



COVID-19 Return to In-Person Plan

PSOE STUDENT AND FAMILY PLAN OVERVIEW

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Paramount has committed to take additional measures to maintain a safe and healthy school environment despite the prevalence of COVID-19. This plan is established as a starting point to protect the school community against all health-related hazards and will be monitored and adapted at a minimum of every 6 months as new information is provided by trusted institutions, such as the Center for Disease Control, Indiana State Department of Health, Marion County Health Department, executive orders from the governor, and the Indiana Department of Education.

The following outlines new measures in place effective on this plan's revision date of September 16, 2021.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Virtual or On-campus Options: Families may enroll in Paramount Online Academy should they wish to continue for their students to receive a 100% virtual education. Students enrolled in Paramount Brookside, Paramount Cottage Home, and Paramount Englewood will return 100% in-person at the start of the 2021-22 school year.

FACIAL COVERINGS

- Should CDC or local guidance change, this policy will reflect those changes.
- Based on current guidance from the CDC and IDOH, the following mask guidelines will be followed:

All staff and students

- School-approved masks are required indoors (except when eating); social distance at least 3 feet at all times when allowable and practical. School-approved masks are required for anyone in the school building, regardless of vaccination status.

Visitors

- All visitors must wear school-approved masks when in the building, with no exceptions.

Bus

- All staff and students must wear a school-approved mask when on a bus,

regardless of vaccination status, at all times.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

- All CDC, EPA, and OSHA cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed, including, but not limited to, all buildings, surfaces, buses, equipment, and playground structures.
- Touchless hand sanitizer stations are placed at the entrance to the school, all cafeteria entrances, and all entrances into the school from recess.
 - Students and staff are expected to use these stations upon entry to the cafeteria, before and after recess, and upon entry/re-entry to the school building.
- Teachers are provided single-use alcohol wipes for students to wipe down Chromebooks at the end of each day prior to replacing them at the charging station. Students are assigned a Chromebook that will follow them to classes throughout the day.
- “Communal” or shared supplies are not permitted in classrooms.
- All rooms/staff are equipped with sanitizer spray and paper towels to wipe down surfaces throughout the day.
- Additional nightly sanitization occurs at all schools in all areas.
- Playground equipment is sanitized multiple times throughout the day.
- Lunch tables and seats are disinfected between lunch periods.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located at the entry and exit of the cafeteria.
 - All students shall use hand sanitizer and are encouraged to wash hands before and after every meal.
- All buses are sanitized after the final drop off to and from school.
- As soon as the school is aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the building, the custodial staff is immediately informed. When possible, based on student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. When waiting is not possible, such as when school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS

- Safety drills have the following modifications in place:
 - Fire Drills are “slowed down” to maintain social distancing. Drills are clearly announced so students and staff are aware of the drill. One-way paths for evacuation are established.
 - Tornado Drills are conducted in waves to allow for social distancing.
 - Bus Evacuation Drills are conducted at the end of the route. Students and staff are required to wear face masks while on the bus, even during a drill.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- Schools have revised pick-up procedures to reduce the number of visitors in the building. Contact your school’s front office for specific instructions.

- Revisions have been added to school-specific Family Handbooks.
- All PSOE staff members use a single (main office) point of entry.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- Space between students is increased as much as the classroom and furniture allows (3 feet per Marion County Public Health Department recommendations).
- When possible, furniture is arranged so that all students are facing the same direction.
- Students have assigned seating.
 - Seating charts are documented by all teachers for exposure tracing.
- Services are provided to students in the classroom whenever possible.
- Technology, textbooks, and other materials are assigned to students.
- Technology and materials are sanitized nightly.
- Whole-class bathroom breaks for elementary grades are scheduled to increase social distancing between different classes.
- Specials Classes
 - Physical Education consists of “no contact” activities.
 - All materials are sanitized between uses.
- Recess
 - Students receive ongoing education on how to avoid contact with others during outdoor play times.
- Shared spaces, such as special education classrooms, the nurse’s clinic, behavioral, counseling, Recovery, and speech offices, are sanitized between groups.
 - Seating adheres to social distancing guidelines.
- A separate room is provided for students who may have COVID-19 while waiting for pick-up. The room is disinfected frequently and restricted to authorized staff and students.

ASSEMBLIES AND EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- All assemblies and field trips will require prior approval from the CAO to ensure proper distancing and health regulations can and will be in place.
- All contact sports follow current guidelines per Marion County Public Health Department recommendations.
- Any food-related activities (such as class celebrations and staff pitch-ins) are altered to maintain social distancing and exclude the use of “family-style” meal options.

BUS PROCEDURES

- All students, drivers, and monitors riding the bus are required to wear face coverings.
- Students have assigned seats on the bus.
- Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted.

FOOD AND WATER

- Lunch has assigned seating, with students remaining with their class.
- Tables and seats are disinfected between lunch periods.

- Seat assignments are documented for exposure tracing.
- Schools have established alternate meal locations for medically compromised students.
- Food sharing of any kind is prohibited.
- All food service staff (including monitors and teachers overseeing meals) wear face coverings and gloves during preparation, service, and monitoring.
- Water fountains are not to be used with a person's mouth.
- Cups and trash bins are provided at each water station throughout the school.
- Signage is posted to remind staff and students to not use their mouths on the drinking fountains.
- Drinking fountains are sanitized multiple times throughout the day by the custodial staff.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Teachers limit the number of items that go between school and home as much as possible.
- All visitor sign-in sheets are maintained and documented to assist with exposure tracing.
- Visitors, including those picking up students at the end of the day, must wear facial coverings whenever in the building.
- Classroom visits are not permitted unless exempted by school leadership.
- Schools utilize staggered release schedules for dismissal. Please contact your school's front office for instructions.

HEALTH MONITORING FOR POTENTIAL COVID-19 CASES

All quarantine and close contact determinations are made based on the most current recommendations from the IDOH. Per Governor Holcolm's executive order which states:

To support the ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, IDOH will be issuing a COVID-19 control measure. The measure will allow for schools and day cares to modify quarantine provisions if the facilities adhere to the following orders and guidance set by IDOH:

- *Schools and day cares that have mask requirements that are consistently followed throughout the day do not have to quarantine students, teachers and staff who are close contacts and aren't showing symptoms of COVID-19;*
- *Schools and day cares must continue to contact trace by notifying their local health department as well as parents, teachers and staff who were in close contact.*

Anyone in close contact with a confirmed positive case while at school will receive a rapid-COVID-19 test provided by the school nurse while supplies are available. If the test is negative and the close contact person does not show symptoms of COVID-19, they will not be required to quarantine. The school nurse reserves the right to monitor the close contact person for symptoms up to 10 days after exposure.

Final determinations are made by school principals.

- If a student presents with any of the below symptoms, they should not come to school:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- New loss of taste or smell
- chills
- shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- diarrhea
- nausea
- vomiting

All positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the Marion County Public Health Department and the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation for additional guidance.

Anytime a member of the school tests positive for COVID-19, the school will follow guidance on next steps regarding any potential closure provided by the Marion County Public Health Department and the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation.

HAND WASHING

- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing is expected, especially at the following times:
 - Start of the school day
 - Before and after eating
 - After using the restroom
 - After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - Before and after using shared equipment
- Student health plans are created and implemented as needed with guidance from the student's family doctor, parents, director of special education and the school nurse.
- The school nurse provides lessons to students on social distancing, hand washing, and other general health-related topics that stop the spread of COVID-19 at the beginning of the year and on an ongoing basis.

SCHOOL VENDORS AND VISITORS

- All visitors (including parents) are subject to temperature-checking prior to being allowed in the school.
 - Staff visitors are restricted, subject to administrative approval on a case-by-case basis.
- Whenever possible, vendor access is restricted to out-of-school hours to avoid contact with students.
 - All vendors must sign into the front office and be temperature-checked.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- Counselors, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinators, and Recovery staff are trained in COVID-19-related trauma-informed care practices,

including the utilization of the DOE's SEL Roadmap to Re-entry guidelines.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

- Diagnostic and screening testing
 - All schools are equipped with rapid-results swab tests provided by FEMA. These tests are administered by the school's registered nurse, with parental consent, if a student is showing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If results are positive, contact tracing and quarantine protocols are immediately put into place.
- Vaccinations for School Communities
 - Staff members and students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine as they are able.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
 - Student IEPs will be followed if they are in conflict with any COVID-19 protocols put in place. Student accommodations and modifications will occur on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Special Education Director.