



**PGUSD Parent Guide to COVID-19
Protocols and Procedures - 2020-2021 School Year
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated February 4, 2021**

In preparation for in-person learning, we have provided the following *frequently asked questions* regarding our district health guidelines and protocols. We look forward to seeing your children at school!

- 1. How has PGUSD prepared to have staff and students back on campus safely?**
- 2. What will PGUSD provide to students to ensure their health and safety while on campus?**
- 3. What supplies has PGUSD provided to staff members so to ensure their health and safety?**
- 4. What is PGUSD providing to classrooms so that they remain properly disinfected?**
- 5. How is PGUSD following health guidelines while staff and students are on campus?**
- 6. How do I know if my child is well enough to come to school?**
- 7. My child has a chronic medical condition where they experience frequent symptoms that mimic illness, but they are not ill. Can't they just stay at school?**
- 8. When my child comes to school, what is the check-in procedure?**
- 9. When would my child have to go home from school?**
- 10. If a student becomes ill at school, how does the school handle it?**
- 11. How long should a student stay at home when ill?**
- 12. How would I know if my student has been exposed to COVID-19?**
- 13. What happens when a student is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 based on guidelines for close contact?**
- 14. What if my child is tested positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms of COVID-19?**
- 15. If my child is diagnosed with COVID-19 and develops more moderate to severe symptoms, how long would they be home in isolation before returning to school?**
- 16. What is the school plan if a student or staff member becomes infected with COVID-19?**
- 17. What happens if a family member or someone in close contact (outside of school) with a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**
- 18. What if a student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after illness symptoms or confirmed contact?**
- 19. If we have a student with a positive COVID-19 test and they have a sibling in another cohort, should that sibling's cohort be restricted from attending school? If so, for how long?**
- 20. How will information about COVID-19 cases and other medical information be handled by the school?**
- 21. When would the district decide to close a school because of COVID-19?**
- 22. When would the district decide to close all of the schools because of COVID-19?**
- 23. If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it re-open?**

1. How has PGUSD prepared to have staff and students back on campus safely?

PGUSD has partnered with MCOE and other health vendors to provide all required PPE, sanitation, and health protocols for all students and staff who are on campus for in-person learning. We also have developed a district safety plan to address health and disinfection procedures according to California Department of Health guidelines.

2. What will PGUSD provide to students to ensure their health and safety while on campus?

1. Each student participating in on-campus instruction will be provided a mask packet (quart-size ziploc bag) of 2 reusable cloth face coverings and 2 disposable face coverings. An instruction sheet is included in each packet for wear and care. Please follow all instructions. Students are welcome to use their own face coverings provided that they meet CDC guidelines which state that face coverings should be 2-3 layers in thickness and should fit snugly over the nose and chin without sliding down the face. The covering should be free of gaps on the side, bottom, or top.
2. Each classroom is provided one or more of the following: Hand washing station, hand sanitizer dispenser, and hand sanitizer pump bottle along with alcohol-based wipes as needed.

3. What supplies has PGUSD provided to staff members so to ensure their health and safety?

1. Each staff member is provided with cloth face coverings, disposable face coverings, and face shields. Designated staff in the Health, Special Education, and Main Office departments will have additional PPE such as KN95 masks, transparent window masks, and disposable gowns along with disposable gloves.
2. Staff are welcome to use their own face coverings provided that they meet CDC guidelines which state that face coverings should be 2-3 layers in thickness. They should fit snugly over the nose and chin without sliding down the face and be free from gaps on the side, bottom, or top.

4. What is PGUSD providing to classrooms so that they remain healthy and clean?

Each classroom has either a hand washing station, hand sanitizer dispenser, or hand sanitizer pump bottle(s). Each classroom will have alcohol-based wipes available as needed. Custodial staff will provide thorough disinfection of each classroom daily on a regular basis and for high-touch areas throughout the day. Classrooms can be ventilated through opening doors and windows during student instruction.

5. How is PGUSD following health guidelines while staff and students are on campus?

All students and staff must wear face coverings at all times on campus unless they have a valid medical exemption. All students and staff will adhere to social distancing of at least 6 feet wherever possible both inside and outside. Students will be reminded to wash/sanitize their hands frequently along with staff members.

6. How do I know if my child is well enough to come to school?

Your child should be free of illness symptoms either that you see or that they complain of other than what they normally experience, particularly if they have a diagnosed chronic medical condition such as allergy or asthma. Keep a child home if they manifest with a 100.4 or higher temperature, headache, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion (not related to asthma or allergies), new loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing (not related to asthma or allergies), muscle or body aches, fatigue, stomach ache, diarrhea, or if they just don't look well and are not acting themselves.

7. My child has a chronic medical condition where they experience frequent symptoms that mimic illness, but they are not ill. Can't they just stay at school?

Your child's school site should be provided with documentation from their healthcare provider with any health condition which manifests with symptoms that mimic contagious illness. The medical documentation must include diagnosis, description, and current treatments including medication in order to verify that their condition is not related to contagious illness. If you have any questions, please contact Katrina Powley, District Nurse at kpowley@pgusd.org or (831) 646-6514.

8. When my child comes to school, what is the check-in procedure?

Each student should arrive at school with their face covering securely on if no medical exemption. They will have their temperature taken before entering the classroom by either a health staff member, teacher, teacher's assistant, or main office staff member. At that time, the staff member will also do a visual check to ascertain if the child has the following symptoms: temperature of 100.4 or higher, headache, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion (not related to allergy or asthma), new loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing (not related to allergy or asthma), muscle or body aches, stomach ache, diarrhea, or fatigue. If the child's temperature is within normal range and they do not have the above symptoms, they may proceed to the classroom. Upon entering the classroom, they will be instructed to wash or sanitize their hands.

9. When would my child have to go home from school?

Upon check-in, the child would be sent home if they exhibit the following symptoms: temperature of 100.4 or higher, headache, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion (not related to allergy or asthma), new loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing (not related to allergy or asthma), muscle or body aches, stomach ache, diarrhea, or fatigue. If during the school day the child develops any of these symptoms and especially a combination of any of the above symptoms, their parent/guardian would be contacted to pick them up.

10. If a student becomes ill at school, how does the school handle it?

- Teacher notifies the office that a sick child is coming.
- Nurse/Health clerk greets the student outside of the office.
- Nurse/Health clerk takes student to a designated isolation room for assessment
- If symptomatic, nurse/health clerk contacts parent for student pickup.
- Parent/guardian must be available to pick up their child within 15 minutes of school phone call.
- Parent will be instructed to keep student at home until no signs or symptoms of illness for at least 24 hours without over-the-counter medication. Parent should contact healthcare provider if illness symptoms persist after 2 days of symptom onset.
- School and classrooms will remain open unless a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed (see further sections below).

11. How long should a student stay at home when ill?

As of July 20, 2020, the CDC recommends that all persons must be free of illness symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing or other over-the-counter medication.

12. How would I know if my student has been exposed to COVID-19?

Please note: Contact with a positive case does not equate to a positive case. A person is considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 if they were within close contact of a confirmed infected person. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic people, two days prior to specimen collection).

Additional factors that are considered when determining exposure include: Proximity (how close were the individuals together); Duration of close contact (longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk); Whether the positive individual is symptomatic

(coughing likely increases exposure risk); Whether either the case patient or contact were wearing face coverings and what type of face covering.

13. What happens when a student is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 based on guidelines for close contact?

A student would self-quarantine for 14 days and be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19. Pursuant to the California Department of Health (CDPH) directives issued on December 14, 2020 for individuals identified as a close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, close contacts who are asymptomatic throughout the quarantine period may discontinue quarantine after day 10 from the date of last exposure with or without testing. Student testing for COVID-19 is recommended, especially if illness symptoms develop.

14. What if my child is tested positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms of COVID-19?

According to the CDC, persons who never develop symptoms can discontinue quarantine (isolation) 10 days after the date of their positive test. Before the child's return to school, the child's healthcare provider should issue a medical note to the child's school site certifying that the child has met the full isolation period, is symptom-free, and is not at risk of being contagious for COVID-19.

15. If my child is diagnosed with COVID-19 and develops more moderate to severe symptoms, how long would they be home in isolation before returning to school?

CDC guidelines state up to 20 days or beyond until symptoms resolve or improve significantly as specified by a healthcare provider and without the use of fever-reducing or other over-the-counter medications to resolve illness symptoms. In addition, the family should be in contact with the child's healthcare provider and receive an official letter of a clean bill of health for the child before they return to school. CDC guidelines on re-testing for COVID-19 after a positive result and illness symptoms were updated on August 14, 2020 to specify that people can continue to test positive for up to 3 months after diagnosis and not be infectious to others, so unless the healthcare provider recommends a follow-up test for the child due to the nature of their illness, the healthcare provider will evaluate the child's symptoms and provide guidelines and a clearance letter for when the child is no longer contagious and can return to school.

16. What is the school plan if a student or staff member becomes infected with COVID-19?

- Information is reported to school administrator and district nurse who then contacts the Monterey County Health Department. All positive COVID-19 test results are re-

ported to the Monterey County Health Department who then initiates contact tracing and assigns a case worker to the individual/family with a positive COVID-19 test result. The case worker provides instructions and guidance to the individual/family throughout illness and quarantine period.

- Positive individual isolates for at least 10 days from onset of symptoms or date of COVID-19 test (specimen collection).
- Phone call and school communication letter to school site families.
- Classroom CLOSED for 14 days from last exposure. School remains OPEN.
- Classmates of students and staff quarantine for 14 days and contact healthcare provider for guidance.
- The student and/or staff member's healthcare provider should issue a letter for a clean bill of health before they return to campus.

17. What happens if a family member or someone outside of school in close contact with a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Information is reported to school administrator and district nurse. The student or staff member should remain at home (or be sent home from school) and quarantine for 14 days. If they remain asymptomatic throughout the quarantine period, they may discontinue quarantine after day 10 as per updated CDPH guidelines issued on December 14, 2020. Contact healthcare provider for testing. School communication letter to families in affected classroom (s). School and Classroom OPEN.

18. What if a student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after illness symptoms or confirmed contact?

Student or staff member may return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve according to provider discretion. 14 day quarantine still required if in close contact with COVID-19 positive case. If they remain asymptomatic throughout the quarantine period, they may discontinue quarantine after day 10 as per updated CDPH guidelines issued on December 14, 2020. School communication letter if prior testing awareness. School and Classroom remain OPEN.

19. If we have a student with a positive COVID-19 test and they have a sibling in another cohort, should that sibling's cohort be restricted from attending school? If so, for how long?

Typically no, unless any members of the sibling's cohort were considered a close contact of an individual with a positive COVID-19 test result. Standard guidance for isolation at home for at least 14 days after close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19 only. If asymptomatic throughout the quarantine period, they may discontinue quarantine after day 10. Public health will determine who needs to be quarantined.

20. How will information about COVID-19 cases and other medical information be handled by the school?

All medical information and the status of student health will be kept confidential and only shared by those within the circle of confidentiality who need to be made aware of the health condition for communicating information to the health department and for contact tracing.

21. When would the district decide to close a school because of COVID-19?

Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

22. When would the district decide to close all of the schools because of COVID-19?

A superintendent should close a school district if 25% or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, and in consultation with the local public health department

23. If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it re-open?

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

Sources:

- MCOE Communication Toolkit 8/5/2020
- [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) updates from 7/20/2020 and 8/10/2020, 8/14/2020, and 12/2/2020
- [gov.ca.gov](https://www.gov.ca.gov), [cdph.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov) update from 12/14/2020
- [co.monterey.ca.us](https://www.co.monterey.ca.us) guidance for healthcare provider note and employee attestation before return to work/school updated 12/15/2020