



Phalen Leadership Academies 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

Return to In-Person Policies and Procedures

The CDC advises that it is critical for schools to use and layer prevention strategies regardless of the level of community transmission. To date, the agency has maintained the same COVID-19 guidelines from the 2020-2021 school year. It should be noted that the CDC will update current guidelines in the coming weeks; and therefore, PLA schools may make adjustments to policies and/or procedures at that time. While the rate of infection has decreased in many areas, COVID-19 is still a threat to the wellness of our school community. For the safe delivery of in-person instruction and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the CDC prioritizes these five prevention strategies:

1. Universal and correct use of masks
2. Physical Distancing
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Universal and Correct Use of Masks

While some teachers and scholars have been vaccinated, others may not have been vaccinated for a variety of reasons. scholars under the age of 12 do not have access to vaccines to date; and therefore, it is imperative that we keep these scholars safe. The CDC recommends maintaining the mask requirement in schools because masks work best when everyone in the community wears one. Therefore, we require that unvaccinated members of the school community continue to wear a mask to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. All scholars under the age of 12 must wear a mask until vaccinated and/or medical certification is provided to the school. Given the fact that new variants of COVID-19 are circulating globally, all community members are encouraged to continue wearing a mask, even if vaccinated. Per federal law, all scholars who ride a bus to and/or from school must wear a mask.



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Most scholars, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a mask. However, a narrow subset of scholars with disabilities might not be able to wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask. PLA school administrators will make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws in order to determine if an exception to the mask requirement is necessary and appropriate for a particular scholar.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing, also referred to as “social distancing”, requires keeping a safe space between yourself and other people that are not from your household. To meet physical distancing recommendations of the CDC, our schools will maintain social distancing guidelines of at least 3 feet within our buildings. Signs to remind the school community of our physical distancing practices will be posted throughout the building as well. This practice, combined with mask use, and consistent healthy hygiene practices will mitigate the risk of community spread in our schools.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Frequent and thorough washing of hands is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in any community. To prevent the spread of germs and illness, all school community members will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to clean hands BEFORE or AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Touching your mask
- Entering and leaving a public place
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by others, such as door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks

Healthy hygiene signage will be maintained throughout our schools and scholars will be reminded to wash their hands at critical times throughout the day. Additionally, classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer for frequent use.



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Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

PLA schools will ensure that high touch areas and surfaces are cleaned daily. Custodial staff will wipe down common areas throughout the day. Regular cleaning of the school facilities combined with wearing masks and consistent healthy hygiene practices will mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections. If someone within the school community tests positive for COVID-19, the school will be disinfected as recommended by the CDC guidelines. Routine cleaning of our schools, along with the four other strategies outlined above, will mitigate the risk of community spread within our schools.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

If a member of the school community is diagnosed with COVID-19, the administration shall report the case to the health department as soon as they are informed. The school will work with the local health department for contact tracing and providing notification to the broader school community of positive cases. Anyone in the school that feels sick or displays any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home. Isolation should be used to separate people diagnosed with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Scholars, teachers, and staff who are in isolation should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to return around others.

Quarantine should be used for scholars, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive within the last 3 months and do not have any symptoms. Scholars, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to return around others.



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Other School Policy Considerations:

Non-Essential School Visitors

For the health and safety of the school community members, non-essential visitors to our schools will continue to be limited. PLA encourages parents and guardians to call or email school staff rather than in person meetings. All visitors may be required to wear a mask and submit to a temperature check. Lunch and classroom visits are restricted until further notice.




Enhanced Protocols

Enhanced protocols will continue to be in place at all PLA schools during the upcoming school year:

	<p>Hand Sanitizer Stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout all buildings. ● All scholars will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.
	<p>Additional Cleaning Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional cleaning protocols throughout the day will take place in classrooms and common areas. ● Custodians will be sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks, etc). ● For grade levels that departmentalize, desks, chairs, and materials will be wiped down before passing periods. ● Each classroom and all common areas will be deep cleaned each night.






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	<p>Masks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All scholars and staff members will be encouraged to wear a mask even if vaccinated. • Masks will only be permitted to be taken off when eating breakfast and lunch.
	<p>Temperature Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All scholars and staff members will have their temperature taken before entering the school. • Anyone with a temperature of 100.4°F and above will be sent home.
	<p>Monitoring COVID Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholars and staff must be fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school and be COVID symptom-free for 10 calendar days before returning to school. • Quarantine should be used for scholars, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.



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	<p>COVID Holding Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event a scholar becomes sick during the school day, the scholar will be placed in a holding area away from other scholars to limit any amount of exposure.
	<p>Seating Charts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars will be assigned seats in their classroom. Each desk will be facing the same direction and spaced at least 3 feet apart.
	<p>Water Bottles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.• All water fountains will be shut off.• Please fill up the water bottle at home before coming to school.



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DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask



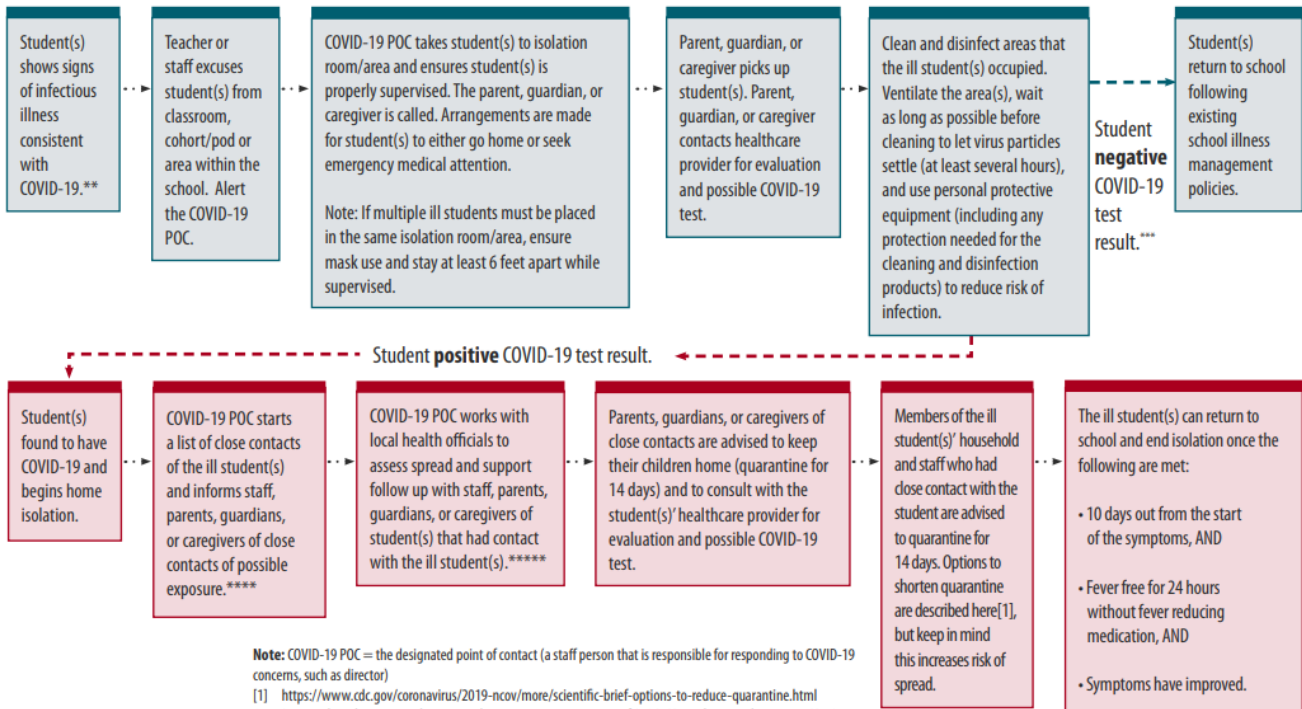
CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
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cdc.gov/coronavirus



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WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL*



Note: COVID-19 POC = the designated point of contact (a staff person that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, such as director)

[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

* Scenario based on geographic area with community transmission of SARS-COV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

** The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

*** With no known close contact.

**** Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.

***** To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.





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DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK

Tell your mom, dad, or caregiver before you come to school. Tell your teacher or an adult if you become sick at school



cough



Shortness of breath
or problem breathing



chills



sore throat



loss of taste
or smell



muscle pain

OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

*fever, runny nose, diarrhea, feeling nauseous
or vomiting, feeling tired, headache,
and poor appetite*



cdc.gov/coronavirus



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Know the Symptoms



Fever or Chills



Cough, Shortness of breath
or difficulty breathing



Fatigue, Muscle or body
aches, Headache



New loss of taste or smell



Sore throat, Congestion or
runny nose



Nausea or vomiting,
Diarrhea



CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that employers require all employees to wear face masks.

We encourage sick employees to stay home. Employees who report to work ill will be sent home in accordance with these health guidelines.

If you have symptoms, please notify your supervisor and stay home and follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers.

Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.

Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information on how to recognize symptoms.



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Continuity of Services

Professional Development - In order to continue to provide the needed support, PLA schools have scheduled several days of professional development opportunities that will focus on the mental health and the overall wellness of our staff and identification of areas that require additional support for our scholars. We will also discuss our instructional model and learning objectives.

Food Services - Food services will continue as normal in all schools throughout the entire school year. In the event that a school closure is necessary, PLA schools will continue to support our families by following the same process held during the 20-21 school year.

Special Population - PLA staff will continue to make adjustments as new guidance is provided by the IDOE. Staff will continue to closely work and monitor scholars with an IEP regarding its implementation and delivery of services. For scholars with 504 Plans, their case manager will continue to communicate with parents about their scholar's program and progress.

General Support - PLA is excited to continue providing community outreach and family support for all of our scholars. Administrators will complete training sessions that help recognize and provide support to staff or scholars who might be experiencing difficulties. Schools will also work with Gallahue, our mental health service provider, regarding counseling services for our scholars and families. Prior to the beginning of the school year, staff will also be trained in areas that help them prepare to be of better support to scholars suffering from anxiety, stress and other emotional needs while in the classroom.

PLA schools will continue to utilize 1:1 technology in conjunction with Google Classroom. All families will receive training on the platform prior to the beginning of the school year. Additional materials and resources will also be available for our Special Education and EL scholars as well as their families.



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Public Comment

PLA's Return to In-Person Instruction Plan has been developed to meet the current state requirements as well as CDC guidelines. Our leadership and administration will continue to work to obtain public feedback and to monitor state guidance to adhere to our state's requirements, as well as to continue to be a support system for all scholars and families. This plan will be revised and updated every 6 months to ensure all state requirements, CDC guidelines and public input are met.

PLA families are highly encouraged to contact their local campus administration's office should they have additional questions.

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