

2021

Return to School Plan



Return to School Committee

Peoria Public Schools

8/2/2021

Executive Summary*

Peoria Public Schools has developed a Return to School plan for the 2021 – 2022 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the immediate early closure of schools across the United States including all of Illinois' Schools during the 2019 – 2020 school year. For the 2020 – 2021 school year Peoria Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat, formed a Return to School or RTS committee to review available information, discuss options and develop a re-opening plan compliant with the phase 4 guidelines for Peoria Public Schools. This plan was developed with collaboration from administrative staff, teachers, various union leadership, parents and families, the Peoria City/County Health Department, and other community stakeholders.

For the 2021 – 2022 school year, the Peoria Public Schools Return to School committee was scaled back to review any necessary changes to our existing RTS plan. With new guidance released from the CDC on July 9th, this committee was able to develop an updated version of our RTS plan.

To get kids back in-person safely, schools should monitor

Community Transmission **Vaccination Coverage** **Testing** **Outbreaks**

to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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*This set of guidelines and protocols is being developed at this time, July 09, 2021, WITHOUT the benefit of a directive from: (a) the Executive Branch of Illinois Government, (b) a legislative guide from the General Assembly, (c) a formal designation or guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, or (d) a clearly defined set of guidelines from the State or County health department. This is strictly a proactive attempt by Peoria Public Schools to anticipate and plan for all eventualities in the fall of 2021 by outlining some viable options. Therefore, the contents of the Return-to-School document must be viewed as preliminary, and as such are subject to change when formal guidance or mandates are issued by the proper authorities.

Staff & Student Protection Plan

Peoria Public Schools is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. The following plan has been developed with that in mind. While our plan specifies guidelines for our staff, students, and buildings to follow, everyone's health and safety is dependent on each individual. Each staff member must ensure their own health and safety by adhering to these guidelines and reporting any issues or safety concerns to their building principal or supervisor. Each of us will play a role in our collective safety.

Face Coverings

Peoria Public Schools does understand that physical distancing will not be possible for all circumstances. All individuals (students, staff, and visitors) will be required to properly wear a mask in all areas of the building, at all times, unless they are younger than 2 years of age. Masks are required for ALL passengers and drivers, regardless of vaccination status, on district school buses. A doctor's note is required for students, visitors and staff who are not able to wear a face cover for medical reasons. This requirement is subject to change as IDPH/ISBE guidelines evolve.

Physical Distancing

Peoria Public Schools students and staff are encouraged to maintain physical distancing (minimum 3 feet) to the extent possible within their structure throughout the school day.

Signs and Messages

Each building must post signs and messages in highly visible locations that reinforce safety precautions and promote every day protective measures (e.g., proper handwashing and appropriate face coverings). Signage posted must be in multiple languages outside of main entryways noting that A) persons may not enter the building if they have any currently known symptoms of COVID-19 B) physical distancing from others must be maintained as much as possible; C) a face covering must be worn at all times for all individuals.

Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

People should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers will be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

Ventilation

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with other preventive strategies, including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. Schools can accomplish this by opening multiple windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

During transportation, open or cracked (open a few inches) windows in buses improves air circulation.

Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested

Only students and staff who are healthy should report for in-person learning. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home and get tested within 24 hours:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- A measured temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 testing is available at these locations:

Reditus Labs (Pekin) Heartland Clinic
Manual Clinic by appointment

Please review our testing procedure and decision tree under appendixes A & B.

Illness Monitoring

Schools must continue to use the tracking procedure to maintain ongoing monitoring of individuals excluded from school because they have COVID-19-like symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are in quarantine. This process must ensure that all CDC and local health authority criteria for discontinuing home isolation or quarantine are met before a student or staff member returns to school. Tracking methods must include checking in with the school principal or building administrator upon return to school to verify resolution of symptoms and that any other criteria for discontinuation of quarantine have been met. Tracking must take place prior to a return to the classroom. Any unvaccinated individuals who have had an exposure or close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 positive case will need to quarantine and self isolate. You will need a release from quarantine letter from the LHD in order to return to school or work. Please see our attached decision tree under appendix B.

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is available to all PPS schools for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Students and staff will have access to antigen testing if they become symptomatic while at work, access to Peace of Mind testing at the administration building, access to symptomatic PCR testing with our partners at Reditus Labs and periodic screening testing in our buildings.

Peace of Mind testing schedules may vary throughout the school year based on need. Peace of Mind testing opportunities will be communicated out to staff on a month by month basis. Peace of Mind testing is open to Peoria Public Schools staff and students only.

PCR screening testing will be occur within in our buildings on a rotating basis. The PCR testing would be carried out by our partners at Reditus Labs.

See Appendix A for the Peoria Public Schools Antigen/PCR testing procedures.

General Classroom Guidance

Teachers must assign student seating and require students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible.

The following guidelines must be considered for:

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 5th grade classrooms

- Classroom areas must be clearly marked to show where to sit, stand or line-up for 3 foot spacing
- Students should remain with the same classroom group throughout the day as feasible.
- Common areas must be clearly marked to show where to stand or line-up for 3 foot spacing
- Restroom and hand washing breaks must be scheduled and coordinated throughout the day
- Nap-time areas must be 3 feet apart and items used for nap-time must be labeled for each student and stored in individual bins

Food Service and School Meals

Buildings must maximize physical distancing as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating. Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating can help facilitate distancing. Students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. Schools will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

Recess and Physical Education

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities). However, people who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. When physical education activities or recess are held indoors, all individuals must wear masks and must also maximize physical distancing when possible.

Special Needs

The Peoria Public Schools Special Needs team understands the impact that COVID-19 has had on our most vulnerable student population. As a result, our special needs team is developing plans and procedures to address the various unique challenges the blended model creates.

Virtual Learning

Virtual learning will be provided in accordance with ISBE guidance.

In-Person Learning Traditional Learning Model

The first day of school for balance calendar schools was on July 21, 2021, modified calendar schools will begin August 2, 2021 and August 18, 2021 for all remaining schools. All students will be in attendance for school Monday through Friday for in person learning.

All athletics, extracurricular and mid-day activities would continue as scheduled.

All CTE, manufacturing and work-based learning programs located at Woodruff and Manual High School would continue in person.

Operations such as transportation and food services would be provided consistent with the Traditional Education Model.

Athletics will follow the guidelines provided by the IHSA and the IESA.

Schedule

Schools will follow a three (3) tier bell schedule

7:30a - 2:00p	8:20a - 2:50p	9:10a - 3:40p
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•High Schools•T.T.P.•Valeska Hinton•Jamieson•Lindbergh•Rolling Acres•Mark Bills•WCTC CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Dev. Center•Calvin Coolidge•Glen Oak•Roosevelt•Sterling•Von Steuben•Trewyn•Washington•Harrison•Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Maude Sanders•Franklin•Hines•Kellar•Northmoor•Thomas Jefferson•Whittier•Charter Oak•WCTC PK

Communications

The purpose of our communication plan is to keep families and stakeholders informed of the current phase of the Restore Illinois Plan and how that relates to the return to school in the fall. Our current communications will follow these items:

- Press releases & interviews
- Weekly sky alerts from administration reminding families of upcoming events and deadlines
 - Beginning July 19th, weekly Sky alerts from building principals
 - Weekly principal update meetings
- Parent guide and complete RTS plan on our website, including school websites
 - Mailed out with enrollment materials
 - Included with summer meal distribution
 - Create community forums to share with families and community members
- Advertisements reminding parents to review the parent guide
 - Stadium sign
 - Stuff a bus campaign
 - Social media
 - Backpack Peoria
 - District app
- Parent forums and roundtables including PTO groups for distribution

Cleaning and Disinfection

All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include the cleaning efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas.

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning per CDC guidelines. An EPA approved cleaner(s) will be used with our standard cleaning protocols on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned every day as well. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be vacuumed daily.

Building and Grounds may be adjusting personnel schedules to meet the return to school needs. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities and equipment as needed.

Sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies will be ordered and stockpiled for employee access. All supply requests will use the requisition procedure to order masks, sanitizer, gloves, and thermometers from the warehouse inventory.

Signage for handwashing, physical distancing and face coverings will be made available through request from the print shop. Physical distancing markings within classrooms will be done by designated building personnel.

School buses will be cleaned once per week. If someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours rode a school bus, transportation will clean AND disinfect that bus as soon as possible.

COVID Committee

The Peoria Public Schools COVID Committee will continue to monitor COVID related metrics, update the District's RTS plan throughout the school year as needed and update the Superintendent periodically with COVID data. The committee will make COVID related recommendations to the Superintendent based on community transmission rates, vaccination levels, input from the LHD and potential outbreaks within the district.

Appendix A

Antigen testing for PPS symptomatic students & staff

Peoria Public Schools will begin non-invasive COVID-19 Antigen testing of symptomatic, in-person students and staff as a part of our COVID-19 surveillance procedures. These tests will be administered as a part of our quarantine procedure at designated district location by trained nursing staff.

The following guidelines will outline the process and procedure for Antigen testing at Peoria Public Schools.

Permissions

Antigen testing requires a signed permission form from the staff member or the student's parent/guardian. All schools will begin collecting the necessary student/staff waivers for antigen testing prior to the return to in-person learning scheduled for January 19, 2021. Once collected, these waivers must be kept on file during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Space for Testing

Each school will determine an adequate space within their quarantine area for testing to take place. Each area should be well lit and have access to power. Dividers may be arranged in such a way to provide privacy for the testing to take place if necessary.

Testing Procedure

Each qualified building will receive Antigen testing kits to administer to symptomatic students or staff who are present in the building. These tests must only be administered to individuals who are symptomatic. Under no circumstances should an Antigen test be administered to an asymptomatic individual. Each building's quarantine procedure should be modified to include Antigen testing as a part of that procedure. The appropriate PPE and safety precautions must be followed when administering Antigen tests.

The COVID Committee must be notified via email of each test that was administered. This email must include the name of the person being tested, grade level or job title, school or building, time and date the test was administered, who administered the test, test results (if available), and any additional pertinent information.

Once the Antigen test has been administered, the student or staff member should remain in quarantine pending the results of the Antigen test.

Students and staff who are **NOT** present in the building should be advised to test at one of the following locations:

Reditus Labs (Pekin)
Manual Clinic by appointment

Heartland Clinic

Any COVID test results, either Antigen or PCR, CANNOT be shared with anyone but the building administrator and the COVID committee.

Antigen testing for PPS symptomatic students & staff

Negative Test Results

If the Antigen test is negative and any the following **DO NOT** apply:

- If the individual is a close contact to a confirmed case within 14 days OR
- Part of an ongoing outbreak OR
- The clinical discretion of ordering provider and/or as advised by the local health department due to community transmission levels.

The individual is presumed negative and will not be expected to quarantine and may return to building activities, following standard district illness procedure. Students with fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea may need to be excluded from the building.

If the Antigen test is negative and any the following **DO** apply:

- If the individual is a close contact to a confirmed case within 14 days OR
- Part of an ongoing outbreak OR
- The clinical discretion of ordering provider and/or as advised by the local health department due to community transmission levels.

The test is a presumed false negative. The district/building RTS quarantine procedure **MUST** be followed. The person administering the test must email the Peoria City/County Health Department for review of result. Peoria Public Schools may be asked to refer individual for confirmatory RT-PCR on new specimen collected within 48 hours of the BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen result.

Should a student or staff member test negative for COVID-19, the Nurse who collected the specimen will notify the COVID Committee via email and the staff member or student/parent or guardian of the negative test results. All test results must be reported to the IDPH, including negative results.

Positive Test Results

Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, the Nurse who collected the specimen will immediately notify the PCCHD of the positive test. The Nurse who collected the specimen will notify the COVID Committee, the staff member and/or student/parent or guardian of the positive test results. The COVID student tracker designee should follow the student COVID tracking procedure and contact tracing should begin immediately.

Choosing Not to Test

Any student or staff member who chooses not to be tested, will be excluded from the building and follow the quarantine procedure as laid out in the Peoria Public Schools Decision Tree. These individuals are strongly recommended to get tested at one of the district's partner locations at their earliest convenience.

Antigen testing for PPS symptomatic students & staff

Training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff will be provided with the appropriate training to administer the Antigen testing. All staff administering Antigen tests must complete the online training modules at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/training-courses/ready-set-test.html>

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/rapid-point-care-testing-covid-19>

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/binax-now-antigen-training>

Required PPE for persons performing POC testing include fit-tested N95 respirator, face shield, gown, and gloves. Each building administrator must ensure that face shields, gowns and gloves are available for test personnel. Replacement N95 respirators must be ordered through the Special Education Department.

Peoria Public Schools will coordinate and schedule a site visit with the Peoria City/ County Health Department to review the policies and procedures and direct observation of testing for quality assurance. This will be scheduled for each location and nurse who will be administering Antigen testing.

Medical Waste Disposal Requirement

All buildings must follow the proper medical waste handling and disposal guidelines. All components of the Antigen test kit, as well as gloves used by persons administering the test and any grossly contaminated PPE, should be discarded as infectious waste.

Reporting

All COVID 19 Antigen test results must be reported to the IDPH website within 24 hours of the results for both positive and negative tests.

The school or building nurse who collected the patient specimen will email the relevant student data to the COVID Committee in addition to notifying the staff member or parent/guardian.

The following items will need to be entered into the reporting website: <https://redcap.link/eupvrhxu>

- Patient's First Name
- Patient's Middle Initial
- Patient's Last Name
- Patient's DOB
- Patient's Sex
- Patient's Ethnicity
- Patient's Race
- Patient's Address
- Patient's Phone Number
- Specimen Collection Date
- Test ID/Accession#
- Specimen Received Date
- Resulted Date
- Specimen Source
- Comments

All positive test results must be reported to the Peoria City/County Health Department (PCCHD) immediately.

2021-22SY PCR Testing

PCR testing with Reditus Labs for the 21-22SY will be as follows:

- Reditus will test 20% = 833 total students with an average of 64 students per day

Reditus will test one (1) K-4 or K-8 building per day (testing would be for students in grades K-5 at our K8 buildings) on the following rotating schedule:

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Week 1	Charter Oak	CT Vivian	Franklin	Glen Oak
Week 2	Harrison/Trewyn	Hines	Kellar	Lincoln
Week 3	Northmoor	Roosevelt	Sanders	Whittier

This schedule would provide us with a three (3) week rotation of testing for students who currently cannot receive vaccinations against COVID-19. The push for vaccinations would be our primary mitigation strategy at buildings with students old enough to be vaccinated (ages 12+) in grades 5-12.

In addition, Reditus would also be deployed as needed to ANY building in which a large number of positive cases are being reported. This deployment could temporarily interrupt our screening testing schedule.

Antigen testing would remain available at all schools with a nurse present. One (1) lead nurse will be 'on-call' for situations in which a nurse may not be available for an Antigen test within a building due to absence or availability.

Appendix B

COVID-19 EXCLUSION GUIDANCE¹

Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools

Send home or deny entry (and provide remote instruction) if ANY of the following symptoms are present:

Fever (100.4°F or higher), headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause

Status	COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-19 diagnosis without diagnostic testing (probable case)	Symptomatic individual either sent home with COVID-19 symptoms OR calls off with COVID-19 like symptoms OR begins to exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms	Symptomatic individuals with an alternative diagnosis such as migraines or allergies	Sibling(s) or household member(s) of a symptomatic individual	Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact to a confirmed OR probable COVID-19 case
Evaluated by Healthcare Provider?	YES	NO	YES	NO	N/A
Return to School Guidance	Stay home at least 14 ² calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms free for 24 hours	Stay home at least 10 ² calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms free for 24 hours OR Negative COVID-19 test performed within 24 hours of symptoms onset. ³	Stay home at least 10 ² calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms free for 24 hours OR Provide a PCP's note with an alternative diagnosis for an existing condition.	Stay home at least 10 ² calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms free for 24 hours OR Negative COVID-19 test performed within 24 hours of symptoms onset for the symptomatic individual ³	Stay home for up to 14 ² calendar days after last exposure, unless fully vaccinated. The LHD may decide to issue a release from quarantine letter prior to the completion of the 14 day quarantine time OR Completion of Test to Stay with 4 negative COVID tests taken on days 1, 3, 5 & 7 from the date of exposure.
Quarantine for Close Contacts?	YES	Household Members (e.g., Siblings, Parent) ⁴	NO	Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) ⁴	N/A
Documentation Required to Return to School	'Release from Isolation' letter issued by Local Health Department	Completion of 10 day quarantine OR Negative RT-PCR/PPS administered Antigen COVID-19 test result AND fever free for 24 hours AND symptoms free for 24 hours	Completion of 10 day quarantine OR Healthcare Provider's note with alternative diagnosis, stating there is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19 for each episode AND fever free for 24 hours AND symptoms free for 24 hours	Completion of 10 day quarantine OR Negative RT-PCR/PPS administered Antigen COVID-19 test result AND fever free for 24 hours AND symptoms free for 24 hours	'Release from Quarantine' letter issued by Local Health Department or completion of the test to stay with 4 negative tests

1 Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department.

2 Severely immunocompromised or severely ill: may need to isolate for 20 days as per guidance from individual's infectious disease physician.

3 Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test must be from a specimen collected not more than 24 hours after symptom onset.

4 Consider quarantine for other close contacts if there was poor adherence to social distancing or use of face coverings.