



**PALOUSE PRAIRIE
CHARTER SCHOOL**
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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.

Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible. Dividers will be used for all seated students in classrooms when distancing is not feasible.

1. Hand-washing: 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. Social Distancing: Students, teachers, and staff will maintain appropriate distance from others as much as possible.
- All students, teachers, and staff will keep a distance of 6 feet ([about 2 arms' length](#)) [from other people](#) who don't live in their household when feasible.
 - Students may be asked to remain at their desks to assure proper distancing and use of dividers to minimize the potential for infection.
 - To the extent possible, use of common areas and public spaces will be coordinated to allow physical distancing.
 - In some circumstances, teachers will need to come into close proximity with students when supporting them academically.
3. Masks (Please see [PPCS Mask and PPE usage statement](#) for additional information)
- All students, teachers, and staff will cover their mouths and noses with an appropriate mask when around others. Masks have been clearly demonstrated to protect both the wearer and other people. Double masks or masks with filter inserts are highly recommended for the greater protection they offer.
 - Everyone will wear a [mask](#) in public settings and around people who don't live in their households, 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.
 - Masks should be cleaned daily.
 - Masks should be removed by the straps and hands should be washed before and after removal.
 - Individuals who have provided medical documentation will be exempt from wearing a mask and will be provided with an appropriate alternative.



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. Surface disinfection: PPCS will clean and disinfect surfaces regularly.
 - **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. Health monitoring: Teachers and staff will 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 are 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 keep students in grade-specific "pods" or cohorts, minimizing overlap between different individuals.
 - 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. Covid Response: Response to a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19

- The 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 will 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.
- **Staff and students living with individuals who may be waiting for COVID test results or have a suspected exposure should not come to school until confirmation of negative test results or 10 days post exposure. See more information [here](#).**
- A staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must immediately contact the school (point of contact, supervisor, etc)
- The school may also be alerted to positive test results from the health department, physicians office, etc.
- COVID-19 cases should immediately be reported to the Health Department.

9. Travel and Gatherings outside school: Palouse Prairie School recommends the following guidelines for staff and families during the 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](#)