



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #31 – Week of November 09, 2020

*Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.*

**1. Will all students and staff have to wear masks while at school?**

Yes, except for a limited number of exemptions, all students and staff will be required to wear masks at school. There are three levels of health orders that the district looks at when creating COVID 19 health guidelines: the local county health department, the Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, is the final authority, then the California Department of Public Health, and finally the Center for Disease Control, which is the federal health department. The county and state have mandated that all people, over the age of 2 years, wear a mask. The only exceptions which will require substantiation are as follows:

A face covering is also not required by this Order to be worn by a particular individual if the person can show either: (1) a medical professional has advised that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to the person wearing the face covering for health-related reasons; or (2) 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. A face covering should also not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

**2. How will PVUSD keep my children safe if other kids in the room take off their masks in the classroom, bathrooms or other shared spaces? Will children that remove masks be immediately sent home or will they potentially have a grace period for exposing other students?**

As with all behavioral expectations at school, they are positively reinforced through reminders, routines, incentives, and consequences when necessary. When students are not using their masks properly, they will be redirected and managed as with other desired behaviors. Keeping the students safe at school involves several protection methods along with the wearing of masks:

- Maintaining 6 feet or more of physical distancing by desk arrangement, floor signage when students are in a line, limit the number of students in the playground, smaller class size, etc.
- Handwashing or using hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the classroom, touching another person's possessions, using the restroom, etc.
- Opening windows and doors, utilizing HEPA filter machines, and having HEPA filters in the heating and cooling system
- Not having meals at school by having students take the food home
- Having extra child sized masks available on school campuses
- Having size appropriate face shields to be worn with the mask
- Daily morning health screening done before students enter the bus or classroom
- Enlarging site health offices to provide isolation areas for ill students

- Telling all staff, parents, and students to NOT come to school if they are ill, anyone in their household is ill, or if they have had any contact with a COVID positive person ‘
- Disinfecting all school spaces daily after the students return home by using a mister disinfection system
- Organizing hallways so that students all walk in the same direction, i.e. one-way corridors

**3. Santa Cruz County is back to a more restrictive tier, Red, but we are very close to being in the most restrictive tier, Purple. How will this impact what happens in January? 48 hour notice isn't enough time for staff or parents to plan out. Will you be allowed to reopen if we are in the most restrictive tier, Purple? How will you ensure the safety of staff and students with such high numbers? Especially in Watsonville.**

PVUSD is guided by local health conditions and any significant change related to COVID-19 will dictate which instructional models are implemented and when. For example, a spike in confirmed positive cases could cause Santa Cruz County to return to Purple (Widespread) on the State Index requiring us to stay in the Distance Learning instructional mode. The Contingency Plan for Reopening Schools created in collaboration with PVUSD, PVFT and CSEA this past summer and continued these last several months, poised us to be able to swiftly shift from one mode of instruction to another in a way that best supports student engagement, participation and learning while ensuring the health and safety of students, staff and our community.

**4. As cases of COVID-19 are rising all across the country, why is it even a consideration of the possibility of students going back to school? There is still no vaccine and just asking the medical questions, taking temperatures and looking for symptoms does not guarantee that a person doesn't have COVID-19. We still don't know the long term effects and we are potentially putting a lot of people at risk. I am very concerned about the staff and students wellbeing. When will the district make a final decision on whether students and staff will be going back on campus? Thank you for your time.**

We are committed to returning back to schools physically only when local health conditions allow for a safe return. To ensure that we are prepared for a return, PVUSD system-wide preparations for in person instruction is well underway. We are finalizing surveillance testing with Stanford University which will begin December 2, 2020, Personal Protection Equipment is stored at all sites and ready for students and staff arrival, we have trained staff on contact tracing and are developing health education for students and families which will be released in the next several weeks to prepare for our return. For each school site, we have created a Return to School Readiness Index that includes factors such as HVAC/Air Circulation, Preparation of Classrooms, Signage, Transportation, Nutrition Services, Health and Safety Education, and Communication Systems. The goal of the Return to School Readiness Index is to ensure that our students, staff and schools are ready when the overall County health conditions improve to the point that we can safely return and all other required criteria are met. We are working with the Contingency Planning Team to finalize plans with the goal of communicating our plan for January with parents, staff and community the first week of December.

**5. I hope PVUSD is looking at COVID numbers and statistics when it comes to opening up schools in January. With that being said, Monterey County numbers are higher than Santa Cruz County, PVUSD has Hall District, Ohlone, Pajaro MS, WHS and some alternative HS sites that have students enrolled from Monterey County, What are you doing about those schools? Are those schools in your list to open up? and what schools are set to open in January?**

PVUSD is in weekly collaboration with Santa Cruz Public Health and is closely monitoring COVID-19 numbers. The three schools, Pajaro Middle School, Ohlone Elementary and Hall District Elementary, which are in Monterey County must adhere to the health restrictions placed on Monterey County. We are in touch with Monterey County Health regarding health restrictions and in person instruction guidance. All other PVUSD schools and the students who attend those schools must adhere to the health restrictions and in person instruction guidance placed on Santa Cruz County schools.

**6. When I have completed the surveys sent out by the district or the school site, I have been asked about mental health and social-emotional support. I have always responded I would like to know more about these services, but I still do not see anything offered. What does this mean? Would the students receive more support through the computer or are there other services available to our students and families? Thank you for your time.**

We heard from our parents and community that they were not aware of all of the social emotional support available to our students and families. For that reason, we created on both the district main webpage and each school site found at <https://www.pvUSD.net/selresources> information on all of the various services and supports available to our families. Below is a screen shot of the resource page:

Home / Departments / Student Services / Social Emotional Resources/ Recursos Socioemocionales




STUDENT SERVICES
GENERAL INFO
District Office Contacts
Socio-Emotional Counselors
Student Services Resources
Enrollment Forms
Healthy Start Program
Students in Transition
Foster Youth
LGRTQ Students
Social Emotional Resources/ Recursos Socioemocionales

NEED HELP?  
NECESITA AYUDA?



Here are phone numbers to call  
[Aquí están los números de teléfono para llamar](#)

### Social Emotional Resources/ Recursos Socioemocionales

Resources/ Recursos	For Students / Para Estudiantes	For Families / Para Familias	For Educators / Para Educadores
 <b>PVPSA</b> Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) provides counseling services to children and families of Pajaro Valley and neighboring Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. <i>Prevención y Asistencia Estudiantil del Valle de Pájaro (PVPSA) proporciona servicios de consejería a niños y familias del Valle de Pajaro y los condados vecinos de Santa Cruz y Monterey.</i>	✓	✓	✓
 <b>STOPIT</b> STOPIT is the nation's leading Anonymous Reporting System that teaches and empowers individuals to recognize and anonymously report safety, misconduct, and compliance concerns BEFORE they escalate into a crisis or other legal matter. <i>STOPIT es el principal sistema de denuncias anónimas del país que enseña y faculta a las personas para que reconozcan y denuncien de forma anónima las preocupaciones sobre seguridad, mala conducta y cumplimiento ANTES de que se conviertan en una crisis u otro asunto legal.</i>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Resources/ Recursos</b>	For Students / Para Estudiantes	For Families / Para Familias	For Educators / Para Educadores
 <b>Alliance for a Healthier Generation</b> For nearly every school and family, the back-to-school season looks and feels very different this year. Here you will find a selection of free, evidence-based resources designed to support you and your students or children in reducing stress, eating healthy, moving regularly, getting quality sleep, and more, whether school is taking place in-person or virtually.		✓	✓

**7. What were the October survey results?**

We recently sent out a survey to teachers, families and students seeking their input on increased in-person instruction starting in January. The results of the 7,032 responses can be seen on the chart below. The most important considerations list the top three out of 8 choices.

Increasing In Person Instruction Survey Data-October 2020				
PREFERENCE FOR JANUARY 2021 (%)	STUDENTS	PARENTS	STAFF	
Distance learning only with teachers delivering standardized course content virtually	31%	36%	59%	
Hybrid mode at school adhering to the guidelines set forth by the California Department of Public Health	63%	59%	39%	
Enroll or participate in the PVUSD Virtual Academy	6%	5%	2%	
MOST IMPORTANT JAN 2021 CONSIDERATIONS (ranking)	STUDENTS	PARENTS	STAFF	
Minimizing health risks of students and staff	1	1	1	
Consistency for how students engage in learning	3	2	2	
Students, families and staff adequately trained to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission	2	3	3	
	RESPONSES	STUDENTS	PARENTS	STAFF
	7032	1271	4650	1111

**8. Will staff members be able to get their COVID-19 test at another testing location (clinic, community-based site, etc.) rather than doing the “self-swab” test at their school site?**

Yes, staff members may use the District provided Stanford mobile testing unit, a self-swab at home kit or obtain an authorized COVID-19 test at another testing location, but results must be shared in a substantiated form with PVUSD immediately upon receipt.

**9. Can staff get tested more frequently than every two months?**

Yes, staff will be required to test only every two months. However, they are able to test as often as they deem necessary by scheduling an additional test through the mobile testing unit or through District insurance. Only positive results will be reported to PVUSD.

**10. Thank you for answering all our questions and being so responsive! I truly am awed by your commitment to collaboration and transparency. In a previous " Did you know?" you said this---"Two weeks ago, the PVUSD Board of Trustees approved the agreement to provide certificated staff with a \$300 stipend to support the cost of high-speed internet between August and December within teachers’ homes." ---- My question is: my colleagues and I at WASCAE (Adult School) did receive a check for \$150 and it is much appreciated. Were we given a lesser amount than other teachers? And if so what is the reasoning behind that decision? Thank you!**

Please know the amount for any PVFT member who is providing asynchronous support to students was \$300 to be paid in two installments, one in October and the second in December. Adult Education teachers who filled out the form to receive the payment received the first half in October and will receive the second half in December. Rest assured that all PVFT members received the same amount for supporting our students during distance learning.