



## **Piute County School District**

### **2020 - 2021 COVID Reopening Plan: Return to School Vision, Plans, and Tactics**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Si necesita ayuda en español, favor de llamar a Dallas Sylvester al (435) 577-1201*

*This document was originally published by the school district on July 27th, 2020. State guidelines and mandates have since changed and clarifications have been provided. This has necessitated a revision to the following questions and answers. This document was reviewed again by the school board on September 8th, 2020.*

#### **1. Will my student be sent home for not wearing a mask?**

The Utah Department of Health has issued a [public health order](#) that requires all students, teachers, and staff in schools to wear a mask. They ~~have~~ issued their own [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for reference. On August 14, 2020 the Utah Department of Health issued a [revision to the original Public Health Order](#). On August 21, 2020 they also issued [revisions to their frequently asked questions](#).

Piute County School District recognizes that students attending school in-person is the best educational environment for student learning and is committed to providing a safe environment for learning. The district recognizes that no precautions can completely remove risk. The school district will comply with the state health order by not allowing students to attend school in person without either wearing a face covering or having an exemption (See FAQ #11). ~~The school district therefore will expect every student to wear a mask, but will not send a student home for not wearing a mask unless reasonable accommodations cannot be made or state requirements necessitate such action.~~

#### **2. What restrictions will be in place for fans at sporting events?**

The Utah High School Athletics Association released a sport by sport set of [specific guidelines](#) for players, coaches, and fans on July 21st, 2020. The updated public health order requires everyone on a school district's property to wear a face covering unless they meet specific criteria outlined in the health order (See FAQ #11). ~~They ask that fans practice social distancing and encourage mask wearing.~~ Players will be ~~required~~ ~~asked~~ to wear a mask prior to and immediately following events. The full guidelines are on the school district website and the UHSAA website.

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### **3. What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 Central Utah Public Health and school administrators will determine what other students or staff members need to be tested or quarantined. If all the planned protocols are followed the number of people asked to quarantine in the event of a positive case should be minimal. In some situations students wearing a mask may be less likely to be asked to quarantine. In the event of many positive cases the school district will consult with Central Utah Public Health to determine if more strict restrictions need to be put in place or if the school needs to modify the schedule to more online learning.

### **4. Will school be a regular schedule on the first day of school?**

Currently the school district plans to begin school using the same bus routes and schedules as the 2019-2020 school year. Students will still attend school in person Monday through Friday. The first day of school and all Fridays will be a half day for students. As part of the school districts [reopening plan](#), the school district has prepared a modified schedule and a soft closure schedule that would be used in the event that case counts in the county necessitate changing from regular schedule.

### **5. How will school lunch be conducted with increased health restrictions?**

School lunch schedules will be modified to reduce the number of students eating lunch at the same time. Students will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands before and after meals. Students may be expected to use the same seat each day to assist Central Utah Public Health in making contacts in the event of a positive case at the school. Each school will have more specific guidelines for conducting meals

### **6. Will the schools symptom-check students when they get to school?**

Parents will be asked to symptom check their students each day prior to sending them to school. The district will provide a guide for symptom checking students prior to the first day of school and will publish it on the school district website.

### **7. Will there be any changes to busing procedures?**

Students will have assigned seats on bus trips to and from school, as well as athletic bus trips. Assigned seating will help Central Utah Public Health make contacts in the event of a positive case. Students will be **required expected** to be wearing a mask or face covering when they get on the bus **unless they qualify for an exemption** (See FAQ #11).

### **8. Do students have to wear a mask all day?**

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~~Students will not have to wear a mask when they are able to be seated more than 6 feet away from other students. Fortunately for Piute County School District this will be the case for many of the classes. Students may also remove their mask when they sit down for lunch, when they are outside, and other times when appropriate social distancing is possible. The official public health order lists other special circumstances when a student may remove their mask. Students with health related concerns and special needs may be accommodated for this requirement.~~

Yes, on August 14th, 2020 the Utah Department of Health issued an updated public health order stating that students would have to wear a mask the entire school day with limited exceptions. Some exemptions are detailed in question #11. Other exemptions not listed in questions #11 include when students are eating or drinking, while students are at recess, or participating in a physical education class.

#### **9. Will there be any changes to the attendance policy for COVID-19 related absences?**

Currently the school district is planning to operate under the current attendance policy. The current attendance policy provides exceptions for medical related absences. The schools have always been willing to make accommodations for medical related absences. The district does recognize the need to remove incentives for students to come to school sick and will evaluate practices and awards that may contribute to that problem. The school district is also evaluating methods for taking attendance digitally. Students that are only experiencing mild symptoms of illness or who have been asked to quarantine by the health department would be permitted to connect to their courses from home. If appropriate procedures can be put in place for this measure students would be marked present if they were able to connect to their courses from home during the regular times.

#### **10. Will the school district provide masks for students?**

Students will need to bring face coverings from home. Student face masks may have logos or prints on them within the same guidelines as a t-shirt. The school district will have a limited number of disposable masks available when needed and will provide each student with at least one cloth mask.

#### **11. What exemptions are there to the mask mandate?**

The following exemptions are made in the public health order from a student or adult wearing a face covering.

- An individual who is outdoors AND physical distancing (meaning they can stay at least 6 feet from another individual).
  - An individual who is eating or drinking AND physical distancing (meaning they can stay at least 6 feet from another individual).
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- An individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a face covering.
  - Anyone who is engaged in an activity where seeing a person's mouth is essential for communication, such as for communicating with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or when students and teachers are participating in speech therapy.
  - An individual who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation that would exempt him or her from wearing a face mask.
  - During outdoor recess for elementary school students.
  - There are other exemptions listed in the public health order and the health department FAQ's linked in question #1 of this document.

#### **12. How does a parent get an exemption from the mask mandate for their student?**

To have a student exempted from the mask mandate for a medical or mental health reason a parent or guardian should submit a written request to the school principal using the [form at this link](#). Students with a IEP or 504 Plan that details a medical or mental health condition need not provide any additional documentation for exemption. Piute County School District does not require documentation from a doctor or other medical professional to grant the exemption.