



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #12 – Week of June 22, 2020

Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community

1. Will students have to wear face masks?

Yes, the [Governor's June 18, 2020 order](#) requires all students over the age of two to wear face coverings at school while indoors and on school buses. PVUSD was planning on purchasing face shields for our students, however, with this new CA Dept of Public Health order, shields would no longer comply with the requirements. Therefore, all students and staff except for the following exemptions will be required to wear face masks while in class:

- Persons age two years or under. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

2. Will 3 years old with special needs have to wear a face masks/face shield while at school? What will happen if they don't keep it on or have behavior over it?

Based on the new state guidance, children with a medical condition or disability, which could include a medical diagnosis of autism, a global developmental delay, or a physical health problem are exempt from wearing a face covering. Children with special needs will be given the opportunity to wear a face covering or face shield at school, but they will not be required to wear either device in order to attend. The CA Dept of Public Health new guidance for the use of face coverings states that the following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Persons age two years or under. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

3. I have 2 questions that I hope can be answered. First, as a stay at home parent I'm concerned after the last Q&A was put out and you addressed childcare for children where both parents work full time. Does that mean that elementary school, like preschool, will have an option for them to remain there all day? I personally don't feel competent to fill in the educational gaps that I've had to already. Second, when it comes to not just class time, but therapies will there

be options for face to face meetings if distance methods don't seem to be working? I'm concerned that my children who receive therapies will not get the attention they need.

We are looking at various solutions to provide limited childcare options for elementary age students when they are not in school if we have alternating in-person schedules. We are looking at a combination of PVUSD staff as well as community partners to provide this childcare support for our families. Students will begin to receive their services such as physical therapy and speech therapy once again in person using safety protocols such as physical distancing and protective transparent barriers when necessary.

- 4. I strongly feel that we should have the option to either send our child to school or keep our child home and home school. Why are the plans leaning toward splitting days and some sort of hybrid of in classroom and digital classroom?**

PVUSD is looking at options such as splitting days in an effort to comply with health guidelines. As those guidelines change, we will transition to other scenarios which will allow for more in classroom instruction and continue to protect the health and safety of staff and students.

- 5. Will kids be able to bring backpacks and water bottles to school if it is open for Fall?**

New information around COVID-19 is showing that the disease is not easily spread through inanimate objects. Therefore, the students will be able to bring personal belongings such as backpacks and water bottles to be used for personal use. We do still encourage students to minimize what they bring to school as the materials will need to be stored within their own desk space.

- 6. I understand daily temperature checks will be required. Will this be for both adults and students? Who will be taking the temperatures? If an adult or child has a high temperature, will they be sent home? Thank you.**

The CDC recommends a daily health screening take place before students and staff are able to be on the school campus or before entering the school buses. The student screening consists of three parts. First, the student's temperature will be taken with a no-touch thermometer. Second, the student or parent will be asked if the student has been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19. Third, the student or parent will be asked if they have any specific symptoms of COVID-19. If the temperature is less than 100.4 and there are no symptoms, the student will be able to pass into the classroom. All of this information is confidential. If the student is found to have a temperature or any symptoms of COVID-19, they will be taken home by their parents and asked to talk with their primary care medical provider.

Staff members will be trained by the school nurses on how to do the screenings, both taking the temperature and asking the appropriate questions. The staff members doing the screenings will have the appropriate PPE and be monitored by the school nurses.

Staff will take their temperature at home and then answer questions on a check-in sheet when they arrive at work. All of this information is confidential. If the staff member has a temperature, they are to stay home and talk with their primary care medical provider regarding next steps.

A procedure has been written and is still being finalized on what will occur if either a student or a staff member develops a fever or symptoms at school. The draft procedures outline that individuals will be screened and cared for in the health office until a parent can come to pick them up. Parents will be told to please be available to pick up their child as soon as possible. If the staff member is unable to drive themselves home, 911 will be called. The health office personnel will be wearing the appropriate PPE.

- 7. Will a form of virtual academy such as the proposed one for K-8 also be an option for preschool age children? Such as students with special needs that attend Duncan Holbert and any of you early childhood centers?**

Duncan Holbert Pre School and Early Start program will continue to have an option of Distance Learning for students who are too chronically ill to attend school. Staff will continue to provide ongoing virtual check-ins for these students focusing on supporting goal work and skills in a home setting. A goal matrix will be created for each student that is not attending school in person and parent training will be offered.

- 8. Will staff that works in preschool setting also have the option to continue to work from home through distance learning?**

Our Early Childhood centers are designed to offer direct in-person educational and childcare services to families. Based on County Health Department orders and current level of restrictions, PVUSD is required through the funding source to open our centers, offering much needed direct onsite services to meet the needs of the community. All site staff will be needed at centers to support these services. The Early Childhood (ECE) department including Migrant Seasonal Head Start, will continue following PVUSD Human Resources policies and procedures for staff unable to work at a site.

- 9. Teachers will no doubt be held to certain standards in ensuring continued education online. However, many teachers experienced a major challenge during distance learning with lack of parent support at home. If a child has an unfortunate home situation and/or does not have an adult at home that will/can support them in DL, how can we make sure that child does not miss out on their education? Will there be any sort of parent contract ensuring the participation of their child in Distance Learning? Will there be home visits to "at risk" students who are not engaging in DL and are not responsive to teacher communications?**

During this time period we understand parents are struggling to support their student and we also recognize that parent outreach was not uniform. The PVUSD Contingency Plan contains a robust communication section that allows for bi-directional communication at each level within our organization: students, families, staff, and site and district administration. This will continue to include different forms of communication in multiple languages. The district will also continue to use a Student Interactive Dialogue process to help identify students in need of additional supports. Progress with supports will be monitored and altered as needed. An example of one of the possible additional outreach supports will be home visits within the safety guidelines.

- 10. Who will be making up the "Student Wellness Teams" that you mentioned in the contingency plan? I feel that this will be a hugely needed team and critically important in getting some families involved. Will the teams be site specific or district lead? I also believe it would be beneficial to have a team that works solely with parents on how to support distance learning, maybe that could be the same team.**

Student Wellness Teams will have two levels: A Site Team and a District Team. A Site Team which will include the stakeholders selected to address individual student needs. The Site Team is intended to include: teachers, site administrator, counselor, nurse, attendance, PBIS leads, and any other site personnel that can assist in the variety of student supports that could arise. This site level team will be communicating with the District level team led by Student Services. They will lead the Student Interactive Dialogue process for additional supports. These supports may include additional outreach and support from Migrant, Extended Learning, English Learner, Special Education, Homeless and Foster, Child Welfare and Attendance, Parent Outreach and Social Emotional Counselors.