



**PALOUSE PRAIRIE
CHARTER SCHOOL**
nurturing minds | inspiring leaders

Palouse Prairie Charter School COVID-19 Safety and Risk-Mitigation Procedures 2020-2021

Following are the on-site risk mitigation procedures for all individuals entering Palouse Prairie Charter School.

Access to the school will be limited to teachers, staff, and students. Visitors may be allowed on-site for a limited period of time on a case by case basis and as approved by the Executive Director. All individuals inside the building must follow the mitigation procedures as adopted by the school board or the individual may be asked to leave the school.

The social distancing capacity of the school and its classrooms will be maintained at all times. The average classroom in the PPCS school can accommodate up to 14 students and one teacher with social distancing parameters considered. This capacity recommendation allows for 6-foot social distancing and accounts for space around the perimeter of the room for children to line up for transitions to recess and departures from the classroom. Additional factors, such as air circulation, placement of tables and other classroom furniture, and projected physical movement within a classroom, can lower the estimated capacity of a classroom.

1. Students, teachers and staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after they have been in a common area, or after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - It's especially important to wash:
 - Upon first arriving to school, before entering classroom
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

- Before and after handling your mask
 - If soap and water are not readily available, **hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- 2. Maintain appropriate distance from others
 - Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - Remember that some people do not show symptoms, but are still able to spread the virus.
 - [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arms' length\) from other people](#).
 - Desks will be arranged to assure 6 feet of distance between students can be maintained when seated.
 - Students may be asked to remain at their desks to assure proper distancing.
 - Use of common areas and public spaces will be coordinated to allow physical distancing.
 - In some circumstances, teachers will need some close proximity with students when supporting a student academically. In these circumstances, both the teacher and student will be wearing a mask and the teacher will be wearing a face shield. This academic support will be for very short periods of time, less than 15 minutes.
- 3. Masks (Please see [PPCS Mask and PPE usage statement](#) for additional information)
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth mask when around others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
 - Everyone will wear a [mask](#) in public settings and around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
 - Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

- Masks should be cleaned daily.
- Masks should be removed by the straps and hands should be washed before and after removal.
- Those individuals that have provided medical documentation will be exempt from wearing a mask and will be provided with an appropriate alternative.
- In addition to masks, face shields are recommended for all adults in the building and will be required when direct interactions are necessary and a sneeze guard is not available. For optimal protection, the face shield should extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece.



Unique Locations and Settings

- Face coverings may be temporarily removed to eat or drink, but care should be taken to maintain as much space as possible between people, recognizing it is not always feasible to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- Face coverings may be temporarily removed when engaging in outdoor physical activity (e.g., during recess) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult.

People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance while doing so to the extent feasible.

- Students should wear a mask during physical education when possible. Breaks from wearing masks may be offered with an emphasis on maintaining at least 6 feet of distance. Physical education classes should occur outside when possible.

4. Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

5. Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, and keyboards.
- **Clean AND disinfect** sinks, toilets, faucets hourly.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them.** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant.** Most common [EPA-registered household disinfectants](#) will work.

6. Teachers and staff should monitor their health daily. Parents will be asked to monitor their student's health.

CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.

Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.

Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.

- Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- **Parents please see:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Back-to-School-Planning-for-In-Person-Classes.pdf>

7. Classrooms and indoor spaces

- Classrooms and indoor spaces at Palouse Prairie will be organized to provide the least amount of overlap between different individuals. Bathrooms will be single-use at all times.
- Students may be required to enter the building through specific doors and remain in specific parts of the building each day.
- Access to certain parts of the school will be limited through identified entrances and exits.

8. Response to a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19

- Executive Director, as the point of contact (POC) will assist with contact tracing. While the Health Department usually performs this function, school officials and teachers are in the best position to determine which individuals had significant contact with the infected individual and require isolation.
- Staff should modify assigned seating and carefully track attendance to assist with contact tracing.
- Parents should notify school immediately if they find out their student has a COVID-19 positive test.
- Reminder: students and staff should not be present at school if they are waiting for a test result.
- A staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately contact the school (point of contact, supervisor, etc)
- A school may also find out a person who has been in their buildings being positive from the health department, physicians office, etc.
- COVID-19 cases should immediately be reported to the Health Department.

9. Palouse Prairie School recommends the following guidelines for staff and families during COVID-19 Pandemic. Please note these recommendations come directly from the Center of Disease Control to help stop the spread of the virus and to keep our school open.

- [Domestic Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- [Personal and Social Activities](#)
- [Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings](#)