



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #46 – Week of April 5, 2021

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

- 1. I keep hearing that you are testing high school athletes. Is that true? Can people attend the games?**
In order for student athletes to play indoor, high contact sports such as basketball and wrestling, the student athletes must be tested twice a week using a PCR test. PVUSD has begun the testing of athletes involved in those sports so they can play their season. On Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the Sports Guidance from the California Department of Health was once again updated and can be found at the following link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx>. The new guidance allows for spectators as noted below:

For all youth and adult outdoor sports, spectators and observers are permitted pursuant to [Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances](#). Spectators and observers for indoor sports is limited to observation of youth sports (age 18 years and under), and is further limited to immediate household members for the strict purpose of age appropriate supervision. This prohibition shall remain in effect until such time as Indoor Seated Live Events and Performance Guidance is posted and becomes effective.
- 2. Will students have to take the SBAC Assessment this year?**
No, the State Board of Education successfully negotiated testing flexibilities with the U.S. Department of Education, making the case for use of acceptable local assessments in lieu of Smarter Balanced assessments (SBA) for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. In February, the PVUSD Board of Trustees, by resolution, set the district on the path to using local alternative assessments if allowed. As such, the District will be using the *NWEA-MAP Growth* assessments in lieu of SBA assessments for the 2020-21 school year.

The *NWEA-MAP* tests will be administered remotely this spring as done earlier this school year. Testing will be scheduled during morning distance learning sessions so as not to take away from in-person instruction. Arrangements will be made for students with unreliable Internet to be brought to school during the morning session in order to complete testing.
- 3. How is pick-up and drop-off going to go? Most schools are in residential areas, and with the required screening at drop-off what will be done to prevent traffic issues?**
Pick up and drop off at the sites has been going very well. Some challenges we have been experiencing has been due to road construction occurring close to the school sites. The construction companies are trying to work alternate hours to lessen the impact now that we are back to in-person learning. PVUSD has put in multiple solutions to ensure that the required screening of students as they arrive on campus is done quickly and effectively. All students have received or will receive on the first day that they attend in-person instruction an identification card with a lanyard linked to the home screening application that they should be doing on their Chromebook at home prior to coming to school. Information on the home screening can be found at PVUSD's website, <https://reopening.pvUSD.net/home-symptom-screening>. By doing the health screening at home, we are able to quickly move through the site's screening of students as well as the taking of temperatures with the thermal scanners. We have also painted traffic flow patterns symbols so that students know where to go and how to remain physically distant from each other.

4. What instruction will be given during the afternoon? Is a student who opted out of going to after school going to miss out on class instruction? Is a student who opted in just taking additional instruction that is not required for their core classes. Your explanation on 'return to classroom' doesn't make sense. Please clarify what high school students will be doing on campus and if they are performing well do they need to go?

Yes, we believe that all students will benefit from the in-person instruction. Afternoon instruction at the secondary level is subject specific. This means that teachers will be providing lessons that facilitate student growth in the subject area. These could be lessons that re-engage a concept not mastered by students during the morning or it could be an extension learning for students demonstrating they have mastered skills and content presented. Several teachers are also taking the opportunity to have students access peer collaboration and projects as well as labs that could not easily be done virtually. We also recognize the social emotional benefits for students to be able to see and interact with other students in the learning environment. For the elementary level, teachers have been provided suggested areas to focus on and how to prioritize this time. Classroom instruction may include social emotional learning, literacy, math, language development, and connections through live peer to peer interactions. Our goal is to provide additional opportunities to accelerate social emotional and academic growth in students who are accessing in-person instruction.

5. What if my child has a medical exemption regarding wearing a mask and wishes to attend in person class?

In accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) there are some individuals who are exempt from wearing a mask (see below guidance). PVUSD has a face mask exemption form that must be completed prior to students attending school. This form is to be reviewed and completed by the student's primary care physician. If you believe your child needs an exemption form, please contact Special Services, your site principal, school nurse, or special education teacher.

Once the form is complete, please turn it into your site administrator for review. With the completed form signed by the doctor, school nurse and administrator your child will be able to attend school in person with accommodations to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Even though we know some individuals are exempt from wearing a mask, we are making every attempt to support all students to wear a mask at school as much as possible. Some of the things we are doing to support mask wearing include: providing clear masks for students that are hearing impaired, sensory friendly masks for students that may have a hard time tolerating typical face masks, providing social stories and videos for students to support understanding and tolerating mask wearing. We will continue to work with students and families to support mask wearing at school.

The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times:

- Persons younger than two years old. 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. Such conditions are rare.
- 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.

6. Will there be in-person graduation ceremonies this year?

Yes, we plan on holding in-person graduation ceremonies this year for our seniors. On March 26, 2021, California Department of Public Health released new guidance on commencement ceremonies that will allow us to hold in-person graduations. Below is an excerpt from the guidance:

Across all Tiers: All commencement ceremonies must adhere to the following requirements and modifications:

- All attendees, including school staff, performers, students and families are counted toward any occupancy capacity limit.
- If multiple ceremonies are planned for a single day, schools must allow for at least two hours between ceremonies to prevent mixing across attendees.
- Limit attendee groups to a household unit. People from the same household do not need to be six feet apart.
- Audience seating must be fixed or marked, with readily identifiable signs to indicate by section, row, and seat. Marked seats should clearly define space for individuals with appropriate space per person (no blanket reservations or group areas).

All commencement ceremonies shall adhere to attendance limitations as defined within the current [CDPH Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances Guidance](#). Outdoor, in-person ceremonies are permissible, consistent with this guidance.

For all of the details on commencement requirements including information on screening and requirements needed to occur before, during and after the event, you can review the following link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19-Graduation-Guidance.aspx>

7. For students opting in for in person learning, will parents still have to call them in as sick or for doctor's appointments?

Yes, please continue to notify the school office if your child will be missing afternoon instruction. Teachers are planning for students to be there so they can help to maximize learning during this established time. This will also help to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

8. Thanks for answering my question last week about the after school and students earning 20 more credits than the original 30. You did mention it was for seniors, so only seniors will be invited to this?

All students were invited to return to in person instruction. We already have quite a few seniors taking the opportunity to access the increased instruction and support. After the April 28th Board Meeting, we will have confirmation of our earned credit reduction plan for this year's Seniors. At that point, additional Seniors may decide to opt in. Site Administrators and Counselors will begin to reach out and set appointments to review the Individual Graduation Plans for Seniors so that students and parents understand the expectations to earn the credit reduction. Students and families should be aware that the District cannot apply a credit reduction to a State Graduation Requirement. This Graduation Plan option, if approved, will allow us to serve more Junior and even Sophomores to have access to credit recovery options during summer school since less Seniors will need this option. In addition, planning is underway for more concurrent credit recovery in the Fall 2021 and during Winter Break 2021-2022 for all high school students. We will continue to prioritize students closest to their graduation year based on teacher availability, but we are confident that student opportunities to recover will be available and students will be able to maintain a successful pathway to graduation.

9. **Santa Cruz City Schools has provided detailed ventilation reports for EACH classroom in EACH school within its district. Can you please provide this information for PVUSD schools by classroom?** Yes, we have now included the listing of the ventilation reports by each site and classroom on our Return to In-person Learning website. You can find the information at the following link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HGvbxZxmwH9Bveb62kBRQuxer7HbzEr3/view>

The image shows a dark blue website interface with three main sections. The top left section is titled "PVUSD School Readiness Index" and contains the text "Click the button below to view a complete list of PVUSD school sites and the school readiness index." Below this text is a white button labeled "School Site Readiness Index". The top right section is titled "PVUSD COVID-19 Prevention Program" and contains the text "Click the button below to view the complete PVUSD COVID-19 Prevention Program details." Below this text is a white button labeled "PVUSD COVID-19 Prevention Program". The bottom section is titled "HVAC System Upgrades" and contains the text "We have been upgrading HVAC systems at our schools to meet state and federal guidelines." followed by "Click the button below to see the current status of HVAC systems at each of our schools, classroom by classroom." Below this text is a white button labeled "HVAC System Upgrades".

10. **Is food distribution changing now that there is in-person learning in the afternoons?** As we return to in-person learning, Food & Nutrition Services will continue to provide take home meals for all children ages 1-18 through the existing morning meal pickups at 14 locations to support those families that are accustomed to this time. However, to help families that may start to take their students to campus in the early afternoons, we have added additional meal pickup windows that coincide with student drop off times at 13 locations for their convenience. For those who cannot go to either the morning or early afternoon pickups, we also have 2 late afternoon meal distributions that provide a week of food each on Tuesdays at Calabasas and Thursdays at Starlight. Please find up to date meal distribution schedules at pvusdschoolfood.net for full schedule and details.