



PRSD Health and Safety Plan Update

August 16, 2021



Fundamental Goals

- We are excited to welcome our students and staff back to school for 2021 – 2022.
- The **top priority is to resume in-person classroom instruction** to best support the intellectual, social and emotional development of our students. We want to maintain all co- and extra-curricular activities including athletics and music.
- We want to limit disruptions to daily attendance through illness and/or quarantine.
- We want to make adjustments as needed based on conditions, cases and guidance.



Recommendation and Concise Rationale

Recommendation to Start:

Start the 2021 - 2022 school year with full in-person instruction and a series of mitigation strategies that include required masking indoors for all students, staff and visitors.

Concise Rationale:

- In-person learning is the most important shared goal of our community.
- In addition to the health protections, this approach sets a foundation for continuity of in-person learning while significantly reducing risk of quarantine-based disruptions.
- Per the CDC and ACHD, students who are masked and would otherwise be considered a “close contact” do not need to be quarantined if within 3’ - 6’ of a COVID-19 positive individual.



Expanded Rationale (Part 1)

- Aligns with updated guidance of the CDC, AAP, PADOH, PDE and ACHD;
- Locally reinforced by the shift in Allegheny County conditions from low transmission levels in early July to current level of **high** transmission (i.e., significant change in conditions and guidance within the past month);
- Reflects understanding of the Delta variant and risk of transmission among vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals with acknowledgement that a vaccine is not yet available for children age 11 and under;
- Aligns with the recommendation of Dr. Bogen (ACHD Director) and the Healthcare Leadership Council subject-matter experts;

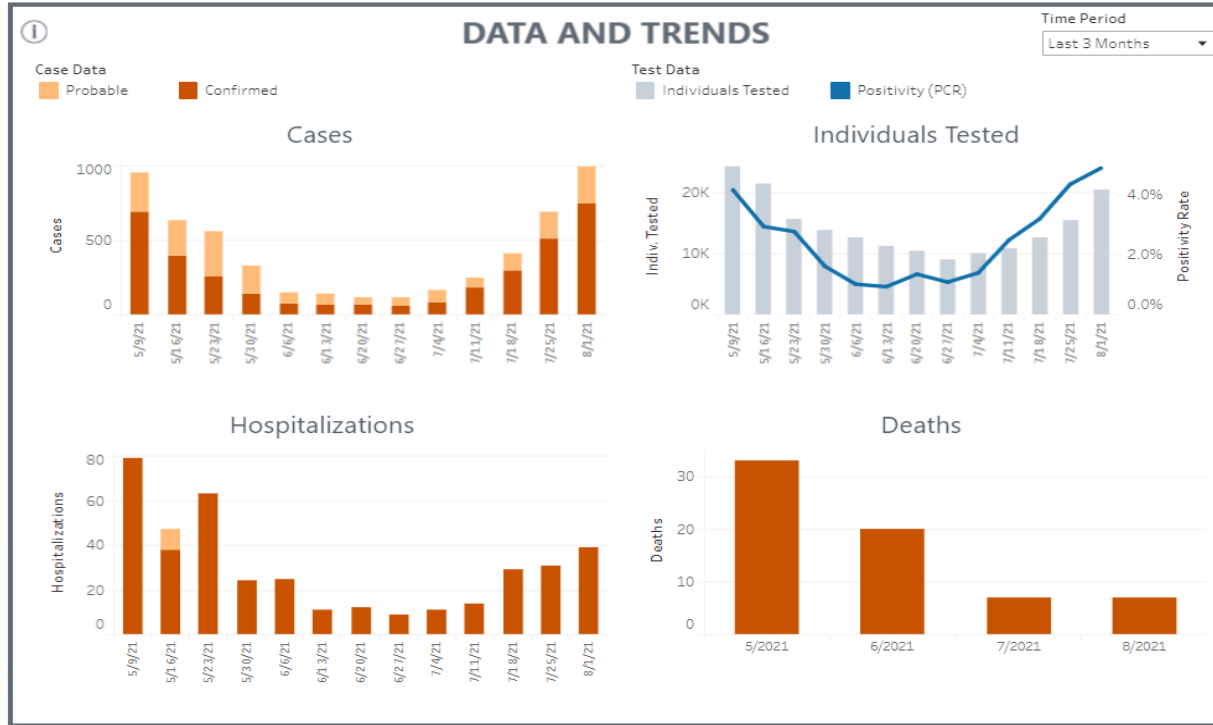


Public Health Guidance for Schools

- In early July, the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) released a recommendation related to masking in schools (i.e., recommended indoors for students and staff regardless of vaccination status).
- In late July, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) released updated guidance for COVID-19 and masking in schools (i.e., recommended indoors for students and staff regardless of vaccination status).
- There are approximately 14,000 public school districts in the United States and 500 in Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, PDE and PADOH recommend that schools follow CDC guidelines with the decisions made locally at each district.



ACHD Dashboard (Last 3 Months)

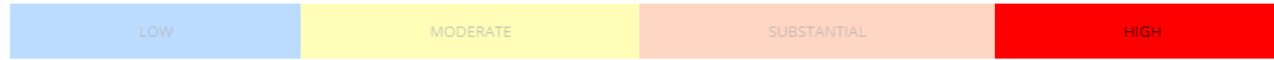


Last Updated:
8/13/2021 4:20:00 PM



CDC Data Tracker Dashboard

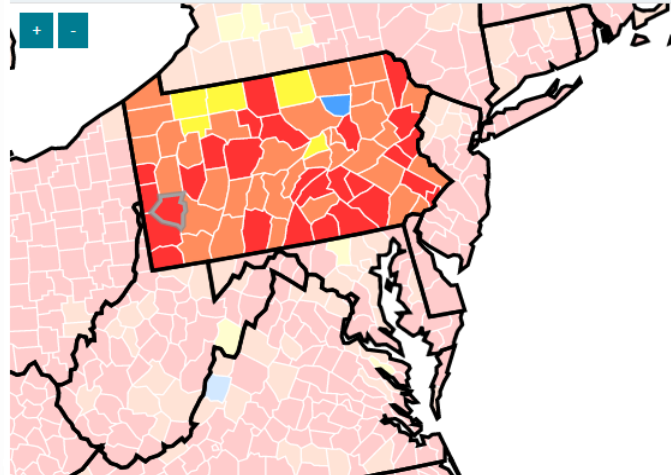
Level of Community Transmission in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania



Map Data:

Time Period: Sun Aug 08 2021 - Sat Aug 14 2021

[Back to U.S. Map](#)



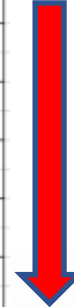
● High ● Substantial ● Moderate ● Low ● No Data

Current 7-days is Sun Aug 08 2021 - Sat Aug 14 2021 for case rate and Fri Aug 06 2021 - Thu Aug 12 2021 for percent positivity. The percent change in counties at each level of transmission is the absolute change compared to the previous 7-day period.



County Cases Since Early May

7-May	8-May	9-May	10-May	11-May	12-May	13-May		
191	246		191	224	183	142	1177	63.6
14-May	15-May	16-May	17-May	18-May	19-May	20-May		
144	186		162	166	93	140	891	42.6
21-May	22-May	23-May	24-May	25-May	26-May	27-May		
119	80		123	62	72	47	503	23.8
28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May	1-Jun	2-Jun	3-Jun		
72	48			113	42	33	308	15.1
4-Jun	5-Jun	6-Jun	7-Jun	8-Jun	9-Jun	10-Jun		
35			76		39	32	182	10.0
11-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jun	14-Jun	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun		
31			26		65	17	139	5.0
18-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun		
17			31		21	18	87	4.9
25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	29-Jun	30-Jun	2-Jul		
18					27	21	66	5.5
3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul		
		40		21		38	99	5.0
10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul		
		41		55		77	173	10.9
17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul	20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul		
		82		125		90	297	16.8
24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul		
		176		147		247	570	29.8
31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug		
		320		268		396	984	52.9
7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug		
		388		377		400	1165	63.7





Expanded Rationale (Part 2)

- Protects continuity of learning against contact tracing and quarantine at a time when school districts in the country that already started the 2021 - 2022 school year have experienced disruptions due to cases and quarantine;
- Protects the adult population of the school and minimizes the potential need for substitutes;
- Survey results from parents indicate that 76% of parents were “*planning to or willing to*” have their child wear a mask in school and 62% are influenced by the level of transmission;
- Survey results from staff indicate that 87% were “*planning to or willing to*” wear a mask in school and 68% are influenced by the level of transmission;



CDC Close Contact and Quarantine

Per updated CDC guidance, a potential benefit of universal masking is not being considered a close contact and therefore preventing the need to quarantine.

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition ***excludes*** students who were within **3 to 6 feet of an infected student** (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where
 - both students were engaged in **consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks**; ***and***
 - other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the **K-12 school setting**.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.



Parent Survey Results

Parent Questions	K-12		Grades K-3		Grades 4-6		Grades 7-8		Grades 9-12	
Plan to Mask	Yes=1849	49%	Yes=738	63%	Yes=492	57%	Yes=244	40%	Yes=375	32%
	No=1959	51%	No=440	37%	No=370	43%	No=362	60%	No=787	68%
If "no," are you willing to Mask	Yes=1051	54%	Yes=250	57%	Yes=191	51%	Yes=192	53%	Yes=418	53%
	No=910	46%	No=190	43%	No=180	49%	No=170	47%	No=370	47%
Combined Plan or Willing to Mask	Yes=2900	76%	Yes=988	85%	Yes=683	79%	Yes=436	71%	Yes=793	68%
	No=910	24%	No=190	15%	No=180	21%	No=170	29%	No=370	32%
Influenced by Transmission	Yes=2368	62%	Yes=776	66%	Yes=579	67%	Yes=356	59%	Yes=657	57%
	No=1434	38%	No=399	34%	No=282	33%	No=250	41%	No=503	43%
Voluntarily Share Vaccination Info	Yes=2956	78%	Yes=959	82%	Yes=664	77%	Yes=449	74%	Yes=884	77%
	No=840	22%	No=217	18%	No=198	23%	No=154	26%	No=271	23%



Staff Survey Results

Staff Questions	K-12		Grades K-3		Grades 4-6		Grades 7-8		Grades 9-12	
Plan to Mask	Yes=171	52%	Yes=49	53%	Yes=40	56%	Yes=18	39%	Yes=55	53%
	No=158	48%	No=44	47%	No=32	44%	No=28	61%	No=49	47%
If "no," are you willing to mask	Yes=115	73%	Yes=33	75%	Yes=22	69%	Yes=21	75%	Yes=35	71%
	No=43	27%	No=11	25%	No=10	31%	No=7	25%	No=14	29%
Combined Plan or Willing to Mask	Yes=286	87%	Yes=82	88%	Yes=62	86%	Yes=39	85%	Yes=90	87%
	No=43	13%	No=11	12%	No=10	14%	No=7	15%	No=14	13%
Influenced by Transmission	Yes=224	68%	Yes=61	66%	Yes=48	67%	Yes=31	67%	Yes=72	69%
	No=105	32%	No=32	34%	No=24	33%	No=15	33%	No=32	31%
Voluntarily Share Vaccination Info	Yes=302	92%	Yes=83	89%	Yes=67	93%	Yes=45	98%	Yes=94	90%
	No=26	8%	No=10	11%	No=5	7%	No=1	2%	No=10	10%



Other Considerations (Part 1)

- Full and regular in-person school attendance is an extremely positive step toward normalcy.
- We understand frustration and fatigue especially after a summer largely without masks and the lowest levels of transmission.
- We do not want politics and controversy to interfere with re-establishing a positive culture within the school that is focused on learning. We do not want the school building itself to become a battleground for this highly politicized topic.
- While direct risk of hospitalization and death for children is low, the reality of disruption due to cases, contact tracing and quarantine is high.



Other Considerations (Part 2)

- Cloth masks were effectively used in the 2020 - 2021 school year for most students and staff. In rare cases, a face shield was used. Even more rarely, we had a small number of exemptions (i.e., approximately 30 students across all six schools).
- A process will be shared so that parents can submit a written request from a medical professional to address individual concerns (i.e., if wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability).
- To start the year, we sincerely hope that the initial masking requirement can be met with limited exceptions so that the students can experience in-person learning and continuity.



Consideration to Modify Masking Requirement

- The recommendation for required masking is intended for the start of the year.
- As conditions and/or guidance change, we believe it may become possible to adjust the masking requirement.
 - For example, it is possible that decision-points for “required versus optional” are aligned to levels of transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial and high).
 - It is also possible that levels of transmission could vary by K - 6 versus 7 - 12 due to the availability of a vaccine (i.e., age 11 and under).



Educational Model Continuum*

"Old Days"

Schools operate as they did on and before March 13, 2020.

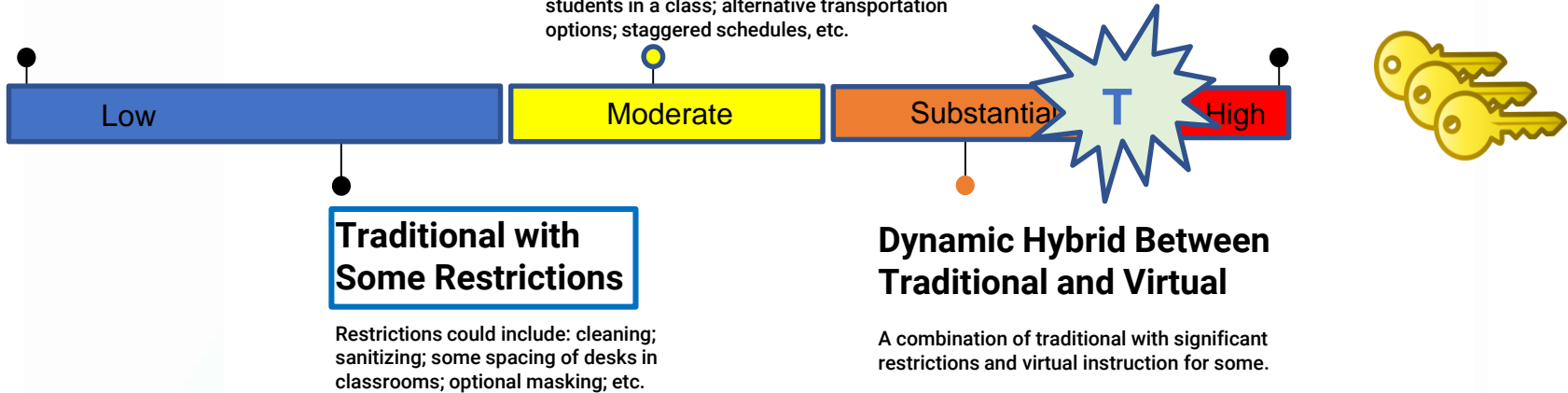


Traditional with Significant Restrictions

Restrictions could include limiting the number of students in a class; alternative transportation options; staggered schedules, etc.

100% Virtual

All students are learning remotely from home.



***Conditions are worsening and cases are rising with the Delta variant.**



Layered Mitigation Strategies (Part 1)

- Home Health Screening (continued encouragement of staying home when ill; we are not planning to use the Sapphire-based form)
- Buses (windows open; masking required; increased ridership; seating charts; parental help if possible)
- Classrooms (desks in columns and rows to maximize physical distancing without impacting the educational program; desks facing forward; teacher zone encouraged; availability of sanitizer; seating charts for contact tracing)
- Ventilation (continued practices with HVAC and increased air intake)
- Building Cleaning (modified custodial schedules; availability of cleaner in classrooms)
- Cafeteria (physical distancing to the extent possible; use of alternate spaces; potential for use of outside spaces; some adjustments to service; no salad bars; no shared serving utensils)



Layered Mitigation Strategies (Part 2)

- Visitors and Volunteers (limited during the school day; masking required)
- Locker Rooms (Limited use; masking required)
- Shared Materials (availability of cleaners and sanitizing wipes)
- Athletics/Activities (masking required indoors other than active engagement in practice/competition; masking outdoors optional with focus on physical distancing; limited use of locker rooms; plan to hold traditional events, such as homecoming dance, in-person and with some modifications)
- Recess (some modification of activities; optional masking outdoors)
- Return-to-School (flowchart will be developed for isolation, quarantine, travel, etc.)
- Vaccination status (encourage parents and staff to share with the school nurse)



Timeline and Next Steps

- Board action is requested at the August 16th meeting.
- Based on that action, follow-up communications will be sent to students, staff and families to clarify details and expectations (e.g., isolation, quarantine, return-to-school, travel, information sharing with the school nurse, etc.)
- Some form of regular communication/update process will be developed to share information with the school community (e.g., conditions, cases, and the potential to shift plans)



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Healthcare Leadership Council Membership

Senior Leadership Team: Dr. Miller (Superintendent); Dr. Pasquinelli (Asst. Superintendent); Dr. Justus (Asst. Superintendent); Mr. Noel Hustwit (Director of Student Services & Special Education); Ms. Hathhorn (Director of Communication); Mr. Brian Glickman (Director of Human Resources); Mrs. Kirk (Director of Financial & Operational Services); Mr. Shawn Stoeber (Director of Technology)

Administrators: Mrs. Nancy Bowman (PRHS); Dr. Dave Kristofic (PRMS); Mrs. Paula Giran (EHUE); Mrs. Greta Kuzilla (HES/RES/WES); Dr. Maura Paczan (Lead Psychologist); Mr. Jeff Zimmerman (Director of Facilities); Mr. Clayton Gruber (Custodial Supervisor); Mr. Sean Simmons (Director of Athletics)

Staff: Mr. Chris Vins (PREA President); Mr. Brian DeVinney (PREA Secondary Vice-President); Mrs. Danielle Kcehowski (PREA Elementary Vice-President); Mrs. Patti Noble (ESPA President); Mrs. Michelle Schonbachler (School Nurse Department Chair); Mrs. Kim Charney (Transportation & Facility Use Coordinator); Mrs. Barbara Williams (Administrative Support); Ms. Margo Kohler and Mr. Jim Bichler (Building Level Technology Coaches)

Governance: Mrs. Christine Misback (PRSD School Board)

Students: Executive Board Pres: Zeyad Amr; Class of 2021 President: Gaby Stone.

Key Partners: Mrs. Colleen McAndrew (STA Manager); Mr. Andy Hartman (STA Assistant Manager); Mrs. Diane Bucknum (SODEXO Manager)

Medical and Public Health Experts: Dr. Amy Cashdollar, Chief Operating Officer (AHN); Erin Colvin, CRNP (CHP); Dr. Vaughn Cooper, Professor of Microbiology Molecular Genetics (Pitt) Co-Founder of Microbial Genome Sequencing Center; Renee Dixon, RN (UPMC); Dr. Tony Farah, Executive Vice President, Chief Medical/Clinical Transformation Officer (HH); Dr. Catherine Hrach, Emergency Physician (BHS); Dr. Jenene Hunkele, Sr. Medical Science Liaison (Alexion); Dr. Allan Klapper, CEO (AHN); Dr. Brook McHugh, Pediatrician (AHN); Dr. Tyler Quinn, Research Physiologist (NIOSH); Dr. Ryan Shields, Infectious Diseases Pharmacist/Assoc. Professor of Medicine (Pitt; UPMC); Dr. Domenic Mantella (PRSD School Physician)

“Focused on learning for every student every day.”

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