Reopening Plan
In-person Learning Model and Safety Plans

Palouse School District
2021–2022
The goal of this plan is to provide a framework for the Palouse School District to reopen for the 2021-2022 school year; following DOH, OSPI, and CDC guidelines around the Covid-19 Pandemic. The objectives are to:

• Provide the most effective educational opportunities for all students.
• Have all students safely attend our school.
• Adhere to SEL and Academic needs of all students
• Partner with our communities to provide sound academic services

Primary Local Health Officer:

Chris Skidmore, Director of Public Health, 509-397-6280
Bill Tensfeld, Director of Emergency Management, 509-397-5605

District Level Point of Contact(s):

Mike Jones (Superintendent/Principal) / mjones@garpal.net / (509) 288-2630
Ariel Merrell (Nurse) / palousenurse@garpal.net / (509) 878-1921
Alicia Pitsilionis (Nurse) / palousenurse@garpal.net / (509) 878-1921
Shyra Hallan (Secretary) / shallan@garpal.net / (509) 878-1921

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES AND PLANS
Palouse School District Opening
2021/2022 School Year
IN-PERSON EDUCATION

SAFETY SUMMARY

Beginning the School Day – Doors will Open at 8:00 am
• Students riding the bus will be dropped off in front of the school
  • High School will enter the building using the West High School Entrance
  • Elementary will use the East Firelane to go to morning Bus Recess (7:45 – 8:00 am)
    • Weather Permitting: Playground Outside
    • Poor Weather/Air Quality: Upper Gymnasium/Building
• Students not riding the bus will line up wearing masks and distance
  • High School will enter the building using the West High School Entrance
  • Elementary will use the Firelane to go to the exterior entrances of their classroom
    • Arrival before 8:00 should join students at morning recess (7:45 – 8:00 am)
• Students who answer yes to any questions in the health screening or have a temperature above 100.4 will be sent home.
• Students who pass the health screening will proceed into the building / to their classroom

During the School Day
• Students & staff will wear masks, wash hands often, and stay distanced
• Students and staff will follow safe processes for hallway, recess and meals
• Students who show symptoms will be isolated and sent home
• Classroom furniture will be arranged to maintain physical distancing
• Staff will frequently clean high touch areas.
• Windows will be open as much as possible to improve ventilation.
• Health and isolation rooms will follow guidelines for cleaning and PPE.

Ending the School Day
• Students will follow safe processes for exiting the school and boarding buses.
• Students will follow the same safe bus procedures
• Staff clean and disinfect the school following guidelines and protocols.
BUS TRANSPORTATION
- Students waiting for the bus will be encouraged to physical distance wearing a mask.
- When the bus arrives, students will board the bus and be assigned a seat.
- Students will sit one to a seat when possible, siblings may sit together
- Masks are required on the Bus

PARENT DROP OFF
Students who are dropped off by a parent may go their exterior classroom door (elementary) or the High School entrance
- Students will line up maintaining physical distancing and wearing masks for screening. If a child doesn’t have a mask, one will be provided for them.
- A student who answers yes to any questionnaire question or has a temperature of 100.4° F will be isolated and home will be contacted.
- Teachers will perform a secondary check at the classroom and complete the log to submit to the office.

STAFF
Staff will sign in and attest to their health at the office each morning.
FACE COVERINGS

Wearing cloth face coverings help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is required for staff, students and visitors in the building.

- Students should arrive with a face covering to school. If they do not bring one, one will be provided for them.
- Students do not have to wear a mask when outside.
- Masks must be worn correctly, covering the nose and mouth.
- Even when cloth face coverings are worn, continue practicing physical distancing.
- Younger students should be supervised when wearing a cloth face covering and may need help putting them on.
- Cloth face coverings that cover both nose and mouth are acceptable
  - Cloth masks are recommended
  - “Gators” are acceptable covers worn correctly over the nose and mouth (per WCDOH)

*Cloth face coverings should not be worn by:
- Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
- Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and those who provide instruction to such people, and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
- Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.
- A physician’s note must accompany staff and/or students not wearing a cloth face mask and verified by the school nurse.

In rare circumstances when a cloth face covering cannot be worn, students and staff may use a clear face covering or a face shield with a drape or wrap. If used, face shields should extend below the chin, wrap around to the ears, and have no gap at the forehead.
THREE FEET
• Three feet of physical distancing will be encouraged and maintained through the building.
• Physical spaces will be utilized differently to assure physical distancing between all people in the building.
• Within this framework it must be understood there may be limited times when students and/or staff may need to be within three feet for short periods of time.

CLASSROOMS
• Classrooms arranged to have students sitting at least three feet apart
• No small groupings where physical distancing can not be maintained
• Markings on the floor may be used to help indicate travel patterns and where to stand
• The school recommends providing your student with a water bottle
  • Water fountains will not be used (*Bottle Fill-up stations will be available*)

COMMON AREAS
• Markers may be used in areas where people may need to wait in line.
  • School entry
  • Restrooms
  • Exterior doors
  • Cafeteria
IN-PERSON EDUCATION
HYGIENE PRACTICES

• Students will be provided sanitizer when they board the bus or at their arrival screening at school.
• Younger students will be instructed by their teacher’s proper hand washing techniques.
• Students should wash hands:
  • Enter the classroom
  • Before meals or snacks
  • After outside time
  • After using the bathroom
  • After blowing their nose or sneezing
  • Before leaving to go home
• Try not to touch eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Cover coughs or sneezes. Masks should not be removed to cough or sneeze.
• School supplies will not be shared
• Teaching materials will be limited to items that can be easily disinfected.
  • Books and paper-based material are not considered high risk for viral spread.
• Lockers and locker rooms will be used for the 2021-2022 school year.
• Specialists will have the opportunity to have students in their rooms (Music, Art, Library, etc)
  • Teachers will disinfect classroom/materials
  • Use outside travel patterns as much as possible
The school will follow specific guidance that describes safe cleaning and disinfection practices for schools/public spaces to ensure cleanliness and safety.

**RESTROOMS/LOCKER ROOMS**
- Will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, including all high touch areas such as door handles, flush buttons and levers, counters, sinks, and light switches.
- Will be stocked with soap and paper towels daily.
- Should be cleaned and disinfected twice a day.

**BOTTLE FILLERS**
Drinking fountains will not be used; Bottle Fillers will be cleaned and disinfected, including all buttons and levers at least twice daily.

**KEYBOARDS AND OTHER SENSITIVE ELECTRONICS**
Alcohol wipes will be used to clean keyboards and other sensitive electronics as needed. This will take place in the classroom during the school day by teachers and students.

**PLAYGROUNDS** Outdoor playground equipment should not be sprayed with disinfectant. Outdoor equipment should be cleaned as needed.

**SOFT (POROUS) SURFACES**
Surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes require only routine cleaning appropriate for the surface.

**HIGH TOUCH AND TRAFFIC AREAS**
All high touch and traffic areas will be cleaned consistently throughout the day.
IN-PERSON EDUCATION

MEALS

BREAKFAST
   Elementary:
      • “Grab and Go” breakfast will be offered upon entrance to the building or classroom.
      • Eat in the classroom.
   High School:
      • No Breakfast Service / Brunch will be served at 9:50 mid-morning break

LUNCH
   Elementary
      • School lunches will be eaten in the classrooms for Elementary
   High School
      • Campus will be “open” this year
      • Cafeteria will be used for hot lunch
      • Classrooms may also be used
         * Spacing should be observed in all locations *
IN-PERSON EDUCATION

EVENT RESPONSE

The district will work with state and local health authorities to address students or staff who become ill at school, communicate with families about potential or verified exposure to COVID-19 and when to quarantine students and staff in response to a potential or verified exposure to COVID-19.

IF A STUDENT SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF COVID
- Student will be removed from class and asked to wait in a designated area until they can be picked up by an authorized person.
- Local health authority will be notified and will advise on next steps.
- The person with symptoms should follow the department of health guidance for what to do if you have symptoms for COVID-19 and have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their family should notify the school.

RETURN TO SCHOOL
- Follow School Nurse/Health Department Guidance using the Whitman County Public Health, COVID-19 Decision Tree (below).

If a person believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms.
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

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. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Disease prevalence in Whitman County activity level is updated every Monday on the Whitman County Public Health website and can be found at: whitmancountypublichealth.org/case-data

LOW

- Molecular (PCR) negative
- Return to school following existing school illness management policies so long as they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and subject to quarantine

- Molecular (PCR) positive
- Follow isolation criteria

- Antigen (rapid) negative
- Confirmatory molecular (PCR) not necessary
- Return to school following existing school illness management policies so long as they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and subject to quarantine

- Antigen (rapid) positive
- Follow isolation criteria

MEDIUM

- Molecular (PCR) negative
- Return to school following existing school illness management policies so long as they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and subject to quarantine

- Molecular (PCR) positive
- Follow isolation criteria

- Antigen (rapid) negative
- Follow isolation criteria

- Antigen (rapid) positive
- Follow isolation criteria

HIGH

- Molecular (PCR) negative
- Return to school following existing school illness management policies so long as they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and subject to quarantine

- Molecular (PCR) positive
- Follow isolation criteria

- Antigen (rapid) negative
- Follow isolation criteria

- Antigen (rapid) positive
- Follow isolation criteria