



Healthy at School Guidance for Paris Independent In-Person Learning Fall 2021

The return to in-person instruction for K-12 students is a priority at Paris Independent. The purpose of this document is to provide information on prevention strategies that help protect students, teachers, and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19 in K-12 schools based on updated [CDC guidelines](#) (7/9/2021). This guidance emphasizes the implementation of layered prevention strategies to protect individuals who are not fully vaccinated and appropriate, layered prevention strategies to return to in-person learning when school begins on August 11, 2021..

Prevention strategies

SARS-CoV-2 transmission in K-12 schools is largely influenced by disease incidence in the community and evidence from the 2020-2021 school year suggests K-12 schools can safely open for in-person instruction when layered prevention strategies are implemented collaboratively by local public health officials and school administrators. Factors to be considered include:

- ★ Level of [community transmission of COVID-19](#) and occurrence of outbreaks in the school or community.
- ★ [COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community](#) and among students, teachers, and staff.

8/5/2021 Updated layered prevention strategies include:

Covid-19 continues to impact our city, state and nation. With the recent increase in Covid-19 cases and positivity rate and in consultation with the Bourbon County Health Department, local doctors, state health officials, the Governor and the CDC, Paris Independent Schools will move forward with in person learning on August 11th with the following guidelines in place:

1. **Promote and offer vaccination** to help increase the proportion of students (12 years of age or older), teachers, staff, and family members who are vaccinated.
2. Require ALL students and staff to wear a mask on buses and inside buildings when students are present (Doctor note opt out?). [unless otherwise exempted \(e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability or a note from a doctor\).](#)
3. Set up classroom and common area spaces to maintain social distancing of 3 feet or more when possible.
4. Schedule frequent outdoor mask breaks throughout the school day where 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained.

We believe that these steps will help to minimize the number of positive case transmissions and quarantines to allow us to continue with in person learning in a safe manner. We will continue to monitor the status of the

virus in our community and will adjust our protocols and plans accordingly based upon the latest information and guidance from local and state health officials.

5. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Ensure adequate supplies and opportunities for hand hygiene.

6. Ensure sick students, teachers, or staff stay home if they are having fever and/or symptoms of COVID-19, including:

- Fever or feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating)
- New cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

7. Ensure persons who test positive for COVID-19 self-isolate away from school for 10 days after the start of their illness (or testing date)

or otherwise follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.

8. Direct sick persons to a health care provider to be tested and instructed to isolate at home until they receive their test result. Sick students, teachers, or staff who are not tested for COVID-19 may return when their symptoms resolve. Consider implementing a program to offer on-site rapid COVID-19 testing for sick students, teachers, or staff.

9. Quarantine and contact tracing: Schools will work with the local health department to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious.

- **Exception:** In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least ≥ 3 feet away from an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks and other K-12 prevention strategies were in place. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure occurred within or outside of the school setting. [Quarantine may be discontinued](#) when the local public health department determines the individual is safe to be around others or:

- After day 7 if the individual is symptom-free and receives a negative COVID-19 test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case.
- After day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom-free.

Fully-vaccinated* persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms.

10. Cleaning and disinfection to the greatest extent possible. In general, cleaning once a day is enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces.

11. Additional Precautions

- At the principal's discretion, nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities with people who are not fully vaccinated are limited, particularly when there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 transmission in the community.
- Layered prevention strategies for school-sponsored sports and extracurricular activities will be implemented and continued from the 2020-21 school year based on guidance from the [KHSAA](#).
- Levels of community transmission may be used as a factor for determining the implementation of layered prevention strategies. Community transmission is defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%).