

PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Director of Personnel

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Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Dear School Community,

I hope that you are doing well. Please note that the decision to stay remote was not an easy one. The District strongly believes that children should be at school for in-person instruction, however due to the increasing number of COVID-19 related cases, it was necessary to extend remote instruction ([PA Dashboard 1-17-22](#)). This decision was made in coordination with the Middlesex Health Department, County Superintendent, and the Department of Education. In addition, on Monday, January 10th, 2022, new guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health were released. The new recommendations have affected COVID-19 protocols and staffing.

The well-being and safety of our students and staff is the District's number one priority. In order to prepare for a safe and seamless return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 31, 2022, the District would like to make you aware of the following items:

- **Gathering vaccination status of students:** School Principals will be collecting information regarding the vaccination status of your child. This information will help us determine quarantine and isolation times.
- **Gathering vaccination & booster status from staff:** The Office of Human Resources will continue to collect and update vaccination status from staff. Unvaccinated staff will continue to test weekly for COVID-19 as per the Governor's Executive Order.
- **Cleaning:** The District has taken a proactive approach to complete a deep cleaning of all buildings in preparation for our safe return to school. Every classroom, office, and common areas will continue to be disinfected with environmentally friendly cleaning products and sanitized using electrostatic sprayers.
- **Contact Tracing:** In collaboration with the Middlesex County Health Department, the District's Human Resource Department, and the Nurse Supervisor, contact tracing protocols for students/staff have been established utilizing the NJ Department of Health and CDC guidelines. These protocols were shared with all nurses and building administrators and have been implemented and updated as required since the beginning of the pandemic. Each school building's principal and school nurse is responsible for all contact tracing. The District medical support team is in place to ensure all contact tracing calls are made for close contacts as soon as we are provided with documentation of a student/staff being positive from each school building.
- **Isolation rooms:** Each building has a dedicated isolation room where students/staff who may demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 can safely wait. Students can be picked up from the isolation room by a parent/guardian when warranted. Rest assured that the District will continue to follow current CDC guidelines and NJDOE mandates.
- **Assigned seating:** To facilitate contact tracing efforts, all schools will continue to have in place assigned seating for students in the classroom, the cafeteria, and buses.

- **Handwashing:** Frequent handwashing is expected throughout the District. Every classroom has been provided with a battery-powered hand sanitizer that self-pumps. Students and staff are expected to wash their hands before and after eating, when transitioning to a new classroom, and after using the bathroom.
- **Social distancing:** Desks are placed in rows to maintain three feet of distance to the greatest extent possible. On buses, students sit with as much physical distance to the greatest extent possible.
- **Use of Masks:** Governor Murphy has reinstated the public health emergency mandate to continue the masking mandate for all schools. As of now, the mask mandate will continue for 30 days unless the Governor extends the public health emergency an additional 30 days. The Perth Amboy Public Schools will continue to follow the mask mandate. All students, staff, and visitors will continue to wear masks while inside school buildings per Executive Order 251.

For more information on the Governor's reinstated public health emergency, please visit the State's website:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220111d.shtml>

- **Reporting to the County and State Health Departments:** The District continues to report COVID-19 related numbers to local and state authorities on a weekly basis.

In order to keep our school community safe and healthy, it is imperative that our families take an active role in our collective efforts. There are several ways in which you can help maintain our schools open. Please ensure you carefully review the District's updated protocols for students and staff:

[Protocols for Staff](#)

[Protocols for Students](#)

Also, it is critical that you continue to report COVID-19 cases to your school's nurse immediately. If you choose to have your children vaccinated, please see the link below. It has a list of places in our community where you can have your child vaccinated.

[Perth Amboy Testing and Vaccination Locations](#)

If your child feels sick, please keep him/her at home. Please make sure you monitor symptoms and get him/her tested. Click here [No-Cost Covid Testing For All New Jersey Residents](#) to order COVID-19 test kits. It is important that positive results are reported in a timely manner and documentation is provided.

Abiding local, state, and federal guidelines can help us mitigate the impact caused by the pandemic. I want to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. I strongly believe that our collective efforts can make a difference in the education of Perth Amboy students during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Gómez
Director of Personnel