



WELCOME HOME

A PLAN FOR
TEACHING AND LEARNING ON
CAMPUS AT PDS

primary day school



WELCOME HOME: A Plan for Teaching and Learning on Campus at PDS

With a keen recognition of the uncertainty that all of us in the United States have lived with as the pandemic spread of COVID-19 has immobilized our nation, we have remained resolute in our commitment to providing *the finest education for the most important years*.

Likewise, the safety and security of our community is a paramount concern. We will continue to monitor the ever-changing landscape and plan for our eventual return to campus. To that end, we would like to share with you our own ‘road map’ for resuming learning in our classrooms on River Road.

With the leadership of Mrs. Maureen Cook, our Business Manager and Mrs. Lois Hendrickson, RN, our school nurse, and in conjunction with faculty and staff working in program teams throughout the summer, we have strived to develop a path forward that allows for flexibility, attention to relationships and the prioritized health and safety of our community. With consistent feedback from our professional advisory team (team member list on page 18), our thinking has evolved over time. Fully cognizant of the fact that this pandemic is unpredictable and that national, state, local and association guidelines continue to evolve, we purposefully postponed the publication of this plan until mid-August 2020 so as to minimize the need for revision. With that said, this ‘roadmap to recovery’ is an organic document and will be modified as needed to incorporate new protocols and/or science-based guidelines.

Simply put, there are too many unknowns to exactly predict what the school experience will look like going forward, but be assured our response will be informed, grounded in best practices and communicated to the community swiftly and accurately.



OUR PROGRAM: Learning Together

Children at all grade levels will be assigned a cohort-group of 9–11 children that will learn together throughout the day. With the exception of enjoying their friends ‘from afar’ at recess, students will not be mixed among or between groups.

All classroom toys, supplies, materials and manipulatives will be used by individual children, will not be shared and will be disinfected as part of the cleaning routine. They will not be re-used without disinfection. Likewise, electronic devices will not be shared by multiple students.

Only those materials designated by faculty may be taken home/out of the building. No materials, other than lunch, snacks, masks and clothing to be worn for outside play can be brought into the building. All student water bottles are maintained at a safe distance from the sink areas to avoid contamination.

Teachers and staff will maintain the sanitizing of classroom materials following CDC/OCC guidelines and products. In addition to the use of traditional classrooms, the following locations of cohorts have been established: STEM Lab – Library – Music Room – Math Lab.

Special area teachers will teach individual ‘cohorts’ (or small groups) in classrooms, either ‘virtually’ or in-person so as to minimize cross-cohort exposure and reduce the movement of children throughout the building.

Teachers will routinely model and enforce frequent hand-washing, social distancing, and hand-sanitization techniques.

To reduce cohort exposure to outside visitors, we will employ the use of staff substitutes only.

Open windows and doors are encouraged at all times, weather and circumstances permitting. Faculty will take students outside as appropriate for recess, teacher-led lessons, for walks and to enjoy the fresh air. Our fully-equipped *Outdoor Classroom* will be utilized by students at all grade levels.

Hand sanitizer will be at classroom entries for use by anyone entering and exiting.

Student's desks/tables will not be shared without the use of portable screens.

Visual aids/markers/signage (painter tape, stickers, etc.) will be placed throughout the building to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support physical distancing and hygiene procedures.

Each classroom will have a supply of cleaners and disinfectants to clean high touch areas or any shared items as well as a supply of facial tissues.

Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned when students are at recess and every evening with a building-wide deep cleaning completed each weekend.

Consistent with local guidelines regarding the size of large-group gatherings, Beako assemblies and other in-person events, including off-campus field trips are carefully planned.

In preparation for our reopening in August 2020, we made substantial investments in our people and our campus. Specifically:

- training and professional development was provided to faculty and staff around safety protocols and best practices for distance learning.
- an increased financial aid budget has expanded our commitment to our community and insured that all current families can remain enrolled regardless of changed financial circumstances.
- restricted enrollment at the Pre-Kindergarten level to help us follow safety guidelines, and created cohort groups/added sections at the K-2 levels.
- the School has invested significantly in our technology infrastructure to equip classrooms with streaming capabilities and provide technology tools (iPads) to students in grade 1 & 2 to help families navigate continuous learning.
- considering key recommendations from environmental and industrial consultants, we have made significant improvements to our HVAC system by installing plasma air ionizing units as well as adding higher rated MERV filters.
- an additional day porter is on site to assist our maintenance staff with cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas throughout the school.



OUR CAMPUS: Flexibility is Key

ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, AND TRANSPORTATION

All students, employees, and guests who enter the school will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperature taken. Families are expected to monitor their children for symptoms and to keep sick children home. Any child who begins displaying COVID-19-like symptoms while at school will be isolated, and families must arrange for the child to be picked up within an hour. Students arriving prior to specified arrival times will not be allowed into the building. The ONLY exceptions are families with children that span multiple grades. In this case students should arrive with their oldest sibling.

Students will enter the building without parents at their assigned entrance door and proceed directly to their assigned classroom. Parents may not accompany their child(ren) into the building without prior approval.

Students who arrive late must enter via the main entrance and will be escorted to their classroom by a staff member.

When practical, teachers will prop open classroom doors as children arrive, depart and exit to recess to prevent students from having to touch the door handles.

PLAYGROUNDS AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Hand sanitizer stations will be located inside the playground doors and outside on the playground for all students and faculty to use before entering and exiting the playground areas. A first aid station for minor abrasions or injuries will be installed. Weather permitting, tented outdoor spaces will serve as an alternative classroom.

School employees will demonstrate physical distancing while on the playground.

Cohorts/groups will be assigned staggered times and playground areas with identified playground equipment closed to students. During recess or time out of doors, students are not be permitted into the school building without the escort of a school employee.

The climbing apparatus and other non-wood surfaces on the playgrounds will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.



OUR COMMUNITY: Health, Safety, and Security

TRAVEL/POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

All families must follow the COVID-19-like symptoms, exposure, and travel reporting protocol published in August and regularly updated. If anyone from your household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, has been diagnosed with COVID 19 or has been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the School must be advised immediately.

Please avoid unnecessary travel. If any student at Primary Day travels outside Maryland, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Delaware for any reason, the school must be notified.

Please remember that opportunities for distance learning are only available to specific students impacted by COVID related circumstances who are awaiting test results and quarantining at home, those diagnosed and in quarantine and/or students in a cohort impacted by COVID-19 and unable to attend classes in person. **‘On-demand’ virtual learning cannot be provided for any other absences (including out-of-state travel) unless they represent extraordinary circumstances and have been approved in advance.**

If a student has traveled outside of the area listed above, the student is excluded from school until:

- The student has quarantined for at least 7 full days after returning to Maryland AND
- Have a non-rapid lab-based PCR test 3 to 5 days after returning to Maryland with a negative test result submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student’s return to school.
- If the test result is positive, the student must remain quarantined for 10 days and meet all the requirements for a student who has a positive COVID-19 test.
- Non-student family members are encouraged to follow current state guidelines for out-of-state travel and follow all testing protocols determined by the Maryland Department of Health.

Throughout the year, the School may require periodic testing of all faculty, staff and students as a prerequisite for on-campus attendance. Details will be provided to families as schedules and guidelines are developed.

VISITORS AND DELIVERIES

A staff member or the police officer on duty will open the front door after the student arrival process has ended.

Deliveries, including the US Mail, will be left outside at the front doors with the police officer on duty for retrieval by office staff.

All visitors must meet the CDC recommendations for wellness: i.e., fever free without the use of fever limiting medications, no respiratory illness, no coughing and no shortness of breath or other COVID-19 like symptoms.

A temperature check and an interview will be conducted by the Office Manager prior to entry and face masks must be in place and had sanitizer must be used by visitors prior to entry.

Visitors who enter school will be requested to remain in a designated area until escorted to their destination. Visitors for Admission/Advancement will follow a similar protocol and will tour campus when students are not in attendance.

Parents, faculty and staff will acknowledge and accept our school safety protocols as published in the *Handbook/Directory* and the *Employee Handbook*.

MASKS/FACE SHIELDS

All students, faculty/staff, parents and visitors will be required to wear face masks when on campus, inside school buildings, and when they are within 6 feet of others. The School will provide a package of washable cloth masks to each student as well as masks to each employee. Students and employees may choose to provide their own mask, however, reusable masks must be laundered before being worn again. (Click [here](#) for CDC Guidelines for laundering masks). It is highly recommended that students arrive to school with multiple masks for each day so that masks can be changed as needed. Faculty and staff will require students to wear masks throughout the school day, including at recess.

Masks should be worn correctly, covering the mouth and nose and tight to the side of the face and teachers will routinely support these mask-wearing guidelines. Breaks from wearing masks may be taken throughout the day as determined by the faculty and during meal times. Breaks will only occur when students and employees are maintaining physical distancing.

Faculty and staff will have the option of wearing school-provided face shields together with their masks.

If your child is medically unable to wear a mask throughout the school day, a note of explanation is required from an authorized licensed medical provider stating the medical reason your child can not wear a mask and a stop date for the order; i.e., one week, one day, etc. This note must be submitted to the School Nurse prior to your child entering the school building.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

In accordance with CDC recommendations, PDS has arranged our classrooms with desks placed six feet apart to insure a safe distance between learners. On-campus classrooms will serve 9-11 students in assigned cohorts.

Students will practice physical distancing when eating and will need to bring their own water bottles from home. Water fountains will not be available. Desk and/or table barriers are being added to further enhance space and social distancing.

Students need to be able to open their own containers and packaging without assistance from teachers. Outside lunch vendor delivery and birthday celebrations with food and/or items from home have been suspended until further notice. Our Pre-Kindergarten children will be provided with individually packaged snacks.

Student and personnel use of the hallways and common areas will be minimized, with social distancing prevailing and adult use of outside 'corridors'.

Use of restrooms will be monitored and, as practically as possible, scheduled for physical distancing purposes.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

We will follow public health and CDC recommendations with respect to cleaning and sanitation. Only EPA-approved disinfectants will be used.

Commonly touched surfaces like handrails and doorknobs will be disinfected regularly throughout the day. Daily cleaning and disinfecting routines will comply with CDC recommendations for reducing viral transmission.

The school will follow the cleaning guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, MD State Department of Education and the Office of Child Care. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

HEALTH ROOM

Students are not permitted to go to the Health Room without a teacher calling the School Nurse in advance.

Students will not typically access the Health Room with the following common situations:

- Paper cuts, small abrasions, picked scabs – Students should wash the area involved with warm water and soap then dry that area and apply a Band-Aid.
- Minor headaches and/or fatigue – Students will get a snack/drink of water first. If not feeling better after 20 minutes, the School Nurse will be called.
- Mild stomachache and/or nausea – Students will use the restroom, drink water and have a small snack first. If not feeling better after 20 minutes, the School Nurse will be called.
- Anxiety/stress concerns – If not affecting breathing or overall physical condition, try using distraction first. If not feeling better after 20 minutes, the School Nurse will be called.

The School Nurse will travel to classrooms to see students whenever possible or practical.

If a student with COVID-19-like symptoms has been in the Health Room, the Health Room will realize a thorough cleaning and sanitizing.

Any student who has had symptoms of COVID-19 and who was directed to be cared for in their home may return to school after meeting the recommendations of the CDC and submitting a medical provider's note of clearance prior to their return. (Please refer to the FAQ's below for specific information.)

WHAT HAPPENS IF A COMMUNITY MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-

If a staff member or student who has been present on campus tests positive for COVID-19, the School requires that the infection be reported to the School immediately so that the information can be communicated to the appropriate local health department.

Students, faculty and staff will remain at home if they are sick. If any individual presents to school with any COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, respiratory illness, cough, and shortness of breath, etc.) they will be required to go home from school within one hour until clearance criteria for school return has been met.

All household members of someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should not physically attend school and quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of the last exposure even if they have no symptoms or if they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine. Keep in mind, siblings may be at the same school or at another school (age dependent). Should a student become sick, families should notify the schools of any household contact. If a sick student's household contact is in school, the contact's school should be notified and they should be removed from the classroom and sent home as soon as possible, even if not displaying symptoms.

Individuals with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be restricted from entering campus and must remain in isolation until they have met the CDC guidelines to discontinue isolation.

The COVID-19 virus' main mode of transmission is through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. This transmission occurs through close person-to-person contact. People who do not have apparent symptoms (asymptomatic) may be able to spread the virus. Therefore, all individuals entering the building are required to wear a face mask unless contraindicated due to an underlying health condition.

If a staff member or student who has been present in the school is tested positive for COVID-19, that information will be reported to the appropriate local health and government authorities.

The school community will be informed by email in the event of any positive test of someone who has been present in the school, although the name will be withheld for privacy purposes. Primary Day will comply with any tracing protocols from local health authorities to identify all persons that may have had direct contact with the individual who tested positive.

If there is a confirmed case within our community, all families in the affected cohort(s) will be contacted as soon as possible after the case is reported and transition to at-home learning. If this occurs during the school day, families must report to the school to pick up their children within an hour. Families from the other cohorts will receive an email within 24 hours that there is a confirmed case in another cohort. We deeply respect the privacy of our families, and, if practical and feasible, communications to the community will not identify the particular students or families involved.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify PDS if their child exhibits COVID-19-like symptoms becomes sick with COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Any student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, becomes sick with COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19-like symptoms or a confirmed or a suspected case of COVID-19 may not come to school until respective criteria have been met. This is for the health and wellness of the entire PDS community.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS

Any student who meets the below criteria for COVID-19-like illness is required to be picked up from school within 60 minutes by a parent or an authorized person. The student will be accompanied by a staff member to a comfortable isolation area with a mask in place to wait until their parent/guardian arrives at school to pick them up. The parent or authorized person must arrive at school within 60 minutes to pick their child up from school.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are different for individuals and are changing. For the purposes of this policy, symptoms of COVID-19-like illness that will result in the dismissal from school include those that meet the following criteria:

- Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell OR
- At least 2 of the following: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

If a student is determined to have COVID-19 by a laboratory test or another specific alternative diagnosis by their health care provider, the student is excluded from school until:

- At least 10 days have passed from the date of their positive test or diagnosis AND
- There is no fever for 24 hours without the use of medication AND
- All symptoms have improved AND
- A medical provider's note of clearance for the student is submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school.

For 90 days following a student's recovery from COVID-19, if the student remains asymptomatic, then re-testing is unlikely to yield useful information, even if the student had close contact with an infected person; therefore, testing will not be required for 90 days post-recovery.

If a student has been exposed to/in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 the student is excluded from school until:

- At least 10 days have passed after the student's last exposure to the person with COVID-19 AND

- Has a negative non-rapid lab-based PCR test taken on day 5 or later of quarantine AND
- No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of their quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued AND
- The negative test result for the asymptomatic student is submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school.

Close contact is defined as:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

In the event of temporary closure, the School modality would shift to the virtual learning platform.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS POLICY

Primary Day School follows the recommendations of the Maryland Department of Health and Human Services and/or Montgomery County Health and Human Services for school exclusion. If your child is diagnosed with ANY contagious condition, including, but not limited to, the ones listed below, please call the school nurse at 301-365-4355 ext. 142 or email l.hendrickson@theprimarydayschool.org to report the illness.

CONDITION	WHEN THE CHILD
Any physical condition that prevents a child from fully participating in the school environment.	When they are again able to fully participate in the school environment.
Asthma that cannot be controlled with an inhaler	After being seen by a physician and with a medical provider’s note of clearance stating what protocol should be followed at school for this condition.
Chicken pox	After all lesions have dried over or 7 days after the onset of the rash.
Conjunctivitis (infectious)	After the eye(s) are without discharge or the child is on an antibiotic for a minimum of 24 hours.
Coronavirus	After CDC guidelines have been met and a note of medical clearance is submitted to the Health Room prior to the student’s return.
Cough (persistent)	When the cough no longer interferes with school related activities or the learning process.
Diarrhea (2 or more loose stools in the past 12 hours or any loose stool with blood or mucus)	24 hours after stools return to normal without the use of medication.
Ear infections	After the child is without pain (no medication being necessary to control pain) and the child has been fever free for a minimum of 24 hours.
Fever	After being fever free for a minimum of 24 hours (temperature less than 100 degrees F) without the use medication to control the fever.
Hepatitis A	One week after onset of illness or jaundice and a medical provider’s note of clearance submitted to the Health Room stating the student is permitted to attend school.
Impetigo	After 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. The infected area must be kept covered while at school.

Measles	With a medical provider's note of clearance submitted to the Health Room stating the student is no longer contagious and is permitted to attend school.
Mouth sores (with drooling)	After drooling has stopped and the child is pain free.
Mumps	At least 9 days after the onset of parotid gland swelling and a medical provider's note of clearance submitted to the Health Room stating the student is permitted to attend school.
Pertussis	After 5 consecutive days of antibiotic treatment and the child is fever free (less than 100 degrees F) and a medical provider's note of clearance is submitted to the Health Room stating the student is permitted to attend school.
Rash (unknown origin)	After the rash is gone or a note and a medical provider's note of clearance is submitted to the Health Room stating the student is not contagious and is permitted to attend school.
Ringworm	After antifungal treatment has been started and the student can keep from touching or scratching the area. The area must be covered at all times while at school.
Scabies	After treatment course is completed and a medical provider's note of clearance is submitted to the Health Room stating the student is permitted to attend school.
Scarlet fever	After 24 hours of antibiotic treatment has been completed and a medical provider's note of clearance is submitted to the Health Room stating the student is permitted to attend school.
Strep throat	After 24 hours of antibiotic treatment has been completed.
Tuberculosis	After a medical provider's note of clearance is submitted to the Health Room stating the student is no longer contagious and is permitted to attend school.
Vomiting (2 or more times in 24 hours)	24 hours after the last episode of vomiting without the use of medication to control vomiting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED HEALTH QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

1. Should I keep my child home from school if they seem “a little off”?

- Does your child have a fever (100+ degrees F), low-grade fever or chills?
- Does your child feel nauseous or has vomited or had diarrhea?
- Does your child have a cough?
- Does your child have a sore throat?
- Does your child have any difficulty breathing, congestion or a runny nose?
- Does your child have muscle aches or body aches?
- Has your child loss their sense of smell or taste?
- Is your child acting too tired to fully participate in their school day?
- Is anyone else in your household ill or not feeling well?

If you have answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, your child should remain at home and not attend school that day while you monitor their symptoms. (Please refer to “Exclusions from School Due to Illness Policy”). Also, if you are just not sure, you can always call the School Nurse and discuss with her what you are seeing at home **prior** to bringing your child to school. She can be reached at (301) 365-4355 Ext. 142.

2. My child does not have a 100 F degree temperature but it is 99.9 F degrees. Should I give them a fever reducing medication and send them to school?

It is well proven that children’s fevers go up as the school day goes on. Do not medicate your child with a fever reducing medication prior to sending them to school. This would only mask their symptoms. Even with a low-grade fever, your child should remain home until they feel better without the use of medication.

3. What happens if my child becomes sick while at PDS?

If your child appears to be not feeling well, the School Nurse will be notified and will examine your child and determine if your child just needs to rest or be dismissed from school.

If your child is dismissed from school due to illness, the School Nurse will notify you that your child needs to be picked up from school. Any student displaying symptoms of illness is now required by the CDC to be separated from the remaining school population while they wait for their parent/guardian to pick them up from school. The student will be in the presence of PDS personnel in a comfortable area while waiting for their parent. This would usually be the School Nurse but could also be another PDS personnel. The parent or authorized person who is picking the student up, must arrive at PDS within 60 minutes.

4. What symptoms of COVID-19 will cause my child to be dismissed from school?

A student who meets the below criteria for COVID-19-like illness is required to be picked up from school within 60 minutes by a parent or by another authorized person. The student will be accompanied by a staff member to a comfortable isolation area with a mask in place to wait until their parent/guardian arrives at school. If the parent or other

authorized person does not arrive at school within 60 minutes, another person on the Emergency Contact list will be called.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are different for individuals and are changing. For PDS symptoms of COVID-19-like illness that will result in the dismissal from school include those that meet the following criteria:

- **Any 1** of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty, breathing, new loss of taste or smell OR
- **At least 2** of the following: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose

5. If my child has only one symptom of COVID-19, when can my child return to school?

- If your child is not coughing, experiencing shortness of breath, having difficulty breathing or new loss of taste or smell, your child may return to school when their symptoms have improved and criteria for exclusion from school have been met. (See “Primary Day School Exclusion from School Due to Illness Policy”.)

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for a person with COVID-19-like illness.

6. When should I take my child to their pediatrician for COVID-19-like symptoms/illness symptoms?

If your child is exhibiting any COVID-19-like symptoms of illness, it is always a wise choice to call your pediatrician and have a conversation with them to determine if your child needs to be seen in their office.

7. My child has an earache but no other symptoms, can they come to school?

In short “Yes” but there are other factors to consider. Will your child experience pain due to the earache that will prevent him/her from fully participating in their school day? Is the ear discomfort/pain intense enough that it prevents your child from being able to focus? Would your child be more comfortable at home for a day? If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, your child should not come to school.

8. What is the best way for me to keep my child safe at school during the pandemic?

- Educate your child **prior** to the start of in-person learning regarding the importance of wearing a face mask, washing their hands properly, covering their mouth area with the inside of their arm if sneezing or coughing and not touching their face, mouth, nose or eyes.
- Discuss/show your child how to use hand sanitizer, how to turn on and off a faucet without touching it with their skin (use a paper towel) and what 6 feet between objects looks like.
- Reinforce PDS’ policy that food and water bottles are not shared at school.
- Have your child practice opening all their own lunch and snack items by themselves prior to starting school.
- Have your child practice putting on and taking off their facial masks properly.

- Be the example of the behavior you want to see in your child regarding health and wellness.

9. How can I help my child get used to wearing a face mask?

By now most children have seen masks on many different people and they are becoming more comfortable with the idea. To help your child fully adjust to a facial mask follow the below steps:

- Use simple words to explain why people are wearing masks and why we wear them at PDS.
- Give your child time to look at, feel, watch and get used to the idea of wearing a mask and the mask itself
- Answer your child’s questions in simple, honest answers
- Give support and cheer your child on for their efforts in putting on a mask.
- Make it fun!

10. What can I do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- Stay home if you are sick/keep your child home if they are sick. Only leave home for essential medical care and other essential errands.
- Maintain a 6 feet zone between you and people outside your home.
- Wear a face covering. You can be contagious even if you do not have any symptoms and spread the disease when you cough, sneeze or talk.
- Practice healthy hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your arm when sneezing, coughing. Do not use your hands.

11. Will I be notified if a student in my child’s cohort tests positive for COVID-19?

Yes. PDS will send an email stating that a student in your child’s cohort tests positive for COVID-19. The name of that student will be kept confidential.

12. If my child is diagnosed with COVID-19, when can they return to school?

If a student is determined to have COVID-19 by a laboratory test or another specific alternative diagnosis by their health care provider, the student is excluded from school until:

- At least 10 days have passed from the date of their positive test or diagnosis AND
- There is no fever for 24 hours without the use of medication AND
- All symptoms have improved AND
- A medical provider’s note of clearance for the student is submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student’s return to school.

For 90 days following a student’s recovery from COVID-19, if the student remains asymptomatic, then re-testing is unlikely to yield useful information, even if the student had close contact with an infected person; therefore, testing will not be required for 90 days post-recovery.

13. If my child just had “a cold” but was not diagnosed with COVID-19, when can my child return to school?

Your child can return to school after their symptoms have improved **and** they have been fever free for 24 hours (one full day) without the use of a fever reducing medication.

14. If my child was exposed to/in close contact with a person with COVID-19 or a person suspected to have COVID-19, when can my child return to school?

If a student has been exposed to/in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 the student is excluded from school until:

- At least 10 days have passed after the student's last exposure to the person with COVID-19 AND
- Has a negative non-rapid lab-based PCR test taken on day 5 or later of quarantine AND
- No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of their quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued AND
- The negative test result for the asymptomatic student is submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school.

15. What constitutes close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Appendix A

DISMISSAL AND RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA RELATED TO COVID-19

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: **Any 1** of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, **OR At least 2** of the following: fever of 100.4 F degrees or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

If a student is determined to have COVID-19 by a laboratory test or another specific alternative diagnosis by their health care provider, the student is excluded from school until:

At least 10 days have passed from their positive test or diagnosis AND no fever for 24 hours without the use medication AND all symptoms have improved AND a medical provider's note of clearance for the student is submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school.

For 90 days following a student's recovery from COVID-19, if the student remains asymptomatic, then re-testing is unlikely to yield useful information, even if the student had close contact with an infected person; therefore, testing will not be required for 90 days post-recovery.

If a student has been exposed to/in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 the student is excluded from school until:

The student has quarantined for a minimum of 10 days after the student's last exposure to a COVID-19 case AND have a negative non-rapid lab-based PCR test taken on day 5 or later of quarantine with the negative test results submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school AND no clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued

If a student has traveled outside of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania or District of Columbia, the student is excluded from school until:

The student has quarantined for at least 7 full days after returning to Maryland AND have a non-rapid lab-based PCR test taken 3 to 5 days after returning to Maryland with the negative test results submitted to the School Nurse prior to the student's return to school.