



PCD Re-entry and Health & Safety Procedures

**Please know that as our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 continues to evolve, our policies and plans will be updated as appropriate and as more information becomes available. This is a dynamic plan, not a static one.*

Part 1

COVID-19: Re-entry Frequently Asked Questions

What are our guiding and organizing principles?

- Keep the health and safety of all PCD constituents, particularly our students, employees, and parents, as our #1 priority
- Reopen our campus for 2020-2021 in a healthy, responsible way that will include new policies and protocols
- Stay true to the PCD mission by providing high-quality programming and cultivating a sense of community
- Take advantage of our beautiful campus by maximizing outdoor time
- Maximize technological preparedness to provide solutions for community members with individual health concerns
- Prepare for a number of different scenarios based on the most updated information on the spread of COVID-19.

1. Which scenario will we start with in September?

- a. On August 17th, HOS Kevin Folan announced that we will start with a phased reopening.
 - *Sept. 2 will be an orientation day with students invited to campus by grade.
 - *Sept. 3 will be a full run through of classes for students ending in last name A-K.
 - *Sept. 4 will be a full run through of classes for students ending in last name L-Z.Assuming these three days go smoothly, Sept. 8 will be a full day of in-person instruction for all students.
- b. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases and seek direction from RIDE, RIDOH, and Governor Raimondo.

2. How will the self-attestation form work?

- a. So long as families complete self-attestation forms every morning before school, we will not need to perform health screenings on site. This will be a basic questionnaire that should take no more than 60 seconds to complete. Your child will not be permitted on campus without completing this form.
- b. We will be using School Pass as our app to make this process as easy as possible. More information will follow about how to download and use the app.

3. What will drop off/pick up look like?

- a. It's going to look different. Since we need to limit the number of students gathering in spaces, we ask that as soon as students are dropped off, they proceed immediately to their first period location.
- b. There will be four (4) different drop off locations, which will be monitored by faculty/staff. Faculty/Staff will ensure that self-attestation forms are completed prior to drop off.
 - i. Upper School - One (1) in front of Murray House and one (1) in parking lot between Chase and Metcalf
 - ii. Middle School - One (1) at each end of Metcalf
- c. Students should stay in the car until it has been determined by a faculty member that self-attestation has been completed.
- d. Families need to get permission from PCD to drop students off prior to 7:30 a.m.
- e. Pick up protocol
 - i. At designated times, families will pick up their child from the same location they were dropped off.
- f. In order to limit the number of guests inside PCD buildings, families who need to pick up a child early will call either Nancy Kelly (MS) or Sheila Harris (US) when they are waiting in the parking lot.

4. What is our facemask policy?

- a. We ask that everyone on campus wear a mask at all times to mitigate any risk of community spread.
- b. Yes, we will provide some safe opportunities with designated areas for students to remove masks for a short break.

5. What is our policy for dining services?

- a. We are working closely with our dining provider, Flik, on new protocols for managing food at school. This will likely include possibilities such as eating outdoors, in the classrooms with physical distancing protocols and increased cleaning, rotating lunch schedules, and pre-packaged lunch options.
- b. In all cases, there will be increased cleaning protocols throughout the day.

6. What will look different on campus?

- a. We will spend the first several days of the school year reviewing new spaces, outdoor classrooms, and flow of traffic in our buildings.
- b. Hallways
 - i. Stickers on the ground will divide hallways into “lanes” to help avoid congregation and congestion.
- c. Classrooms
 - i. Desks will be spread out to accommodate physical distance standards. We will utilize large indoor spaces like the field house, gymnasium, and Corkery. Our beautiful outdoor spaces will also be utilized throughout September and October.
 - ii. Occupancy limits will be posted outside all rooms.
- d. School gatherings
 - i. We will not have all-school gatherings for the foreseeable future. We will have to work to build our community through class meetings and advisory.
 - ii. The student commons area will be closed.
- e. Lockers
 - i. We will not be utilizing lockers this year. Students will be asked to bring books and other learning materials with them to reduce community spread.
- f. New Health Center Location
 - i. In order to accommodate new Health Center protocols, Ms. Costa’s new office (along with an isolation room) will now be located on the 2nd floor of Metcalf Hall.
- g. Bathrooms
 - i. All bathrooms will be cleaned frequently and hand sanitizer will be provided.
 - ii. The maximum number in a bathroom at one time is TWO people.

7. Will PCD create outdoor classroom spaces this school year?

- a. Yes! Dr. Fauci and other experts strongly encourage maximizing outdoor time as much as possible. We have outfitted our campus with 12 outdoor classroom spaces to foster the use of the green spaces on our campus.

8. What is the plan to clean and disinfect the campus everyday?

- a. Our facilities team has a plan in place to clean and disinfect classrooms and common areas throughout the day. We have hired a 3rd party vendor to thoroughly clean and disinfect the campus every evening.
- b. During the last two minutes of each class, students will need to wipe down their desk area for the next class.

9. What do we do if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

- a. If a student or staff member is presenting the symptoms of COVID-19, it is important to both address their immediate needs and ensure the safety of others to mitigate the potential spread to other students and staff in the building. Should a student or staff present with symptoms during the school day, they will be evaluated and observed in a designated isolation room until transportation can be arranged. Required reporting to RIDOH will be completed and will offer further guidance from that point, including testing and notification of the community.
- b. We will follow guidance from RIDOH as outlined in the Outbreak Response Protocols: <https://health.ri.gov/publications/presentations/Outbreak-Response-Protocols-PreK-12.pdf>

10. Athletics and other afterschool activities?

- a. We are working with RIIL and NEPSAC on plans for fall athletics.
- b. If our fall season is cancelled we are looking at a few options to keep our students active and fit:
 - i. Intramurals
 - ii. Continuing practices, skill-building, and potentially scheduling scrimmages with other schools.

11. What if I do not feel comfortable sending my child to campus for in-person instruction?

- a. Our classrooms, both indoor and outdoor, are outfitted with the technology necessary to do a blended instruction model; students will be able to attend class from the comfort of their home via the Zoom platform we mastered this past spring.

12. Where can my child go after school if they need to stay but are not attending sports?

- a. While we want to minimize the number of students on campus who are not in a structured activity, we also recognize the importance of providing a safe place on campus for your child beyond the typical school day.
- b. There will be 4 separate locations inside Metcalf Hall for students to safely and quietly study and complete homework.

Part 2

COVID-19: PCD Health & Safety Procedures and Resources for Parents

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

1. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of [symptoms](#) reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- a. Fever or chills
- b. Cough
- c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- d. Fatigue
- e. Muscle or body aches
- f. Headache
- g. New loss of taste or smell
- h. Sore throat
- i. Congestion or runny nose
- j. Nausea or vomiting
- k. Diarrhea

2. What steps can I take to prevent my student from getting COVID-19?

You can talk with your student about taking everyday steps to prevent getting sick and remind them to:

- a. [wash their hands often](#)
- b. [stay 6 feet apart from other people](#)
- c. [cover mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when they are around others](#)
- d. [clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces](#)
- e. [monitor their health—look for symptoms and take their temperature daily](#)
- f. Visit CDC website for more information on [How to Protect Yourself & Others | CDC](#)

3. How long does it take for symptoms to start?

It can take up to 14 days for people with COVID-19 to start showing symptoms. Some people have very mild symptoms, some people become really sick, and some people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms at all.

4. What will happen if a student or staff exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

Students and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be immediately isolated and observed in the designated health clinic isolation room. Parents will be notified to arrange for pick up as soon as possible. Parents will pull up to the designated Metcalf Health office entrance and students will be escorted out to the car. Students will then be referred to physician for evaluation and testing.

5. Why does my student need to stay home?

Your student should stay home if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 (while waiting for results), or have been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Keeping ill students, and students who have been exposed to COVID, away from others, we can stop the spread of the virus. It is possible for people who do not have symptoms to spread the virus to others.

Visit CDC website for more information on [what to do if you are sick or exposed to COVID-19](#).

6. What does isolation and quarantine mean?

These are terms that public health scientists use to describe why someone needs to stay home. They are public safety tools that have been around for centuries to stop the spread of germs.

- a. [Isolation](#) means keeping sick people away from healthy ones. This usually means that the sick person rests in their own bedroom or area of your home and keeps away from others as best as possible.
- b. [Quarantine](#) means separating people who were exposed to a sick person away from others. Because someone can spread COVID-19 before they have symptoms, quarantine stops them from accidentally spreading the virus to other healthy people. Usually people who are in quarantine stay at home and avoid being around others.

7. How long does my student need to stay home if they tested positive OR a doctor said they likely have COVID-19?

If your student has symptoms they should [stay at home](#) and away from others as much as possible until all three of the following have happened:

- a. At least 14 days have passed since their symptoms started **AND**;

- b. They haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 72 hours without using any medication to lower fever **AND**;
- c. Their symptoms have subsided.

8. What if my student tested positive for COVID-19, but doesn't show symptoms?

They should [stay home 14 days](#) after the day they were tested and keep away from other people as much as possible. This is because even if they don't have symptoms, they can still spread the virus.

9. What if my student becomes sick but tests negative for COVID-19?

They should stay home until they are feeling better and they have not had a fever for 48 hours without using any medication to reduce fever. If they visit a doctor and they tell you your student has something other than COVID-19 (like the flu, Strep throat, etc.) then you should follow the doctor's guidelines for exclusion requirements for that disease.

More information on testing

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>
- <https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/>

10. What is a "Close Contact"?

Casual contact like passing someone in the grocery store is low risk for spreading COVID-19.

Close contact with someone with COVID-19 makes you at higher risk for getting sick or spreading COVID-19. Examples of close contact are being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes, sharing a drinking glass or eating utensil, physically touching the person or things that may have their germs on them like dirty tissues, or being coughed or sneezed on.

11. What if my student came in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19?

They should stay home for 14 days since the last time they were around that person to see if they develop symptoms. If they do get symptoms, then: Call their doctor. Ask to get tested. Follow their instructions for staying home while you wait for the test results

12. If there are other children in our home who do not have symptoms, should they stay home, too, or continue coming to school?

No, your other students may continue to go to work and school. If the child who was in close contact gets sick, then your other students should stay home.

13. What if we live with someone who has COVID-19?

People who live together usually have close contact with each other. Everyone you live with should be tested and stay home until **ALL** of following have happened:

- a. The sick person gets better:
 - i. At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started **AND**;
 - ii. They haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 72 hours without using any medication to lower fever **AND**;
 - iii. Their cough or breathing problems get better.
- b. **PLUS** 14 days have passed since the sick person was better to see if other people in your home get symptoms

Visit CDC website for information on [caring for someone who is sick at home](#).

14. Reporting illness or exposure with absence

It is important to notify the school of illness or exposure. This will help mitigate further spread within the community. Please report absences with symptoms, diagnosis, or exposure to School Nurse, [Lisa-Mae Costa](#).

15. Returning to school after illness or quarantine

Prior to your student returning to school after illness or exposure, please contact the School Nurse, [Lisa-Mae Costa](#) for clearance. Documentation may be required by a physician prior to returning.

16. Additional COVID-19 frequently asked questions can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>