.

Breakfast and lunch will take place in the cafeteria

- Students will not be able to hand pick their items
- Students can go through line
- Disposable utensils and trays may be used throughout the year
- Tables will be cleaned after each use

PREVENTIVE MATERIAL INVENTORY

- Confirm school district has an adequate supply of soap, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues
- Confirm a supply of gloves and other protective gear
- Touchless thermometers on-site for employee and student screening

Promoting Vaccination

- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

BUS DRIVER/BUS PROTOCOLS/TRANSPORTATION

Bus drivers or custodial staff should disinfect the buses at a minimum:

1. Right after the morning and/or afternoon routes
2. Right after the use of a bus for an after-school activity

Bus drivers must not report to work if they suspect they are sick or if they have symptoms such as fever or difficulty breathing, or have been in contact with a household member who is experiencing symptoms that may be associated with COVID or a household member/close contact who has tested positive for COVID.

- Families will sit in one seat when possible
- Spread out students to every extent possible. Try one per seat
- Parents will do a self-check of student at home
- Seating charts are required

RESTROOM USAGE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Establish maximum capacity for the facility that allows for social distancing. Provide supplies for employees to clean up after themselves in staff only restrooms.

LOCKER ROOMS

While in locker rooms, students should try to physical distance from others as a normal practice. While in locker room avoid anyone who is coughing, sneezing or appears to be sick.

- Locker rooms will be used for physical Education and after school activities
- Lockers will need to be individually assigned by spacing out students in each class.

RECESS

Recess will be allowed with the use of the playground equipment.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The district/campus counselors may develop videos and resources for parents and teachers to access. The counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs.

PLAN REVIEW

Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC and made publicly available on the district's website.

SECTION THREE: ACADEMICS

Grading and Attendance

To receive credit and attendance for the courses for this school year students are expected to complete the assignments and follow in-person protocol. There will NOT be any social promotion this school year.

Completion Protocols

Students not making progress, not completing academic packets or opting not to participate in assigned work or in-person learning, will be eligible for summer school. For promotion to the next grade level or passing of the course, students will need to have completed the requirements outlined in the grading policy.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION/REMOTE LEARNING

Google Meets will be our online component to help deliver remote learning when needed. Remote learning is only available to students who fall into both of the categories below:

- To fully utilize remote learning
 - Student is under quarantine for COVID and/or extended medical leaves with approval by administration
- Students may not utilize remote learning for personal days off, vacation, or short illnesses. School administration must approve remote learning use.