



# PCSD COVID-19 Guidance for Parents

Updated 01-10-2022

PCSD Parents & Guardians,

The Paulding County School District is updating its COVID-19 guidance for students based on the Amended Administrative Order for Public Health Control Measures ([dph.ga.gov](https://dph.ga.gov)) issued by Gov. Kemp through the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) on Jan. 5, 2022. The following guidance is **effective Jan. 12, 2022**, and replaces previous guidance when schools are in Yellow and Orange Operations Levels. The information below highlights key protocols.

## COMMUNICATION

The Administrative Order no longer requires school districts to identify, log, and report every close contact for confirmed cases of COVID-19. The new flexibility necessitates a common-sense approach, and in Paulding we will continue to identify and report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 and will continue to notify households of close contacts when needed. Examples may include, but are not limited to, small groups of younger students in consistent proximity to one another, self-contained classrooms, and athletic teams. It is important to understand that, under the new guidance, the bulk of close contacts will now be self-reported or reported to the school district by DPH.

Of course, when a student or staff member at a school is a confirmed COVID-19 case, schools will continue the practice of notifying parents as follows:

- **Elementary:** Class letter, school-wide notification, specific notification to parents of medically fragile/immuno-compromised students
- **Middle/High:** School-wide notification, specific notification to parents of medically fragile/immuno-compromised students
- **Middle School/High School Team or Club:** Specific notification to members of that team/club, in addition to the school-wide notification

As you know, the school district maintains a web site where it shares important COVID-related information, including case data from schools, which can be accessed [here](#). The district updates COVID-19 data at this site each Monday, unless otherwise noted.

## DEFINITION OF VACCINATED

DPH guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>

## STUDENTS WHO ARE CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19

**Isolation:** Under both Yellow and Orange Operations Levels, confirmed positive COVID-19 students, vaccinated and unvaccinated, are required to isolate under DPH guidelines: <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>



**STUDENTS WHO ARE POTENTIAL CLOSE CONTACTS****YELLOW OPERATIONS LEVEL****Exposure Identified in School***Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Students:*

- Student **may attend school** but must remain symptom-free and should wear a mask or face covering through Day 10 according to DPH recommendations.
- Student is to monitor symptoms daily and remain symptom-free.
- If symptoms develop, refer to DPH isolation guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>.

**Exposure Identified Outside of School***Vaccinated Students:*

- Student **may attend school** but must remain symptom-free and should wear a mask or face covering through Day 10 according to DPH recommendations.
- Student is to monitor symptoms daily and remain symptom-free.
- If symptoms develop, refer to DPH isolation guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>.

*Unvaccinated Students:*

- Student is to **quarantine at home Days 1-5** (Day 0 is date of exposure) and follow DPH guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>.
- Student may return Day 6 if asymptomatic and should wear a mask or face covering through Day 10.
- Student may return Day 11 if asymptomatic and opted to complete the 10-day quarantine at home.

**ORANGE OPERATIONS LEVEL****Vaccinated Students:**

You may elect to send your child to school if the following conditions are met:

- Your student wears a mask or face covering through Day 10 of the quarantine period. If unable to wear a mask or face covering, refer to DPH quarantine guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>.
- Your student remains COVID-19 symptom-free.
- If symptoms develop, refer to DPH isolation guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>.

**Unvaccinated Students:**

Student MAY NOT attend school, and must:

- Quarantine at home Days 1-5 (Day 0 is date of exposure) and follow DPH guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>.
- Student may return Day 6 if asymptomatic and student wears a mask or face covering through Day 10. If unable to wear a mask or face covering, refer to DPH quarantine guidance <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>.
- Student may return day 11 if asymptomatic. No mask required.



## STUDENTS WHO ARE POTENTIAL CLOSE CONTACTS – EXEMPTION FROM QUARANTINE

If a student has recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days, the student may attend school if identified as a close contact if the student remains asymptomatic and should wear a mask or face covering for the 10-day quarantine period. Proof of a positive test report (not a home test) must be submitted to be considered exempt from being identified as a close contact per DPH guidelines.

## ONGOING MITIGATIONS

- Sick Students:** The school district encourages parents to be mindful of their family's activities outside of school and to monitor for symptoms of illness. It is critical that parents do not send students to school when they are sick and/or showing symptoms. Ensuring that sick children are not sent to school helps keep our schools open, healthy, and safe. When in doubt, please err on the side of caution and do not send students to school when they are sick and/or showing symptoms.
- Social Distancing:** The school district continues to encourage social distancing when appropriate and feasible, as well as limit large gatherings when appropriate and feasible.
- Masks:** While masks are optional, the school district strongly encourages the use of masks while on school property.
- Cleaning and Sanitizing:** The school district provides hand sanitizer throughout school facilities and common areas, and strongly encourages students to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently. School facilities are regularly cleaned and fogged with disinfecting solution outside of school hours, and school buses are disinfected following each morning and afternoon run.

Thank you for your support as we work as a community to keep our schools healthy and safe!