



## **PSOE STUDENT AND FAMILY PLAN OVERVIEW**

Paramount is committed to adhering to measures that create a safe and healthy school environment for students and employees. The school's health and safety protocols follow guidance from the Marion County Health Department (MCPHD), the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations has declined, Paramount has updated the school's health and safety protocols in adherence to the new guidance.

The following outlines new measures in place effective on this plan's revision date of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### **SCHOOL OPTIONS**

- Families may enroll in Paramount Online Academy should they wish to continue for their students to receive a 100% virtual education. Students enrolled at Paramount Brookside, Paramount Cottage Home, and Paramount Englewood will remain on-campus.

### **FACIAL COVERINGS**

- New IDOH guidance advises that facial coverings may now be optional. Paramount will continue to strongly encourage the use of facial coverings while indoors and around others, but facial covering requirements will no longer be a part of school policy for staff or students. Students along with their families and staff members may decide for themselves whether to wear masks on school property.
- The CDC does not require the wearing of face masks on buses operated by public or private school systems. Masks will remain optional on the school bus, regardless of vaccination status.

### **HEALTH SCREENING/TESTING**

- Students and staff will need to monitor their health and any COVID-like symptoms. Those who develop COVID-like symptoms should stay at home and Paramount encourages testing to anyone exhibiting symptoms. Rapid tests are available at each campus location.

### **POSITIVE CASES/ISOLATION**

- Per CDC and IDOH isolation guidance, all staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for a minimum of 5 full days.
- Staff and students can return to school only if the following requirements are met:
  - Symptoms have improved and the individual has experienced no fever within 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications.
  - The individual will be required to always wear a mask (with the exception of eating or drinking) for days 6-10.
- All confirmed positive cases will be carefully monitored by Paramount staff and will be reported to the MCPHD.
- If there are changes to the school and community COVID cases, Paramount will adjust measures accordingly.

### **CONTACT TRACING/QUARANTINE**

- IDOH does not require the identification or quarantining of close contacts regardless of vaccination status. This includes if there is a positive individual in the household. Individuals will be expected to monitor their symptoms closely.

- Individuals with symptoms should not return to school unless the individual has experienced no fever within 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications. Testing for COVID-19 is strongly recommended for anyone exhibiting symptoms.

## **CLEANING AND HYGIENE**

- All buildings, surfaces, buses, and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized.
- Proper hand washing, coughing, and sneezing protocols are required.
- Touchless hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the school building.
- “Communal” or shared supplies are not permitted in classrooms.
- 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.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Social distancing is no longer required.
- Schools can resume normal student movement and seating.

## **VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

- Masks are optional for all approved visitors including parents, vendors, community members, and volunteers, but Paramount will continue to strongly encourage the use of a face covering when indoors and around others.
- Classroom visits will remain limited and must be approved by school leadership.
- Whenever possible, vendor access is restricted to out-of-school hours to avoid contact with students.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECESS**

- Masks will be optional during indoor physical education and recess but will still be encouraged when indoors and around others.

## **ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS**

- It is encouraged that masks are worn by student-athletes and coaches at practice and by spectators at games and events, but it is no longer required by school policy.
- All athletic programming and extracurricular activities will resume as normal.
- All assemblies and field trips will require prior approval to ensure health regulations can and will be in place.

## **TESTING/VACCINATION**

- Paramount will continue to encourage vaccination for all eligible populations, but it is not required by school policy.
- Rapid tests will continue to be available to students and staff at all school locations.