



PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL

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Introduction

Pleasant Grove School, in collaboration with the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, local healthcare providers, and other stakeholders, has developed the following protocols for returning to school safely. District leadership will continue to collaborate with the above-mentioned groups, and protocols may be adjusted before the school year begins and throughout the school year due to changes in COVID-19 data, local mandates, state mandates, or other circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Any changes in protocols will be communicated with parents as soon as possible, and Pleasant Grove School appreciates your flexibility.

Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs

The health and safety of our students and staff will always be the top priority of Pleasant Grove School. In addition to health and safety, we will strive to respond to the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. Pleasant Grove School administration and staff will work collaboratively with parents and other stakeholders to provide targeted academic, social, and emotional support for students as they navigate the difficult circumstances created by COVID-19.

Health Screening

Parents are asked to monitor their child for symptoms of COVID-19 and to check their child's temperature each morning before school. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills or repeated shaking with chills, loss of taste or smell, fever greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, muscle soreness and fatigue, and known contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 if exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 10 days. By sending a student to school, parents are verifying that the student does not show symptoms and has not had known contact with a positive case. Individuals who are awaiting COVID-19 test results should stay home until test results are known. Visitors to the building must submit to a health screening and temperature check before entering. Parents are encouraged to conduct business with the school via phone or email as much as possible.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Teachers and staff will promote and reinforce handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, proper coughing/sneezing etiquette, not touching your face, and staying out of the face of others. Students will be given additional time for handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. In the classroom, students will use their own supplies (labeled) as much as feasible, while shared items will be sanitized as much as feasible. Traditional water fountains will be disconnected. Water bottle filling stations will remain connected and available to students and staff. Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle to school with them.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Pleasant Grove School will monitor current health data, monitor current CDC guidance, and collaborate with local health officials to determine when masks (covering the nose and mouth) may be required or recommended. Areas where masks may be required or recommended include, but are not limited to, arrival/dismissal lines, buses, classrooms, and hallways/restrooms. The District will have some washable cloth masks available for students that do not have their own.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities or with certain medical conditions may require accommodations with respect to health and safety policies. Pleasant Grove School, in collaboration with health care officials, health providers, and parents, will provide appropriate accommodations.

Vaccinations

Pleasant Grove School, in collaboration with local health care providers and the Pottawatomie County Health Department, will provide opportunities for qualifying students and staff to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

School buildings will be thoroughly cleaned each night with special attention given to high touch surfaces. Common areas such as hallways, restrooms, and lunch areas will be cleaned throughout the day as much as feasible. Busses will be cleaned after each use.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

Pleasant Grove School will monitor current health data, monitor current CDC guidance, and collaborate with local health officials to determine when physical distancing may be required or recommended. Students, staff, and visitors may physically distance when feasible. Classroom seating, cafeteria seating, etc. may be arranged to create as much distance between students as feasible. Cohort groups (lower elementary classes or upper grade levels) may be separated when feasible to limit exposure to other groups of students. Large gatherings may be limited and may occur outdoors when feasible. Visitors to the building may be limited.

Extracurricular Activities

Parents will be given information pertaining to extracurricular activities as each activity begins. Some mitigation practices that are utilized during the school day may not be feasible in all extracurricular activities.

Response to a Positive or Suspected Case

If school staff suspects that a student may have COVID-19 symptoms, that student will be isolated from other students. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child and seek a medical opinion.

Students and staff that have tested positive for COVID-19 will be sent home and may not return until “return to school” criteria are met. Areas where the student/staff member had spent 30 minutes or more will be closed and disinfected prior to reopening. School leadership will work with the local health department to determine which students/staff members were exposed. Those individuals will be sent home until “return to school” criteria are met, and parents will be notified.

Return to School

A student/staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school when the following conditions are met:

- With symptoms – respiratory symptoms have improved, AND it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared, AND it has been 24 hours since having a fever (without using fever reducing medication)
- Without symptoms – it has been 10 days since the positive test
A student/staff member who is symptomatic but has not been confirmed positive may return to school when the following conditions are met:
- A doctor’s note stating that the student/staff member is being treated for another cause of the symptoms and that the student/staff member may return to school safely, OR
- Respiratory symptoms have improved, AND it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared, AND it has been 24 hours since having a fever (without using fever reducing medication)

Distance Learning

There may be times throughout the school year where groups of students, or even entire classes, must stay home for extended periods. Under such circumstances, Pleasant Grove School will transition to “distance learning” (learning from home). Assignments will primarily be distributed via electronic means (Seesaw for grades PK-3, Google Classroom for grades 4-8), and some printed material may be distributed. Parents that do not have a device through which each student may access the Internet may contact the office for assistance.