



2021-2022

Engaging, Inspiring, Preparing - *Together*



School Operations Opening Plan

Steve Barnette
Superintendent of Schools

As approved by the Paulding County Board of Education on July 27, 2021

Contents

Document Revisions.....	3
Engaging, Inspiring, and Preparing Students – <i>Together!</i>	4
School Operations (Opening) Plan Introduction.....	4
School Operations (Opening) Plan Guidance Levels.....	5
Determining the Appropriate Guidance Level.....	6
Survey Data and Feedback.....	7
Resilient Practices	9
School Operations.....	9
Protocols	10
Cleaning and Sanitizing	11
Preventive Practices.....	12
School Operations.....	12
Protocols	14
Cleaning and Sanitizing	16
Enhanced Mitigation Practices	17
School Operations.....	17
Protocols	19
Cleaning and Sanitizing	20
Temporary School Closure(s)	22
School Operations.....	22
Protocols	23
Cleaning and Sanitizing	24

Document Revisions

Date	Description
7/27/2021	Initial version approved by the Paulding County Board of Education
1/3/2022	Level descriptions were modified to provide clarity as these were not meant to serve as a definition for when guidance levels change, which is addressed in the section <i>Determining the Appropriate Guidance Level</i> .

Engaging, Inspiring, and Preparing Students – *Together!*

As we approach the start of another great school year, we look forward to welcoming back all our students, families, and staff. Coming off a pandemic school year where we united as a community to support students and continued to provide quality education through both virtual and in-person instruction, our theme heading into the new school year is “Engaging, Inspiring, and Preparing Students – Together!”

We are continuing to offer virtual instruction for all K-12 students and more than 1,800 are currently enrolled. At the same time, for in-person instruction we hope to return to a sense of normalcy in our schools while acknowledging and responding to the reasonable concerns that remain. For the 2021-2022 school year, it is vital that we sustain the sense of unity and togetherness we built last year as a school community to continue providing PCSD students the best education possible.

We appreciate everyone in the Paulding County School District community coming together to share in practicing Preventive measures to reduce the risk of illness and to provide a safe learning environment for our students, staff, and entire community. We look forward to Engaging, Inspiring, and Preparing – Together – for the 2021-2022 school year!

School Operations (Opening) Plan Introduction

This plan is a compilation of resilient practices and protocols learned from and during the COVID-19 Pandemic and applies to all schools and facilities in the Paulding County School District (PCSD). The plan aligns with the considerations and recommendations found in the latest feedback from parents, community members, and staff in addition to considerations and directives provided by Executive Order of the Governor, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), and in partnership with Georgia Department of Education (GADOE).

PCSD will implement the protocols and practices identified in this plan to effectively operate resilient schools for 2021-2022 school year on a journey to reunify the creativity, inspiration, and collaborative learning that defines the Paulding County School District. Each district school/facility will implement a feasible school facility level plan that addresses and aligns with the criteria and framework contained in this document and which supports their local school community. It is incumbent on staff, students, and members of the community to effectively support these protocols to ensure safe and resilient measures.

The Paulding County School District would like to thank the members of the Paulding County Board of Education and our partners for their contributions, review, and support in the development of this plan:



School Operations (Opening) Plan Guidance Levels

This School Operations (Opening) Plan is based on a four-tier color code that escalates practices should the COVID threat increase at the district or school level. Additionally, the plan recognizes that every elementary school, middle school and high school is unique.



Starting Point for the 2021-2022 School Year

The 2021-2022 school year will open in Preventive Practices, or Yellow. This level takes the district's normal operating mode of Resilient Practices (Green) and incorporates certain COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts.

Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order ending the Public Health State of Emergency effective June 30, 2021. That means the Paulding County School District will follow state-mandated practices and Board of Education Policy (JGCC) which address the mitigation and prevention of any communicable or infectious disease. COVID-19 cases will be handled according to Board Policy [JGCC](#) for students and Board Policy [GANA](#) for staff.

In July 2021 we conducted surveys asking stakeholders and our staff about their expectations for the coming school year. Nearly 2,000 responses indicated that while a majority expects a return to pre-pandemic normalcy, a significant percentage believes it is still reasonable to take certain precautions to continue preventing the spread of COVID-19. Our 2021-2022 School Operations (Opening) Plan incorporates the input we received to provide balance as we move forward as a united school community made up of individual schools.

It is important to remember that the environment in individual schools may vary. At any given time, individual schools may need to adopt different schedules and/or shift to Digital Learning Days due to COVID-19 cases and exposures within that school. We believe the best approach is to give individual schools the flexibility to implement additional measures as needed, and that is how the 2021-2022 School Operations (Opening) Plan will work.

Plan Subject to Change. The implementation of the practices, measures, and protocols under this plan are subject to change at any time as directed by the Paulding County Board of Education, Executive Order by the Governor of the State of Georgia, and/or other recognized legal authority.

The following is a summary of the four-tier color coded escalation practices. As we emphasized last year, the COVID-19 environment has been continuously evolving, so the strategies outlined here are subject to change. We will continue monitoring that environment and pledge to keep you informed.

RESILIENT PRACTICES Traditional school operations to the greatest extent feasible.
PREVENTIVE PRACTICES School operations are modified to address significant changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.
ENHANCED MITIGATION PRACTICES School operations are modified to address material changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.
TEMPORARY CLOSURE(S) School operations are modified to address critical changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.

Determining the Appropriate Guidance Level

This measurement serves as an evolving framework and not a hard metric when monitoring community spread within each school, school community, staff community, and regional activity. This measurement may be applied to a specific school, a cluster of schools, or districtwide. It should be considered inclusive of both the quantitative AND qualitative indicators and in collaboration with local Georgia Department of Public Health officials. It is important to view the implementation of the levels of practices not as “all or nothing” degrees, but as an intensifying scale of increasing mitigations and practices that blend into one another as visually depicted in the following graphic:

Criteria and indicators used in this determination may include, but are not limited to, the following:



ABILITY TO CONDUCT SCHOOL OPERATIONS	
Ability to provide adequate staffing levels	Ability to provide safe facilities:
1. School Leadership 2. Faculty/Teachers 3. Substitute Teachers 4. Custodial Support 5. Pupil Transportation 6. School Nutrition Services	1. PPE inventory levels 2. Cleaning Supplies Inventory 3. Supply Chain (i.e. fuel/food) 4. Social Distancing Mandates

ABILITY TO PROVIDE SAFE OPERATION OF LOCAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY	
Ability to Provide Community Support	Ability to Sustain Communications
1. Community Spread (disaggregated) 2. Large gathering parameters 3. Legal Directives 4. Emergency Management Operations 5. School Attendance	1. Stakeholder Communication 2. National, State, and local influence 3. National, State, and local media influence 4. Social Media Influence

The following pages describe the general guidance at each level and the potential impact on school operations.

Survey Data and Feedback

In July 2021, the school district conducted surveys asking stakeholders and staff about their expectations for the coming school year. Nearly 2,000 responses indicated that while a majority expects a return to pre-pandemic normalcy, a significant percentage believes it is still reasonable to take certain precautions to continue preventing the spread of COVID-19. Our School Operations (Opening) Plan incorporates the input we received to provide balance as we move forward as a united school community made up of individual schools.

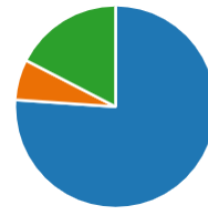
Staff Survey

Our staff survey had almost 1,100 responses, with 76% coming from teachers. The feedback was extremely informative and useful, and the feedback played a significant role in the development of the plan. Much of the input was responses to open-ended questions, and every one of these responses was read and factored into the considerations for the School Operations (Opening) Plan.

Which of the following best describes your area of employment?

[More Details](#)

● Teacher	811
● School-level administrator	69
● District-level support (select f...	186

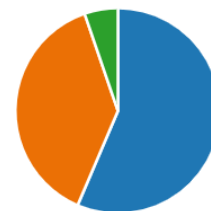


Our staff survey indicated a 60/40 split between a preference for “Return to pre-pandemic ‘normal’” and “Continued caution and concern”. The survey also provided valuable feedback from those who indicated a preference for continued caution and concern. Specifically, what were the expected precautionary steps.

What best describes your expectation for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year: Do you anticipate a full “return to normal” as conditions were before the pandemic? Or do you expect a continued level of caution and concern that may involve precautions for staff and/or students?

[More Details](#)

● Return to pre-pandemic normal	600
● Continued caution and concern	407
● Other	56

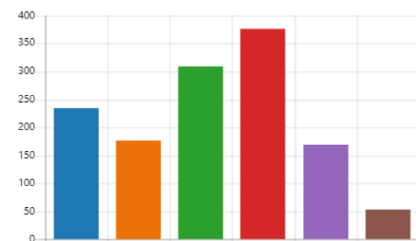


Most selected a preference for “Continued elevated level of cleaning and disinfecting” as a precautionary step, followed by “Continued restrictions for visitors to schools”, and “Voluntary mask use.”

If you answered “Continued caution and concern” to the above question, what precautionary steps are you expecting? Select all that apply:

[More Details](#)

● Voluntary mask use	234
● Continued social distancing	176
● Continued restrictions for visitors to schools	310
● Continued elevated level of cleaning and disinfecting	377
● Close-contact quarantine of healthy students	170
● Other	52



Community Survey

The school district also conducted a community survey and invited all school district stakeholders to participate. The following chart suggests interest levels from the 693 respondents to the community survey compiled into six themes. The percentages reflect areas of concern – not necessarily “for” or “against”.

	Question #1: Provide your assessment of the top 2-3 issues currently facing students and schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Question #2: What strategies, actions, or promising practices were most effective in supporting student needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Question #3: How can Paulding County schools better support students, families, and staff, as we continue in-person instruction and continuity of services?
Mitigations: Masks, Quarantine, Vaccination, Social Distancing	34%	17%	25%
Open and Normal Schools: Parent Involvement, visitors	21%	19%	32%
Food Security: free breakfast, free lunch, free meals	4%	10%	5%
Learning: Tutoring, digital learning, virtual learning	41%	34%	25%
Mental Health	10%	2%	9%
Communication	2%	5%	9%

Resilient Practices

RESILIENT PRACTICES

Traditional school operations to the greatest extent feasible.

The following general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning should be followed under Resilient Practices (Green).

The information below represents general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning and sanitizing for Paulding County School District (PCSD) under Resilient Practices (Green). Parents/guardians, students, and staff should follow the recommendations of their health care provider and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

School Operations

To the extent practical, there should be consistent expectations regarding school operations. The application of these practices will vary depending on the specific school, facility, and/or grade level.

Teaching & Learning

Schools should operate on a normal instructional schedule. Additional instructional supports, such as EIP, Title 1, Special Education, and Intervention classes, will operate under normal schedules and recommended practices. Cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum should also be provided. For more information on digital instruction in the classroom, visit <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/36434>.

Social (Physical) Distancing

Social (Physical) distancing in classrooms and school buildings should be maintained when appropriate and feasible.

School Clinics

Schools should maintain protocols for students/staff who feel ill or experience symptoms while at school. If a student exhibits symptoms while in the school clinic, the nurse should have the discretion to request the student to wear a mask as tolerated and/or to be isolated while in the clinic being assessed by the nurse or waiting for parent pick-up.

General Health Guidance

Schools should regularly promote the importance of monitoring for symptoms and staying home when sick to parents/guardians, students, and staff. Visitors should regularly be discouraged from entering the school when they are sick or not feeling well.

Breakfast and Lunch Service

Breakfast and lunch service should be served in the school cafeteria when appropriate and feasible.

Transportation

Transportation services should be provided when appropriate and feasible.

School Assemblies and Large Gatherings

School assemblies and large gatherings should be allowed when appropriate and feasible.

Water Fountains

Water fountains may be used. However, students should be encouraged to utilize water bottles to extent appropriate and feasible.

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff should be routinely encouraged to follow proper hand hygiene when appropriate and feasible. For example, reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc.

Recess

Recess should be allowed when appropriate and feasible.

Field Trips

Field trips should be allowed when appropriate and feasible.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and activities should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. They must be in accordance with PCSD health guidelines (i.e., recording temperature, limited workouts) and in partnership with GHSA and other appropriate governing bodies.

Facilities Rentals

Facilities rentals should be allowed when appropriate and feasible.

Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange student programs should be allowed, in accordance with U.S. Department of State guidance.

Protocols

Masks

Staff and students are not required to wear masks but may do so voluntarily. Masks should not be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics events, or at any scheduled school or school sponsored athletic event or activity that might occur on campus. Masks should comply with the student dress code.

Positive Cases, Close Contact Monitoring, and Quarantines

Schools will follow state-mandated practices required for any communicable diseases, in addition to applicable board policies.

Visitors

Special events typically open to parents/guardians and families will be allowed, and volunteers will be permitted to work throughout the school in accordance with Board Policy and school safety protocols.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The school district and its custodial provider, HES Facilities Management (HES), should maintain a comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting program for all schools, facilities, and school buses.

Preventive Practices

PREVENTIVE PRACTICES

School operations are modified to address significant changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.

In addition to the guidance in Resilient Practices, the following general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning should be followed under Preventive Practices (Yellow).

This level takes the district's normal operating mode of Resilient Practices (Green) and incorporates additional COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts.

The information below represents general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning and sanitizing for Paulding County School District (PCSD) under Preventive Practices (Yellow). Parents/guardians, students, and staff should follow the recommendations of their health care provider and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

School Operations

To the extent practical, there should be consistent expectations regarding school operations. These expectations will include (as non-intrusive as possible) various Preventive practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The application of these practices will vary depending on the specific school, facility, and/or grade level.

Teaching & Learning

Schools should operate on a normal instructional schedule. Additional instructional supports, such as EIP, Title 1, Special Education, and Intervention classes, will operate under normal schedules and recommended practices. Cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum should also be provided. For more information on digital instruction in the classroom, visit <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/36434>.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Digital learning guidance should continue to be utilized for blended learning opportunities in classroom. For more information see "Digital Learning Expectations" at the link above.
- Students with health concerns (health-vulnerable) may be accommodated to complete coursework virtually. For more information see "Student Extended Absence Guidance" (blue) at the link below.
- Delivery of additional instructional supports may be modified based on school need.
- Delivery of cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum delivery may be modified based on school need.

Social (Physical) Distancing

Social (Physical) distancing in classrooms and school buildings and school buses should be maintained when appropriate and feasible.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated may be designated to the extent practicable.

- Additional arrival and dismissal staging areas to increase spacing may be utilized to the extent feasible.
- Physical interaction may be limited through cohort partner or group work.
- Unnecessary congregations of students and staff may be limited.
- Protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households may be implemented.
- Physical/social distancing may be implemented in classrooms, school buses, cafeteria, assemblies or other school or school sponsored activities to the extent feasible.

School Clinics

Schools should maintain protocols for students/staff who feel ill or experience symptoms while at school. If a student exhibits symptoms while in the school clinic, the nurse should have the discretion to request the student to wear a mask as tolerated and/or to be isolated while in the clinic being assessed by the nurse or waiting for parent pick-up.

General Health Guidance

Schools should regularly promote the importance of monitoring for symptoms and staying home when sick to parents/guardians, students, and staff. Visitors should regularly be discouraged from entering the school when they are sick or not feeling well.

Breakfast and Lunch Service

Breakfast and lunch service should be served in the school cafeteria when appropriate and feasible.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Traffic patterns may be altered, with specific entrances/exits utilized for one-way movement.
- Additional serving locations may be designated.

Transportation

Transportation services should be provided when appropriate and feasible.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student transportation changes regarding bus service must be approved by the principal or designee.
- Students going home with another student should be handled via car rider or once students arrive home.

School Assemblies and Large Gatherings

School assemblies and large gatherings should be allowed when appropriate and feasible.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student meetings/assemblies may be limited to increase spacing depending on the number of students and size of gym/auditorium.
- All school assemblies and large gatherings may continue as scheduled and at the discretion of the school principal.

Water Fountains

Water fountains should only be used as additional bottle filling stations.

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff should be routinely encouraged to follow proper hand hygiene when appropriate and feasible. For example, reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student/staff hygiene and handwashing breaks should be scheduled.
- Hygiene measures such as handwashing and covering coughs should be reinforced.
- Hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels should be available throughout the school and on buses.
- Students and staff should be allowed to bring and use appropriate hand sanitizer from home as they desire.

Recess

Recess should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. Preventive practices may include limitations on playground locations, available spaces, and participation.

Field Trips

Field trips should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. Preventive practices may include limitations on unnecessary field trips, including out-of-state trips and international trips.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and activities should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. They must be in accordance with PCSD health guidelines (i.e., recording temperature, limited workouts) and in partnership with GHSA and other appropriate governing bodies.

Facilities Rentals

Facilities rentals should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. Preventive practices may include limitations on locations, available spaces, and attendance.

Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange student programs should be allowed. Preventive practices may include limitations in accordance with U.S. Department of State guidance.

Protocols

Masks

Staff and students are not required to wear masks but may do so voluntarily. PCSD should provide masks to individuals who request them. Masks should not be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics events, or at any scheduled school or school sponsored athletic event or activity that might occur on campus. Masks should comply with the student dress code.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students, staff, or visitors. While vaccinations are encouraged, the district recognizes that the decision is a personal choice.

Positive Cases

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to follow Department of Public Health (DPH) isolation guidelines. Schools will follow state-mandated practices required for any communicable diseases, in addition to applicable board policies.

Close Contact Monitoring and Quarantines

Students:

Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's potential exposure to a confirmed positive case and reminded of the importance of monitoring for symptoms. PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to follow the recommendations of their health care provider and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance regarding precautionary quarantines.

PCSD will support quarantines required by health care providers and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. To the extent applicable and feasible, PCSD will not enforce precautionary quarantines for healthy students. If a parent/guardian should choose to quarantine their healthy child as a precaution due to potential close contact, absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note. Students may receive instruction through digital learning throughout quarantine and isolation periods. To the extent appropriate and feasible, entire elementary school classrooms will not be quarantined.

Staff:

Staff will be notified of a potential exposure to a confirmed positive case and reminded of the importance of monitoring for symptoms. PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Staff members identified as a close contact are required to adhere to the quarantine guidelines of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Visitors

Special events typically open to parents/guardians and families will be allowed, and volunteers will be permitted to work throughout the school in accordance with Board Policy and school safety protocols.

When practical, upon check-in, visitors will have their temperature checked. In addition, hand sanitizer and masks will be available. Additionally, a visitor check-in system may be utilized for COVID-19 screening. While visitors are not required to wear masks, unvaccinated visitors are encouraged to do so. PCSD will provide masks to individuals who request them.

As with any communicable or infectious disease, the number of visitors and their location will be managed to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The application of these practices may vary depending on location and situation.

Preventive Practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Visitors interacting with staff and student(s) may be limited.
- Parent conferences may be conducted through virtual/phone conferences.

- The number of visitors in the main office or other common areas may be limited.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The school district and its custodial provider, HES Facilities Management (HES), should maintain a comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting program for all schools, facilities, and school buses. Cleaning and sanitizing practices may include, but are not limited to, the following.

HES CleanCheck Program

- Additional personnel to concentrate on cleaning high-touch areas with increased frequency daily.
- Certified Disinfection Specialists available to each school site.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be in use by employees at each school site.
- An HES Bioremediation team is available to address any areas in the District that would require specialized treatment and broader disinfection protocols in an area needing disinfection.
- HES *CleanCheck* program managers will direct additional resources and personnel to the daily cleaning focus points at each facility.
- Hospital grade EPA registered disinfectants will be used at each facility.

Supplemental Cleaning

As a supplement to the district's cleaning and disinfecting program, PCSD should supply each classroom teacher, bus driver, and support staff an EPA approved multi-purpose cleaner and disinfectant known to kill the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 for use at their individual discretion.

Disinfection

- Touchpoints (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, etc.) should be disinfected throughout all buildings on a daily basis.
- School buses should be disinfected twice daily.

Ventilation

- Ventilation systems should operate with increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible if it does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.
- HVAC Filters should be scheduled for replacement frequently.

Enhanced Mitigation Practices

ENHANCED MITIGATION PRACTICES

School operations are modified to address material changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.

In addition to the guidance in Resilient and Preventive Practices, the following general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning should be followed under Enhanced Mitigation Practices (Orange).

This level takes the district's normal operating mode of Resilient Practices (Green) and Preventive Practices (Yellow) and incorporates additional COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts.

The information below represents general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning and sanitizing for Paulding County School District (PCSD) under Enhanced Mitigation Practices (Orange). Parents/guardians, students, and staff should follow the recommendations of their health care provider and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

School Operations

To the extent practical, there should be consistent expectations regarding school operations. These expectations will include (as non-intrusive as possible) various Preventive practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The application of these practices will vary depending on the specific school, facility, and/or grade level.

Teaching & Learning

An alternating/hybrid instructional schedule may be implemented. Alternative instructional supports, cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum delivery methods may be utilized. For more information on digital instruction visit <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/36434>.

Enhanced Mitigation practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Digital learning guidance may be utilized for blended learning opportunities in classroom. For more information see "Digital Learning Expectations" at the link below.
- Students with health concerns (health-vulnerable) may be accommodated to complete coursework virtually. For more information see "Student Extended Absence Guidance" (blue) at the link below.
- Additional instructional supports will be provided but may be modified based current health protocols.
- Cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum delivery will occur at all grade levels but may be modified based current health protocols.

Social (Physical) Distancing

Social (Physical) distancing in classrooms and school buildings and school buses should be enhanced when appropriate and feasible.

Enhanced Mitigation practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Transitions schedules limiting student congregation will be implemented to the extent feasible (utilizing state seat time waiver to extend transition period)

- Enhanced social distancing measures will be implemented for arrival and dismissal staging to limit the number of students congregating in any one place to the extent feasible
- Areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated will be designated to the extent practicable
- Physical interaction will be limited through cohort partner or group work.
- Unnecessary congregations of students and staff will be limited.
- Congregation of students in parking lots and common areas will be discouraged.
- Protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households will be implemented.
- Physical/social distancing will be implemented in classrooms, school buses, cafeteria, assemblies or other school or school sponsored activities to the extent feasible.

School Clinics

Schools should maintain protocols for students/staff who feel ill or experience symptoms while at school. If a student exhibits symptoms while in the school clinic, the nurse should have the discretion to request the student to wear a mask as tolerated and/or to be isolated while in the clinic being assessed by the nurse or waiting for parent pick-up.

General Health Guidance

Schools should regularly promote the importance of monitoring for symptoms and staying home when sick to parents/guardians, students, and staff.

Breakfast and Lunch Service

Alternate meal breakfast and lunch serving schedules should be implemented to allow for more spacing in cafeteria and/or allow students to eat in their classrooms when appropriate and feasible. Traffic patterns should be altered, with specific entrances/exits utilized for one-way movement.

Transportation

Transportation services should be provided when appropriate and feasible.

Enhanced Mitigation practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student transportation changes regarding bus service must be approved by the principal or designee.
- Students going home with another student should be handled via car rider or once students arrive home.

School Assemblies and Large Gatherings

School assemblies and large gatherings should be discontinued.

Water Fountains

Water fountains should only be used as additional bottle filling stations.

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff should be routinely encouraged to follow proper hand hygiene when appropriate and feasible. For example, reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc.

Enhanced Mitigation practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student/staff hygiene and handwashing breaks should be scheduled.
- Hygiene measures such as handwashing and covering coughs should be reinforced.
- Hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels should be available throughout the school and on buses.
- Students and staff should be allowed to bring and use appropriate hand sanitizer from home as they desire.

Recess

Recess should be allowed when appropriate and feasible. Enhanced Mitigation practices should include limitations on playground locations, available spaces, and participation.

Field Trips

Non-essential field trips, including out-of-state and international trips, should be restricted.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and activities should be in accordance with PCSD health guidelines (i.e., recording temperature, limited workouts) and in partnership with GHSA and other appropriate governing bodies.

Facilities Rentals

Facilities rentals should be suspended.

Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange student programs should be allowed with limitations in accordance with U.S. Department of State guidance.

Protocols

Masks

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear masks. PCSD will provide masks to individuals who request them. Masks may be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics events, or at any scheduled school or school sponsored athletic event or activity that might occur on campus. Masks should comply with the student dress code.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students, staff, or visitors. While vaccinations are encouraged, the district recognizes that the decision is a personal choice.

Positive Cases

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to follow Department of Public Health (DPH) isolation guidelines. Schools will follow state-mandated practices required for any communicable diseases, in addition to applicable board policies.

Close Contact Monitoring and Quarantines

Students:

Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's potential exposure to a confirmed positive case and reminded of the importance of monitoring for symptoms. PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Student identified as a close contact are required to adhere to the quarantine guidelines of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note. Students may receive instruction through digital learning throughout quarantine and isolation periods. To the extent appropriate and feasible, entire elementary school classrooms may be quarantined.

Staff:

Staff will be notified of a potential exposure to a confirmed positive case and reminded of the importance of monitoring for symptoms. PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Staff members identified as a close contact are required to adhere to the quarantine guidelines of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Visitors

All non-essential visitors and volunteers will be prohibited from entering school buildings. Visitor interactions with staff and students will be discontinued. Parent conferences should be conducted through virtual/phone conferences when practical and possible. The number of visitors in the main office or other common areas will be limited.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The school district and its custodial provider, HES Facilities Management (HES), should maintain a comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting program for all schools, facilities, and school buses. Cleaning and sanitizing practices may include, but are not limited to, the following.

HES CleanCheck Program

- Additional personnel to concentrate on cleaning high-touch areas with increased frequency daily.
- Certified Disinfection Specialists available to each school site.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be in use by employees at each school site.
- An HES Bioremediation team is available to address any areas in the District that would require specialized treatment and broader disinfection protocols in an area needing disinfection.
- HES *CleanCheck* program managers will direct additional resources and personnel to the daily cleaning focus points at each facility.
- Hospital grade EPA registered disinfectants will be used at each facility.

Supplemental Cleaning

As a supplement to the district's cleaning and disinfecting program, PCSD should supply each classroom teacher, bus driver, and support staff an EPA approved multi-purpose cleaner and disinfectant known to kill the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 for use at their individual discretion.

Disinfection

- Classrooms and shared spaces with a positive case of COVID-19 will receive enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in accordance with DPH guidelines.
- Touchpoints (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, etc.) should be disinfected throughout all buildings on a daily basis.
- School buses should be disinfected twice daily.

Ventilation

- Ventilation systems should operate with increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible if it does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.
- HVAC Filters should be scheduled for replacement frequently.

Temporary School Closure(s)

Temporary School Closure(s)

School operations are modified to address critical changes in cases, spread, and/or severity.

The following general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning should be followed under Temporary Closure (Red).

The information below represents general expectations regarding school operations, specific protocols, and expectations regarding cleaning and sanitizing for Paulding County School District (PCSD) under Temporary School Closure (Red). Parents/guardians, students, and staff should follow the recommendations of their health care provider and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

School Operations

School building(s) will be closed to in-person instruction.

To the extent practical, there should be consistent expectations regarding school operations. These expectations will include (as non-intrusive as possible) various practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The application of these practices will vary depending on the specific school, facility, and/or grade level.

Teaching & Learning

Digital learning should be utilized while school buildings are closed, with the appropriate level based on current health protocols. To the extent possible, additional instructional supports should be provided remotely. To the extent possible, cultural arts, music, and physical education curriculum delivery should be provided remotely. For more information on digital instruction visit <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/36434>.

Social (Physical) Distancing

Only identified essential staff should report in-person to carry out necessary functions. The school building is closed; however, social (physical) distancing should be required at any scheduled school or school sponsored athletic event or activity that might occur on campus.

School Clinics

Clinics should be closed.

General Health Guidance

Schools should advise families on how to prevent illnesses while the school building is closed and promote the importance of monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.

Breakfast and Lunch Service

Meal service should be provided for pick up at designated school sites when appropriate and feasible.

Transportation

Transportation services will not be provided.

School Assemblies and Large Gatherings

Not applicable

Water Fountains

Not applicable

Hand Hygiene

Not applicable

Recess

Not applicable

Field Trips

Field trips should be postponed or cancelled.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and activities may be postponed or cancelled, in accordance with PCSD health and in partnership with GHSA and other appropriate governing bodies.

Facilities Rentals

Facilities rentals should be suspended.

Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange student programs may be suspended or moved to virtual instruction, in accordance with U.S. Department of State guidance.

Protocols

Masks

Masks may be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics events, or at any scheduled school or school sponsored athletic event or activity that might occur on campus.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students, staff, or visitors. While vaccinations are encouraged, the district recognizes that the decision is a personal choice.

Positive Cases

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to follow Department of Public Health (DPH) isolation guidelines. Schools will follow state-mandated practices required for any communicable diseases, in addition to applicable board policies.

Close Contact Monitoring and Quarantines

PCSD will encourage families to remain at home in accordance with DPH guidance on mitigating community spread.

Students:

PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to follow the recommendations of their health care provider and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance regarding precautionary quarantines.

Staff:

PCSD will assist the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in its efforts to identify close contacts of confirmed cases. This is the same state-mandated practice PCSD follows for any communicable or infectious disease.

Staff members identified as a close contact are required to adhere to the quarantine guidelines of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Visitors

School buildings will be closed; visitors will not be permitted in schools. Schools should implement practices and protocols to conduct parent/visitor business remotely.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The entire school facility should receive enhanced cleaning and disinfecting after closure and prior to reopening. School buses should receive enhanced cleaning and disinfecting.

The school district and its custodial provider, HES Facilities Management (HES), should maintain a comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting program for all schools, facilities, and school buses. Cleaning and sanitizing practices may include, but are not limited to, the following.

HES CleanCheck Program

- Certified Disinfection Specialists available to each school site to ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfecting.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be in use by employees at each school site.
- An HES Bioremediation team is available to address any areas in the school facility that would require specialized treatment and broader disinfection protocols in an area needing enhanced disinfection.
- HES *CleanCheck* program managers will direct additional resources and personnel to the cleaning and disinfecting of focus points at the school facility.
- Hospital grade EPA registered disinfectants will be used at each facility.

Supplemental Cleaning

Not applicable

Ventilation

- Ventilation systems should operate with increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible and if this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.
- HVAC Filters should be replaced.