



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

2021-22 School Year

Updated as of January 17, 2022

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. The administration has the flexibility to adapt Guidelines as it pertains to the Health and Safety Plan, not to exceed the strictness of the current guidelines.

Universal Masking

- Following the PGASD Health and Safety Plan, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision on December 10, 2021, Pine Grove Area School District returned to optional face coverings effective immediately.
- 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 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

- If students or staff test positive for COVID, they must isolate for 5 days with symptom onset day or test date (if asymptomatic) being Day 0. They may end isolation and return to school or work on Day 6 if symptoms have improved and no fever for 24 hours (without medication). They should mask through Day 10.
- If deemed a closed contact, the following individuals **do not** need to quarantine but should wear a mask through Day 10 after exposure (with the last date of exposure being Day 0).
 - Age 18 or older: Received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters if more than 2 months since primary J&J dose / 5 months since primary Pfizer series / 6 months since primary Moderna series.
 - Age 5 - 17: Completed both doses of the primary vaccine series.
 - Confirmed COVID within the last 90 days as diagnosed by a viral test.
- If deemed a close contact, the following individuals **should** quarantine for 5 days after exposure (with the last day of exposure being Day 0) and wear a mask through Day 10.
 - Individuals who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
 - Age 18 or older: Completed primary vaccine series but have not received a booster if more than 2 months since J&J dose / 5 months since Pfizer series / 6 months since Moderna series.
- As mentioned above, the administration has the flexibility to adapt guidelines as necessary.
- Anyone deemed a close contact (who has not had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days) is recommended to be tested at least 5 days after their last close contact with the positive case. If the test result is positive, they should follow the isolation guidelines above.
- 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. The number of cases and close contacts will be reported to PA DOH. Individual demographic information will not be shared.

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 into the school and/or 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.