



**PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT #69  
RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022**

**\*\*Please note that the information contained in this document is subject to change based on guidance and mandates from the Illinois State Board of Education, The Illinois Department of Public Health, CDC, and/or Governor Pritzker**

**\*\*\*Approved by the PH BOE on August 5, 2021**

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## **Summary of Return to School Plan**

This plan is a living document and is therefore subject to change as guidelines and recommended best practices change. Any changes will be communicated with Pleasant Hill staff, students, and families in a timely manner.

Pleasant Hill District #69 has developed a Return to School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year based on the current status of the metrics of the state of Illinois and Peoria County. Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the immediate early closure of schools across the United States including all Illinois' schools. As a result of the closures, schools in Illinois developed remote learning opportunities for students and families. Through this process of remote learning, we were reminded that in-person student learning cannot be replaced with online video instruction. **The value of in-person student and teacher interaction is key to student success and learning.** Therefore, we will ensure we have mitigation strategies in place so our students can reap the benefits of in-person instruction and have the very best possible learning experiences.

**Pleasant Hill District #69 will only offer in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. Remote learning is only an option for medically fragile students who have a remote learning plan developed by administration.**

**School hours for the year will be 7:45 AM-2:40 PM.**

## Wellness

### Face Coverings

At this time, ***Pleasant Hill has adopted a universal face covering policy to begin the school year.*** Face coverings must be worn by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained.

- Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps
- Each student and staff member should have 5 reusable face coverings for the week. A new face covering will be used each day. Face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use.
- A supply of disposable face coverings will be maintained in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use
- Bandanas are not to be worn as face coverings, per the Pleasant Hill handbook
- Face coverings are not required outside when social distancing is maintained
- Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in the school building, including classrooms
- Face coverings must be worn at the bus stop and while riding the bus to and from school
- If students or staff choose to not utilize face coverings, they will be subject to disciplinary procedures

**Pleasant Hill continues to require a doctor's note for students or staff that are unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons. The doctor's note must detail the existing health condition and the duration a mask can not be worn.**

### Additional Precautions

- Students will be required to stay in their assigned area/seat in the classroom and on the bus
- Students and staff will receive instruction on appropriate hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
- Students and staff will sanitize their hands before and after entering a new space

## **Illness**

Only students and staff who are healthy should report to school. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home:

- Fever (Temperature of 100.4 or greater)
- New Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Muscle or body aches from unknown cause
- Known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19

Individuals who exhibit the symptoms above should report to the nurse's office where they will be referred to a medical provider for evaluation, treatment, and information about when they can return to school. Staff will be sent home immediately and student's will remain in the nurse's office until they are picked up by a parent or guardian.

Any staff or student (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who has a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home from school. **Students and staff must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before they may return to school. Additionally, 10 days must pass after symptoms first appear. Students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 should call to check in with the school nurse following quarantine.**

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home. Families and staff should also report possible cases to the school nurse to initiate contact tracing. The Peoria City/County Health Department will assist with the contact tracing and provide guidance on who should quarantine.

Pleasant Hill will request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and COVID exposure. Information will be documented and shared with the local health department.

Students who are ill will not be allowed to ride the bus home. These individuals must monitor symptoms and return to school according to the IDPH guidelines. A doctor's note may be required for staff/students returning to school.

Students and staff who have had contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 must notify the school administration/nurse immediately. IDPH guidelines for self-monitoring and self-quarantine must be followed. Those who are **asymptomatic** and **unvaccinated** and have had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having it should isolate at home and monitor for symptoms. These individuals have the following quarantine options: Complete quarantine at home for 14 days (Date of last exposure is Day 0), 10 days with no symptoms, or for ADULT only staff; 7 days with no symptoms AND a negative Covid PCR test. Test specimens must be obtained within 48 hours of day 7. Last exposure date=Day 0. Close contact means the unvaccinated individual was within 3 feet of the individual with symptoms for more than 15 cumulative minutes. **Vaccinated individuals with no symptoms do NOT need to quarantine.** The Peoria City/County Health Department will assist with these decisions and provide guidance as needed.

## Day to Day Operations

### Arrival

Students will have assigned procedures to follow during arrival at school to ensure social distancing and safety. All students will enter the building through the main doors and go directly to their classrooms, where they will eat breakfast. **Students may NOT arrive at school earlier than 7:45. All homeroom teachers will be in their classrooms ready to receive students at 7:45. Staff members who do not have a homeroom will assist every morning with the flow of traffic.**

### Bus Transportation

School buses will continue to utilize modified seating arrangements to adhere to social distancing. Students will have assigned seats on the bus, and children from the same households will be seated together. The school bus will have its own sanitation plan, which will include frequent disinfection and cleaning. Hand sanitizer and additional disposable masks will be available for students who may forget their mask in the morning.

Students and adults will be required to wear face coverings while on the bus and waiting at bus stops. Windows will be open on the bus when appropriate to provide additional ventilation. **Students who do not follow bus rules will not be allowed to ride the bus.**

### Departure

Students will have assigned procedures to follow during departure from school to ensure social distancing and safety. Car riders and walkers will be required to stand 3 feet apart in the hallway as they wait for their ride to pick them up. **The school day will end at 2:40 each day.**

**General Guidance: Classrooms**-All guidelines and requirements are subject to change as the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC guidelines evolve.

- Seating will be arranged for social distancing, when possible
- Common areas and tables will be clearly marked to show where to sit, stand, or line-up for 3-foot spacing
- Windows will remain open for increased ventilation as much as possible.
- Students will remain with the same classroom group throughout the day as much as possible
- Restroom and handwashing breaks will be scheduled and coordinated throughout the day
- Staggered transitions times and schedules will be created
- Hand sanitizing will occur whenever anyone enters the classroom
- Clearly visible signage reminding everyone of distancing, face coverings, and hand hygiene
- School supplies will not be shared between students or staff
- Classrooms will be cleaned at least daily

**General Guidance: Hallways, Office, and Common Areas**-All guidelines and requirements are subject to change as the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC guidelines evolve.

- Social distancing must be observed
- Face coverings will be required for all students and staff
- Common areas will be clearly marked to help with social distancing
- Clearly visible signage reminding everyone of distancing, face coverings, and hand hygiene
- High touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day

**General Guidance: Gymnasium**

- Students will participate in PE activities that maintain social distancing and wear face coverings **at all times** during indoor PE
- Students will be assigned to specific PE equipment, when appropriate
- When at all possible, PE class will take place outside. When classes are held outside, and social distancing of 3 feet is maintained students will not have to wear face coverings

**General Guidance: Recess**-All guidelines and requirements are subject to change as the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC guidelines evolve.

- Social distancing must be observed
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings if they are outside and maintain social distancing of 3 feet
- All recess equipment will be sanitized between uses for each grade level

### **General Guidance: Traffic Flow, Hallways, and Lockers**

- To the greatest extent possible, the number of people in the hallways will be limited
- Hallways will be clearly marked for two way traffic paths
- Students will make trips to locker assignments with their homeroom classes and will be staggered. Trips to lockers will be twice per day.

### **General Guidance: Restrooms and Drinking Fountains**

- Social distancing must be observed
- Restroom breaks will be scheduled to stagger use and maintain social distancing
- Restrooms will be sanitized on a regular schedule
- Signs will be posted to encourage hand hygiene procedures
- Students and staff will only utilize bottle fillers at the water fountains
- Reusable water bottles will be encouraged
- K-5 students will only utilize bathrooms in the lower hallway & 6-8 students will only utilize bathrooms in the upper hallway

## **Instruction**

Remote instruction will only be provided for those students who are medically fragile. These students will have an approved remote learning plan created by administration.

### **Pleasant Hill In-Person Instruction Model for ALL STUDENTS**

- School hours will be 7:45 AM-2:40 PM
- Students may arrive no earlier than 7:45 AM
- Students will receive all traditional course offerings

### **Pleasant Hill Short Term Remote Instruction Model for Students In Quarantine**

- Remote learning will be utilized by any student who may have COVID-19 like symptoms, and students who are identified through contact tracing
- Students will be held to the same expectations as those participating in the in-person model. This includes late work policies and grading policies.
- Students will be responsible for participating in live lessons (Google Meets) and submitting any accompanying work
- Devices will be available for students to check out from the school in the event students are quarantined and need to engage in remote learning. A chromebook contract will need to be signed by both the student and parent/guardian.

## **Additional Information**

- All extracurricular activities will be reviewed on a case by case basis for feasibility and will follow the most current IDPH/ISBE guidelines
- All athletics will follow the guidelines provided by IESA.
- The district looks to hosting some of our traditional events again this year, such as Open House and Reading Night. However, we will require that all of our guests wear masks if they attend the event.
- All changes in our current plan or pertinent announcements from ISBE or IDPH will be communicated to families and staff via Remind, School Website and our automated call and text service. Please make sure your information is updated on our announcement platform.
- Pleasant Hill will work to ensure that all visitors remain healthy and safe. During the pandemic, visitors will NOT be allowed at school except for mandatory parent meetings.
- Pleasant Hill administration and staff will continue to monitor the situation. These guidelines and requirements are subject to change as recommendations are updated.