



PRSD Health and Safety Plan Update

November 15, 2021



Fundamental Goals to Start the Year

- It has been a positive start to the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- We have successfully **resumed in-person classroom instruction** to best support the intellectual, social and emotional development of our students.
- We have successfully **maintained all co- and extra-curricular activities** including athletics and music.
- We have significantly limited disruptions to daily attendance through illness and/or quarantine.



Vaccine Update

- The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for emergency use authorization with children ages 5 – 11.
 - Two dose sequence three weeks apart with “fully vaccinated” status two weeks after the final dose (i.e., five weeks from first dose to fully vaccinated)
- Booster shots available for staff (i.e., “mix and match” possible). Staff can consult his/her PCP for additional information.



PDE/PDOH Update RE: Masking

Governor Tom Wolf has [announced](#) that on January 17, 2022, it is anticipated that the commonwealth's K-12 school mask requirement will return to local control.

Upon expiration of the statewide mask mandate, school officials will again be able to implement mitigation efforts fully at the local level. It is important to note that schools **may continue** requiring mask-wearing based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.

The current Secretary of Health [order](#) requires masks to be worn inside K-12 school buildings, early learning programs and childcare providers for both children and adults regardless of vaccination status. For K-12 school entities, this order remains in effect until an additional announcement in mid-January at which time the administration anticipates local K-12 school officials will again be able to implement mitigation efforts fully at the local level.

Additional clarifying guidance, including frequently asked questions, will be provided in the next few weeks as schools prepare for the return to local control of face masking requirements.



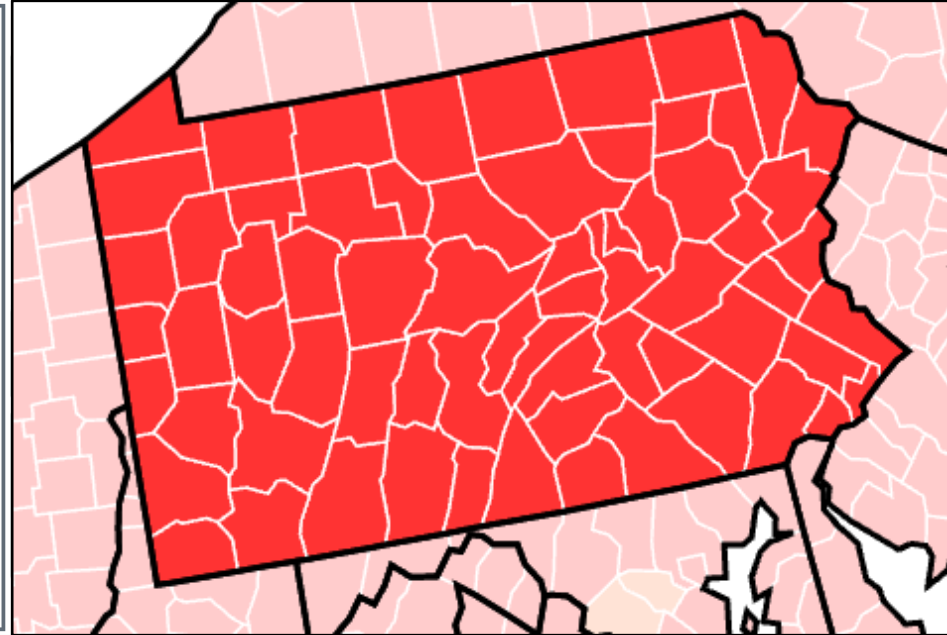
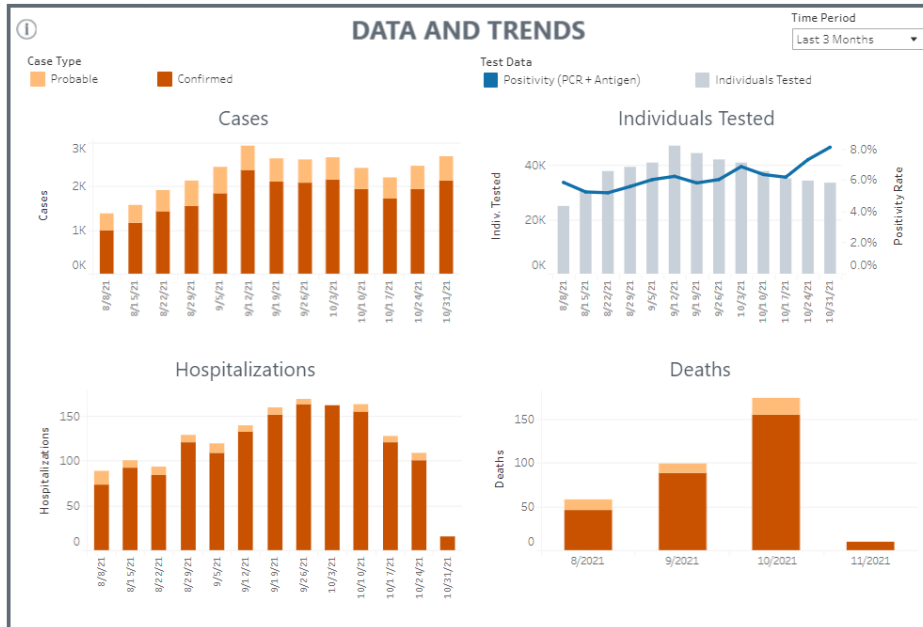
Current Statewide Developments

PDE Update (11/10/21):

- Yesterday, the Commonwealth Court issued a ruling voiding Acting Secretary Beam's school mask order.
- The state filed an appeal which triggered a stay of the Court's ruling and keep the order in effect.
- Per PDE, *“schools should continue to observe the school masking order throughout the duration of the court's proceedings.”*
- At some point – sooner or later – Health & Safety Plan requirements will return to the local level (i.e., School Board).



ACHD Dashboard and CDC Data Tracker





Case Comparison (11.15.21)

2021/22


	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Cases	2	87	43	34								166
Students	0	73	35	27								135
Staff	2	14	8	7								31

2020/21

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Cases	2	5	42	69	40	38	57	40	9	0	302
Students	1	5	34	50	31	30	49	38	9	0	247
Staff	1	0	8	19	9	8	8	2	0	0	55



Quarantine (Current “Active” 11.12.21)

	Current Total		PRHS	PRMS	EHUE	HES	RES	WES
Active Cases	25		2	5	10	3	2	3
Students	20		2	4	9	2	2	1
Staff	5		0	1	1	1	0	2
Active Quarantine Combined Students and Staff	6		0	0	3	3	0	0



CDC Close Contact and Quarantine

Per updated CDC guidance, a 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.

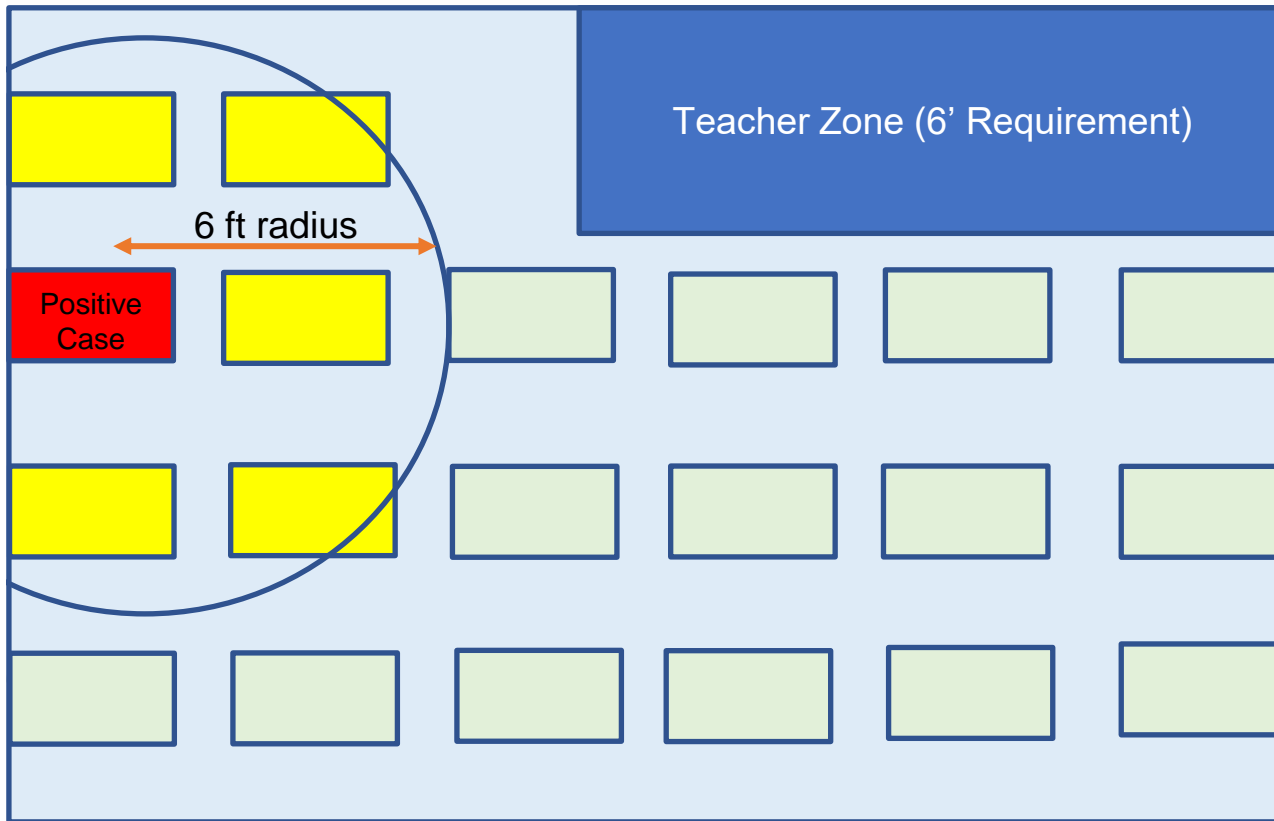
- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition ***excludes*** students who were within **3 to 6 feet of an infected student** (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where
 - both students were engaged in **consistent and correct use of well-fitting 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.



Classroom Design (<6' Illustration)

- Teacher zone remains the same (6')
- **Without universal masking**, those within 6' of a positive person will be more likely to be impacted either through quarantine or required masking.
- If the positive person is unmasked, those within 6' regardless of their mask status would be close contacts, unless they are vaccinated, in which case they would need to remain masked for a period of 10 days so long as they are asymptomatic.

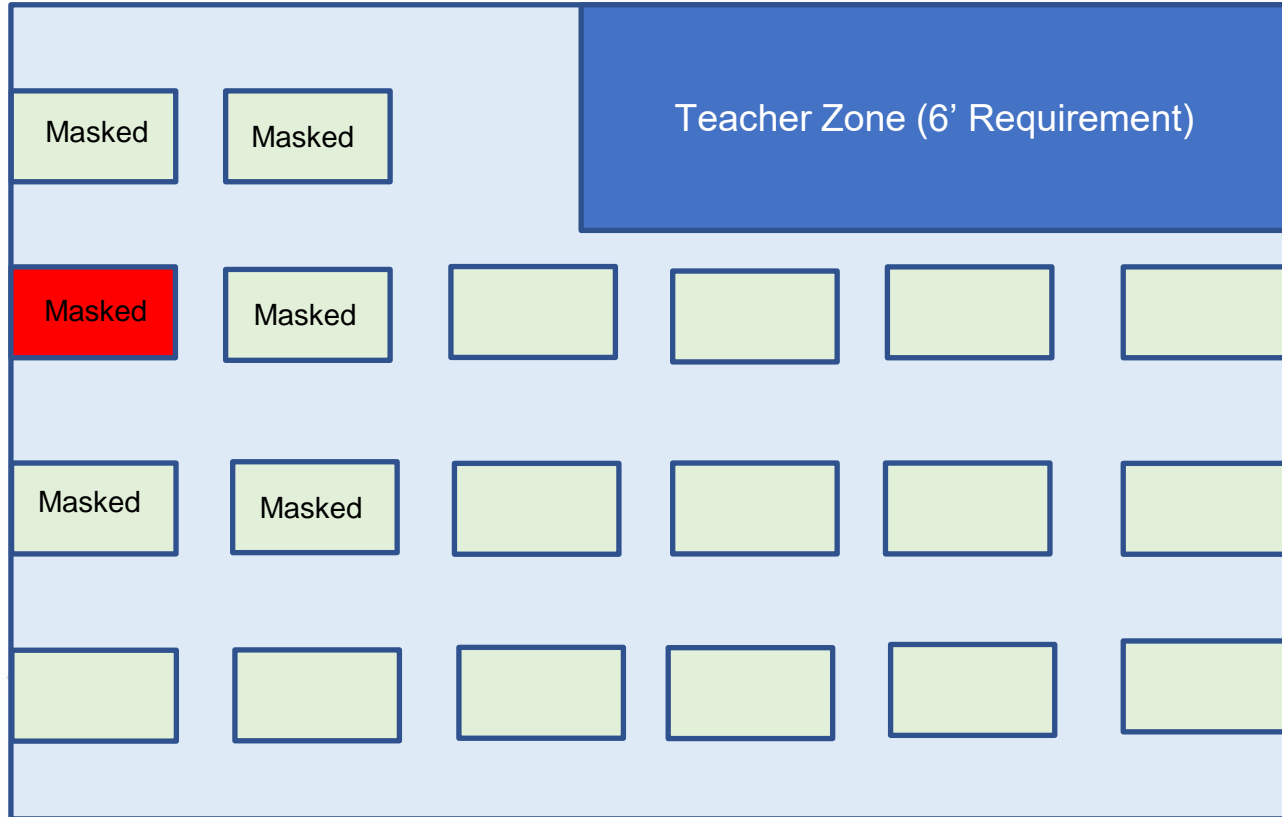




Classroom Design (<6' Illustration)

- Teacher zone remains the same (6')
- Positive Student with Universal Masking and 3 feet of Distance Illustrated
- With all students masked and 3 feet apart, no one is named a close contact and no one needs to quarantine.

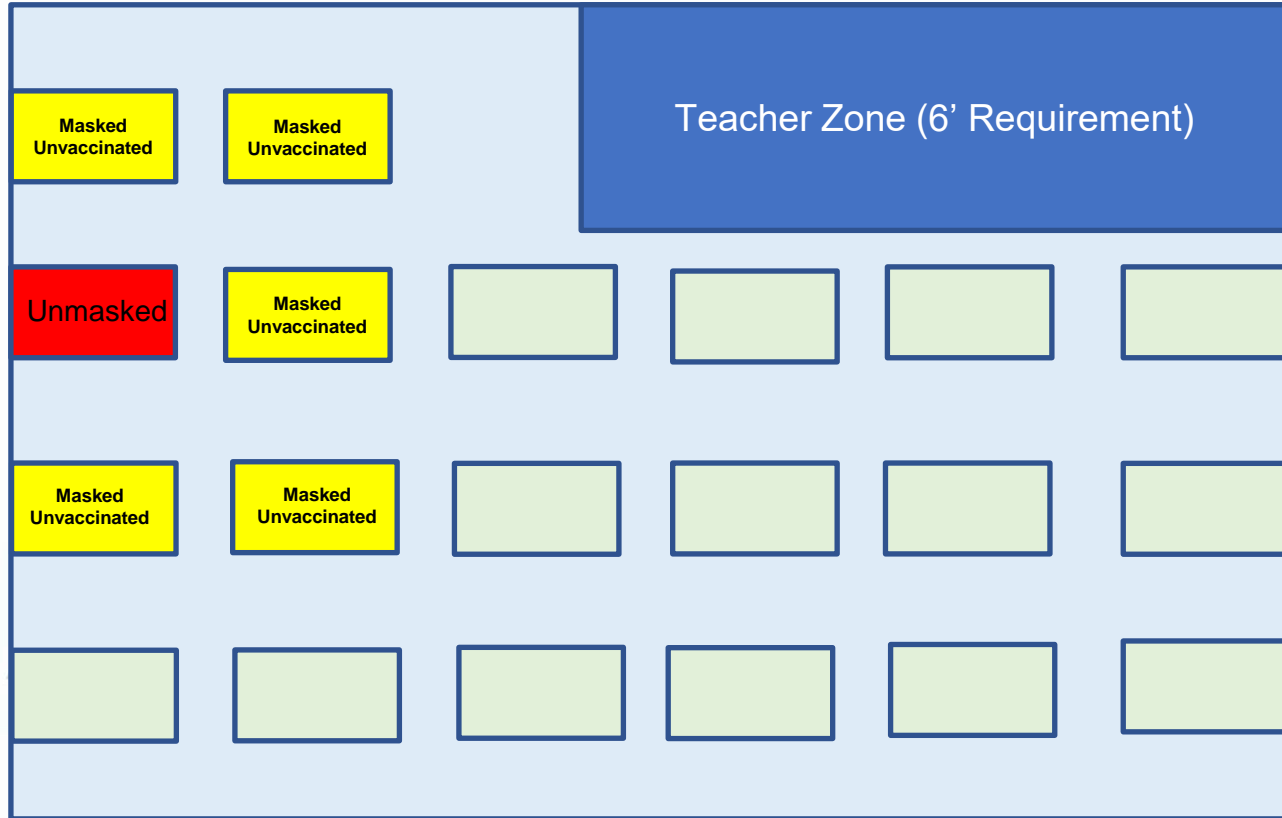
1 Positive Case Isolating
0 Close Contacts
0 Students in Quarantine





Classroom Design (<6' Illustration)

- Teacher zone remains the same (6')
- Positive Student Masking Not Required and 3 feet of Distance Illustrated
- With just the positive case unmasked, and those around them unvaccinated, all 5 students within 6 feet have to quarantine as close contacts.



1 Positive Case Isolating

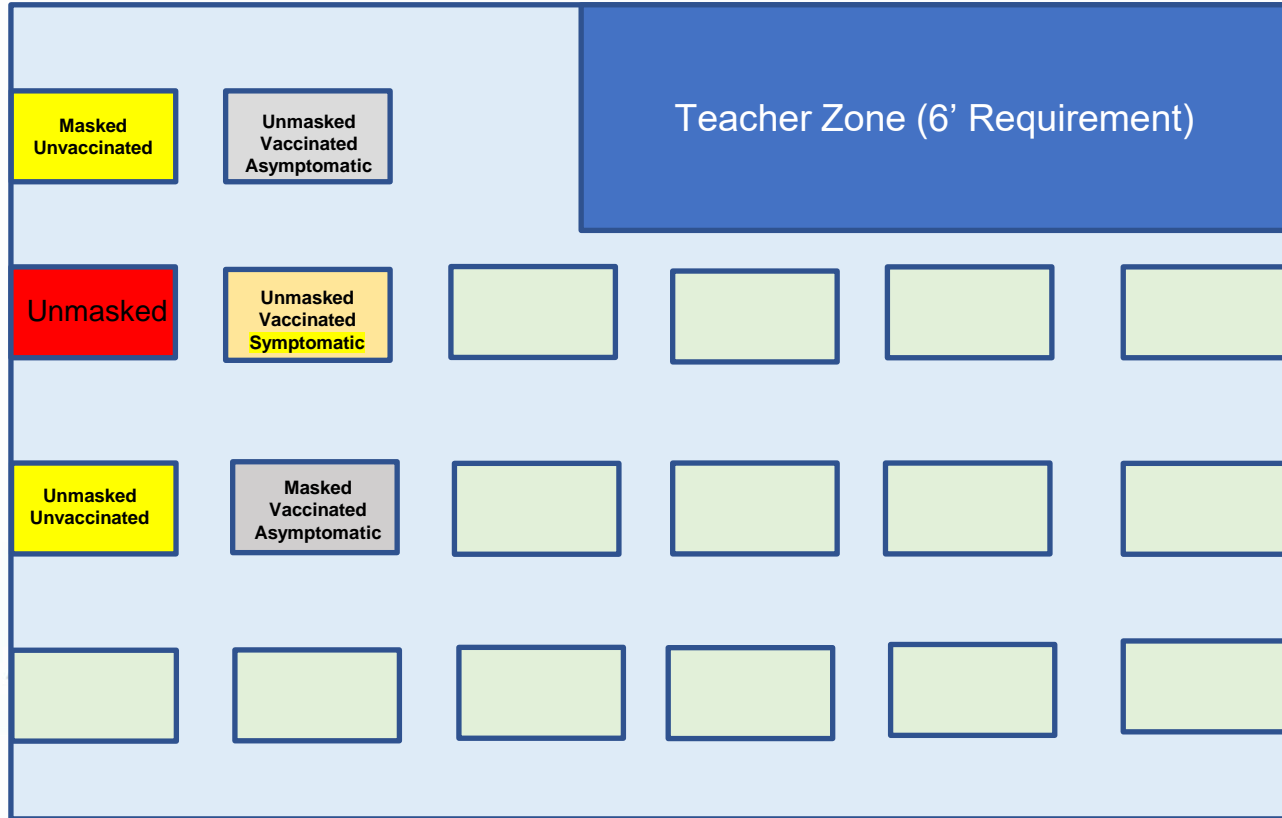
5 Close Contacts

5 Students in Quarantine



Classroom Design (<6' Illustration)

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1 Positive Case Isolating

3 Students in Quarantine

2 Students Required to Mask & Monitor for 10 Days



Recommended Next Steps

- Administrative recommendation to continue all mitigation strategies – including indoor masking for students, staff and visitors – in the approved Health and Safety Plan (i.e., “Stay the Course”).
- Continue to monitor conditions in the county and cases within the school district.
- Determine criteria by which plan requirements and mitigation strategies may change (e.g., county conditions, student and staff cases, and/or availability for all interested students to become fully vaccinated).