



Holmes, Donna &lt;dholmes@palisadesd.org&gt;

---

## Community Message December 30, 2021

1 message

---

**Dr. Bridget O'Connell** <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Thu, Dec 30, 2021 at 4:42 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

**Dear Palisades Community,**

**As we head into the new year I wanted to update you on several return to school/work protocols that will be in effect in the event student/staff illness impacts daily operations. Our board approved [Health and Safety Plan](#) continues as the governing document for our district. This message addresses the following topics: symptom and case response, temporary targeted mitigation, the COVID dashboard and tiered bus routes.**

### **Symptom and case response**

**While this table is geared toward responding to COVID, scenario #2 can be applied to numerous other illnesses including strep throat, flu, upper respiratory infections, fever, etc. The objective in these responses is to maximize in person instruction while mitigating the spread of illness.**

Scenario	Exclude from school	
#1 - single symptom not likely to spread aerosols (sore throat, stuffy nose) and symptom is mild	No	Monitor symptoms, if additional symptoms develop stay home and follow scenario #2
		<b>Return to school after...</b>
#2 - more than one minor symptom or single major symptom (fever, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell)	Yes	We strongly encourage testing for COVID with multiple symptoms.  Return to school with one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proof of a negative COVID test and fever-free 24 hours</li> <li>2. A doctor's note clearing return to school</li> <li>3. Fever free for 24 hours and completely symptom-free</li> </ol>
#3 positive COVID test  Determined through notification from BCDH and/or family notification.  Home tests are accepted ( <u>with the following sent to the nurse: picture of test, name of child, birthday, date of test</u> ) but we recommend a follow up test from an approved testing location (testing clinic, doctor's office, pharmacy, etc.)  Employees, please contact Sue Keogh if positive.	Yes - for at least 5 days.	All students/employees are excluded from school/work for 5 days (from test date if asymptomatic or onset if symptomatic) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students/employees with ongoing symptoms after the initial 5 day exclusion, must remain out until symptoms resolve up to a total 10 days.</li> <li>2. Students/employees without COVID symptoms (asymptomatic) after the initial 5 day exclusion may return to school/work with a mask for an additional 5 days.</li> </ol>
#4 household contact with COVID positive person  Limited contact means the COVID positive household member is in a separate	No - if limited contact is possible, contact remains without symptoms, and contact wears a mask in school	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If a student/employee remains <b>asymptomatic</b> and has <b>limited contact</b> with COVID positive person, then the student/employee may return with a mask <b>required</b> (modified quarantine) for 5 days</li> </ol>
bedroom, high contact surfaces are cleaned regularly throughout the day, and the sick person wears a mask when with other household members.	Yes - if maintaining limited contact is not possible and/or if symptoms develop and/or contact isn't masked in school	<p>since limited contact began. Students/employees must eat at least 6' from others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. A parent may choose to keep their child home after a household exposure but this is not required if the child is asymptomatic. This will be considered an excused absence.</li> <li>3. If symptoms develop, stay home and follow protocol for return to school under #2.</li> </ol>
#5 community or school close contact	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If symptoms develop, stay home and follow protocol for return to school under #2.</li> <li>2. Masking <b>recommend</b> for 5 days following exposure</li> </ol>

**Temporary Targeted Mitigation (TTM)**

These measures are in place to maximize in person learning and participation in extracurricular activities while mitigating the spread of contagious illness. The severity of the outbreak will determine the duration of the mitigation strategy which may be in place anywhere from 1 to 7 days.

**For individual:**

- Masking (modified quarantine - used for asymptomatic, household contacts and for days 6-10 for COVID positive individuals). Teachers will be informed of students on modified quarantine in their classrooms
- Students on modified quarantine will eat lunch more than 6 feet from others. Cafeteria Crew chief will be informed of students on modified quarantine

**For classroom:**

- Masking (modified quarantine - used in the event of a classroom outbreak defined as three (3) or more infectious cases of COVID-19 while at school, within five (5) days). Sick students are excluded from school and asymptomatic students remain in school and are masked.

- Teachers, crew chief (cafeteria and custodial) and parents/guardians of the classroom in TTM will be notified. Parents/guardians will receive an email from Mr. Lou deFonteny indicating the date that TTM will begin (the next day) and the anticipated duration (1-7 days)
- Eliminate group work
- Rearrange spacing (desks face same direction) and spacing will be maximized to the greatest extent possible
- Classroom will be deep cleaned each night
- High contact surfaces will be wiped down throughout the day
- Students in TTM will eat lunch more than 6 feet from others

**For building:**

- Same as classroom measures or
- Convert to virtual learning

**For extracurriculars (activity specific):**

- Masking
- Modifications to activity or
- Cancellation of activity
- Advisors, coaches and parents will be notified if there is an impact as noted above on the extracurricular activity.

**COVID Dashboard**

Even though we are still on break, please continue to report cases to [covidnurse@palisadessd.org](mailto:covidnurse@palisadessd.org) with your child's name, building and grade with a picture of the result and onset of symptoms. This information will assist us in ensuring a safe return to school.

The cases during the week of December 20th reflect cases reported through December 23rd by building and grade. On Monday, January 3rd, when school is back in session, there will be a line labeled "winter break" with building level cases reported between December 24th and January 2nd (10 days). The next line will include any new cases beginning January 3rd.

**Tiered bus routes**

In the event a bus driver shortage creates a situation in which we do not have sufficient drivers to transport students to school, the transportation department will move into a tiered schedule. If a tiered bus route is necessary, families will receive notification a day in advance.

**1. Which routes will be impacted by a tiered schedule?**

**Bus # 10, 16 and 49**

**2. Why were those routes selected?**

We have chosen routes located in closest proximity to the high school and middle school (secondary runs) and Durham Nockamixon Elementary for two reasons. First, the driver will need to do two complete runs and these runs can be completed the most efficiently since they are centralized around our campus schools. Second, this will give the opportunity for the parents that live closest to our campus schools the opportunity to drop off and pick up at normal times.

**3. What are the revised times for these routes?**

Late arrival at school will not exceed 8:15AM for secondary students and 9:45AM for elementary students.

Late arrival at home will not exceed 4:00 PM for secondary students, and 5:15 PM for elementary students.

**4. Is there a way to shorten these runs and have students arrive at school and home closer to normal time?**

We plan to survey the families on routes 10,16,49, to determine if in the event of a tiered schedule parents can drop off and/or pick up at normal times. If so, those families will be removed from routing on those days only and likely shorten time on the road. The district will provide transportation, so families on these routes should not feel compelled to drop off or pick up on these days, we simply want to see what the impact would be on these routes.

**5. If I am interested in learning more about becoming a bus driver, who do I contact?**

Please contact Gerry Giarratana, Director of Transportation, at 610-847-5131 ext. 5002 or [ggiarratana@palisadessd.org](mailto:ggiarratana@palisadessd.org) OR Wayne Ford, Krapf Bus Company Manager, at 484-812-0150

I wish you and your family a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing our students virtually on Monday and Tuesday, and back in-person on Wednesday, January 5th.

Kind regards,



**Dr. Bridget O'Connell**

**Superintendent**

---

Palisades School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Palisades School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.