

Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District
Department of Special Services

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Mr. Sage Schmidt, MPA
Director of Special Services

Deborah Clair (ext. 1131)
CST Secretary

August 24, 2021

Dear Penns Grove-Carneys Point RSD Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited to see our staff and students back in-person for the start of the 2021-2022 school year beginning on September, 7, 2021. We want to remind everyone about our Safe Return Plan and specific protocols that are being implemented in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the highlights of our Safe Restart Plan. You can find the entire Safe Return Plan on our school website at www.pgcpsschools.org.

Returning to in-person learning: Mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection protocols, frequent hand washing, and staying home if/when you are sick, are the primary mitigating measures that will be in place and that are imperative to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Parent Acknowledgment: We are asking all parents to monitor their child(ren) daily for COVID-19 symptoms/exposure BEFORE sending them to school. If your child(ren) are experiencing new compatible symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 over the past 10 days, keep your child(ren) home and notify the school nurse.

Temperature Checks: All staff and students will have their temperature taken daily upon arrival to their school/building

Mask Mandate: The PGCPRSD requires that masks be worn in classrooms, academic and administrative buildings, office settings, school buses, and when physical distancing is not possible on school grounds. The PGCPRSD will adhere to the most conservative elements of local, state, and federal guidelines regarding our protocols for universal and correct mask-wearing. Students, teachers, and staff will have access to additional disposable or cloth masks in case a back-up mask is needed (e.g. mask is soiled or lost during the day). Face shields or eye protection may be worn by any staff or student but are not required. Face shields DO NOT substitute for a face mask.

All staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of school buildings. Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some individuals; however, mask use is required for all individuals in indoor school settings with some exemptions.

School Day: During periods of low or moderate community transmission, the District will implement physical distancing recommendations to the maximum degree that allows our schools to offer full in-person learning. During periods of high community transmission, if maximal social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, our District will prioritize other prevention measures including utilizing desk shields as a physical barrier between students.

Hand Washing: The PGCPRSD has school-wide plans where students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, utilizing hand sanitizer should be used.

Cleaning and Disinfecting: The PGCPRSD will undertake enhanced cleaning of school facilities and offices, with a focus on common areas and high-touch locations. Cleaning schedules have been modified according to student schedules.

Contact Tracing: School staff will identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. As with any other communicable disease outbreak, PGCPRSD will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the Salem County Department of Health. With guidance from the Salem Department of Health, PGCPRSD will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality. The Salem Department of Health contact tracing teams will notify and interview the close contacts identified outside of the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.

When Illness Occurs in the School Setting: Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Individuals will be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider for further examination. Persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing and provide the results to the school nurse.

Please note that home testing kits that provide the user with their results are not accepted for the purpose of returning to school prior to an individual's isolation or quarantine timeframe. COVID-19 testing results must be provided from a certified laboratory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sage R. Schmidt", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Sage R. Schmidt, MPA
Director of Special Services
Penns Grove - Carneys Point Regional School District