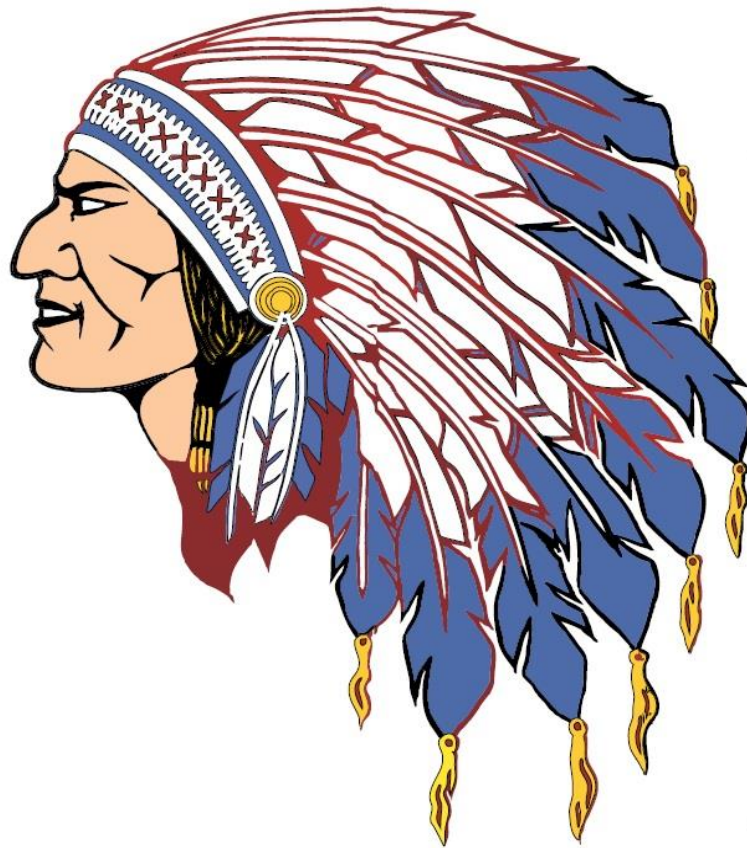


# Pawnee Safe Return to Learn Plan

## 2022-2023



## Pawnee CUSD #11

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# Pawnee CUSD #11

This updated plan supersedes all prior COVID-19 plans adopted by Pawnee CUSD #11. Pawnee schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2022-23 school year. Information below was taken from IDPH & ISBE Joint Summary of CDC's Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools.

## **Mask Use**

- There is no requirement currently in place mandating masks in schools or on school buses. Wearing a well-fitting mask consistently and correctly reduces the risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Universal indoor mask use is recommended at a high COVID-19 Community Level.
- Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low.
- At a medium COVID-19 Community Level, persons who are immunocompromised, at high risk for severe disease or have household or social contacts at high risk for severe disease, are to talk to their healthcare provider about whether they need to wear a mask.
- At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal masking indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status is encouraged but not required.
- Persons who are immunocompromised are encouraged to wear a mask or respirators that provide protection. Masks continue to be federally required in healthcare settings and for healthcare personnel including school nurses' offices.

## **Physical Distancing**

- Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts) and so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning.

## **Hand washing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette by
  - Continuing to teach hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
  - Assisting young children with hand washing;
  - Reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
  - Using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible;
  - Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
  - Providing adequate hand washing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored.

## **Facility Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation**

- School teaching staff, custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily, and between classes/routes to the extent possible.

- To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.
- Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters.
- In addition, staff can use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.

### **Transportation**

- School transportation will be offered to all students.
- The building will be open at 7:40 am to accommodate students who want to eat breakfast.
- If your student is not eating breakfast, the building will open at 7:55am for parent drop off of students.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

### **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

- Pawnee employs a school nurse to assist with student health needs. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19, to other people. For more information on staying home when sick with COVID-19, including recommendations for mask use for people experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, see Quarantine and Isolation. Universal case investigation and contact tracing are no longer recommended for COVID-19.
- If a student/employee tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home for a minimum of 5 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from positive viral test for asymptomatic persons.
- Individuals may return to school after five days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved, and any coughing has significantly subsided.
- The updated ISBE/IDPH guidance provides that individuals may return after 5 days if they have consistent masking upon return.
- Based on the current state of litigation, individuals will be encouraged to wear a mask and, to the extent possible, maintain 6 feet apart when eating/mask off.
- Student absences related to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as an excused absence.
- To ensure the continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy; social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs.
- The updated guidance from ISBE/IDPH provides that unvaccinated close contacts should quarantine for five days and mask for an additional 5 days and fully vaccinated individuals can come to school but should wear a mask for 10 days after exposure.
- However, it is our legal opinion that schools should not implement mandatory exclusion for asymptomatic individuals or require masks at this time.

### **Promoting Vaccination**

- Students will be required to meet health, dental, and vision examinations as required by state law.
- Pawnee CUSD #11 promotes staying up to date with all routine vaccinations.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

### **Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs**

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager and/or SASED Administrator to discuss the need(s).
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s).
- Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

### **Collaboration with Public Health Officials**

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Sangamon County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

### **Diagnostic Testing**

- If supplies are available, Pawnee CUSD #11 will offer voluntary diagnostic testing which is intended to identify current infection in individuals and should be performed on anyone that has signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and/or following recent known or suspected exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Schools and ECE programs can promote and offer diagnostic testing for people with symptoms of COVID-19 or who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If people who have COVID-19 are identified early and isolated at home, schools and ECE programs can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Choice of viral tests can include laboratory-based testing, point-of-care rapid testing, or self-testing.

### **Continuity of Services and Other Student Needs Students' Academic Needs**

- All students will return to school five (5) days a week of in-person instruction.
- All students must meet all graduation and statutory requirements for curriculum (i.e. Constitution examination).
- For students with medical issues that require them to remain home for a non-quarantined longer period of time, that student would be eligible under Section 14-13.01(a) of the School Code. School Code indicates that services are to be provided when a homebound

or hospitalized student is unable to attend school due to a condition certified by a medical statement that indicates that the student will or is anticipated, due to the student's medical condition, to be out of school for a minimum of 10 days of school with at least two days at a time multiple times during the school year for two weeks or more or on an "ongoing intermittent basis," which are expected to total 10 days or more.

### **Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

- District employs that need help addressing issues related to the COVID-19 should contact their building administrator.
- Families have been asked to provide appropriate information to the school to help identify where mental health is needed for individual students.
- The district has a partnership with Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center.
- Additional support may be made available through reference to an outside agency partner. For employees, the district has an Employee Assistance Program.
- In addition to these resources, Safe2Help Illinois is available to students and parents. This is a safe and confidential way to report any student safety concerns. The Helpline can be accessed by calling 844-472-3345, texting SAFE2, or emailing [HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com](mailto:HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com).
- The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available 24 hours a day for any person that is in a suicidal or emotional distress. Call 800-273-8255 to connect with a crisis center.

### **Food Services**

- Food service program will continue to offer breakfast and lunch to all students in accordance with USDA.

### **Plan Review**

- Through September 30, 2024, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input.
- Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.