

Port Neches-Groves ISD

2020-2021 School Year Health Guidance



Port Neches-Groves ISD is ready, willing, and able to meet the needs of our staff and students through in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year. Our goal is to partner with students, families, faculty and staff to promote a safe and healthy environment for students to learn and staff to work. Flexibility of students, staff, and family members will be of the utmost importance as we continue to safely meet the needs of PNGISD during this time.

Public Health Considerations

(SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guide, Texas Education Agency, July 7, 2020)

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on PNGISD's efforts to minimize the likelihood of viral spread.

Parents/Guardians: If your child's health care provider has cautioned your child from attending school in person due to health concerns, please contact your child's campus for guidance. Any individual questions regarding your child and in-person attendance should also be directed to your child's campus.

PNGISD Staff: If your (or your dependent's) health care provider has advised you to self-isolate due to a serious medical condition and are prohibited from physically reporting to work for the 2020-2021 school year, please report this information on the employee survey sent out by email from Dr. Brenda Duhon on 7/8/20. If you need the email resent, please email her at bduhon@pngisd.org

Screening Protocols

- Teachers and staff are required to self-screen using the *COVID-19 Student & Staff Self-Screening Checklist* (located in this document) prior to reporting to work each day.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students using the *COVID-19 Student & Staff Self-Screening Checklist* (located in this document) each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Teachers and campus staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. In either situation, the absence from school will be treated like any other illness and makeup work will be provided.

- Absences will not count against students for exemptions or extra-curricular activities this school year.

Isolation Protocols

- All PNGISD campuses are served by a full-time registered nurse.
- When a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 or reports feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who show COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from their peers and should be picked up by the parent or guardian immediately.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- Teachers and staff must report to PNGISD if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted in this document. Additionally, they must report to PNGISD if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined in this document and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to meet the *Reentry Guidelines* listed in this document.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

- PNGISD is contracting with OZONE USA to provide sanitizing of our schools through the ventilation systems.
- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected throughout the school day.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the school day.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

- Regular hand washing/hand sanitizer use by all students and staff will be required.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry to the classroom in addition to periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

- PNGISD is advising no lunch visitors during the first six weeks of school so that maximum cafeteria space can be utilized for our students. Please watch for updates/announcements from each campus regarding future lunch visitations.
- Before visitors are allowed on campuses, visitors will be screened to determine if the visitors have COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the *Reentry Guidelines* outlined in this document.
- Visitors will also be screened to determine if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
- Visitor guidelines will be adjusted, as needed, to ensure the health and safety at our campuses.

Protocols for Distancing

- Distancing measures will be in place, to the extent possible, within the school setting.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be utilized when possible.
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally and physically possible.
- Class size will be determined based upon school enrollment.

Protocols for Face Coverings

- PNGISD will comply with the governor's executive order regarding the use of masks or face shields for adults and students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
- Any student or staff member is always permitted to wear a mask regardless of whether an order is in place or not.
- During extracurricular activities, guidance will be provided by your child's coach or director regarding masks.
- At this time, masks are required by the Texas Education Agency when students are in large group settings as long as the wearing of the mask does not impede on the educational process.
- Staff and students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodation should be submitted to campus administration.
- We encourage each student and staff member to provide a mask for themselves that best meet their comfort level. PNGISD will have disposable masks on hand, if needed.

Protocols for Cafeterias

- Plexiglass dividers have been added to all cash registers.
- K-3 students will not need to enter their ID on the keypad.
- Register keypad covers will be used and sanitized frequently.
- All cafeterias will use disposable trays, cutlery, etc.
- No self-service items are available; trays and condiments will be plated by the cafe server.
- No share tables/bins will be used for items students do not wish to consume.

Protocols for Transportation

- To reduce possible virus exposure on PNGISD buses, we encourage families that are able to carpool or drop off their student at school, to please do so.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Masks are required for all PNGISD staff and students utilizing bus transportation.
- If your child is accessing bus transportation and needs accommodations for wearing a mask, please contact your campus principal.
- When possible, windows will be open on the bus to allow outside air to circulate.
- To the extent possible, seating charts will be utilized on all buses to allow distancing of students.

Protocols for Reporting

- PNGISD will report COVID-19 cases consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements.
- PNGISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Protocols for School Closure

- There may be times when specific campuses need to be closed to allow for sanitizing.
- The sanitizing process should not take longer than 12-24 hours.
- Campus closures will be determined by the individual campus needs and not the entire district.
- Campus closures will be treated like bad weather days. The 2020-21 school calendar has been developed with 15 extra days built in for possible school closures.

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2020-2021 School Year Health Clarification Document

The items in this section clarify guidance items discussed in the *2020-2021 School Year Health Guidance* document.

COVID-19 Student & Staff Self-Screening Checklist

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, any of the following symptoms indicate a possible COVID-19 infection:

- Temperature of 100.4 degree Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever.

Lab Confirmed Definition

A COVID-19 case that is confirmed by one or more of the laboratory methods.

Reentry Guidelines

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i) at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii) at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Close Contact

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- A. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- B. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes;

If either occurred at any time during the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

