



**Guidelines Related to
Pine Grove Area School District's
Health and Safety Plan**

2021-22 School Year

Updated as of September 3, 2021

Overview

This document will serve as a resource for all current health and safety guidelines that will be implemented at Pine Grove Area School for the 2021-22 school year. Mandates and recommendations related to public health prevention are continually changing. Please refer to the latest version of this document to be aware of the latest guidelines.

Universal Masking

- **Per the [PA Department of Health Order](#), each teacher, student, staff, or visitor working, attending, or visiting a school building shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status beginning September 7, 2021.**

There are a limited number of exceptions to this order that differ from last school year. The following are exceptions to the Department of Health's face-covering requirement:

- When wearing a face-covering creates an unsafe condition while operating equipment or executing a task;
 - When wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or a disability;
 - When someone is working alone and isolated from others;
 - While eating, drinking, or playing an instrument which would be obstructed by a face covering;
 - While participating in a physical education class, if able to maintain a distance of six feet from others and in a well-ventilated location; and
 - During sports practice or events (indoors and outdoors).
- Face coverings are not required outside. The decision to wear a face covering is the personal choice of the individual or family.
- **Per the [CDC's federal order](#), face coverings are required to be worn by passengers and drivers on school buses.**
 - These guidelines are subject to change based on state or federal mandates and/or the level of community transmission.
 - In counties with substantial or high transmission, CDC and PaDOH recommend all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in public indoor settings. Information on county transmission can be found at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Physical Distancing

- Students and staff should maintain a social distance of at least 3 feet or the greatest extent practical.
- All lunches will be permitted to be held in the cafeteria.
- Students in the elementary and middle school will remain in cohort sections during lunch.

Handwashing

- Staff and students are encouraged to practice regularly scheduled hand washing or sanitizing including but not limited to entry into the school, classroom, after using the restroom, before and after eating, after coughing/sneezing.
- Hand sanitizer, with greater than 60% alcohol, will be made available in all common areas, hallways, and in classrooms.
- Staff will teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among students, staff, volunteers and visitors.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses at key points during the day.
- Use of Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant as needed.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. Replace HVAC filters prior to the beginning of the school year.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

- Fully vaccinated individuals who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are recommended to be tested 2-5 days after exposure and must wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test. Fully vaccinated individuals are still able to attend school and participate in activities.
 - **Isolate for 10 days if their test result is positive.**
- Unvaccinated individuals must quarantine at home for 10 days when they have been in close contact (less than 6-ft for 15 consecutive minutes or more) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 unless they have had COVID-19 in the past 3 months.
 - Quarantine time can be shortened for unvaccinated individuals to:
 - 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 or later.
 - **Unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear a mask in public indoor settings when they return through day 14.**
- **CDC guidance adds the following exception to the definition of close contact:**
 - **In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.**
 - **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Note: students age 18+ should be considered students, not adults, for purposes of this definition.**
- We will continue to track active and inactive cases using the PGASD COVID Tracker.

Screening and Testing

- Symptom screening of students will be done by parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. All staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work. A [symptom/temperature monitoring tool](#) will be provided.
- Symptom screening of students or staff may be done upon entry of the school and classrooms.
- Parents/guardians and staff must notify the school if an absence is due to COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Vaccinations

- COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended but are not required. The decision to get vaccinated for COVID-19 is the personal choice of the individual or family.
- We will partner with local health organizations to advertise and communicate information regarding COVID-19 vaccination sites in the community.

Instructional Model

- Pine Grove Area School District will open for full in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. If necessary, Pine Grove Area School District is able to pivot to a blended learning model or virtual model.
- Cardinal Virtual Campus will be available for all students for full-time virtual instruction.