

District Plan for Resilient Pandemic Recovery and Reconnection Revision Updates

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August 12, 2021



Agenda

- Communications
- Vaccinations
- Routine Pooled Testing
- Distancing and Cohorting Pk-6
- Illness Protocol
- Travel
- Test-and-Stay
- Quarantine and Isolation
- Responding to and Reporting COVID-19 Cases

Communications



Forums:

- District Forum 8/24, 7pm
- School Forums 8/25-9/2, evenings
- All languages available at the same link (on our website and in the plan)
- Families comment and ask questions via the chat
- District forums: 90 minutes
- School forums: 60 minutes

Early Connections with Students:

- New and 2020-21 Remote: Ongoing tours happening now.
- Sept. 2nd: in-person and/or virtual informal connection with teachers: plans will vary by school or grade level

Family Forum #1: Thursday, August 19th

- English: 69 Families
- Mandarin: 18 Families
- ASL: 12 Families
- Spanish: 16 Families
- Portuguese: 13 Families

Japanese interpreter had a last-minute conflict: Japanese recording will be created and posted with other recordings, and will be available for the forum on the 15th.

Vaccinations



The APS will require the vaccination of staff. We are currently developing the parameters for and working out the details of the requirement in full collaboration with the AEA and AAA.

APS and the Department of Health and Human Services will coordinate COVID-19 vaccination clinics, starting with a **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Thompson Elementary School on Thursday, September 9th from 3pm-7pm.**

We intend to continue vaccine clinics throughout the year, including when vaccines become available to children under 12.

Routine COVID-19 Pooled Testing



We must acquire parental consent for participation in COVID-19 pooled testing for the new school year. We are not able to make pooled testing mandatory for students because it is a medical test that requires informed consent.

DESE has contracted with a new vendor (CIC) for COVID-19 pooled testing and will no longer allow us to work with the same vendor as we had previously. This new information means:

- The RSU has been updated with the new form; any families who filled out the form after 4:15 on 8/19 have filled out the updated form.
- We will communicate with families who filled out the form early (thank you!) to let them know how to ensure their consent is valid. We are working on a plan that will make this as streamlined as possible.

As of Friday 8/20:

- **3,473** families who have **submitted** the form (57%)
- **2,256** families who have not yet started the form or opened it
- **277** Families who have started the form but have not yet completed it

Distancing and Cohorting PK-6 Updates



1. **We will *not* require that students remain in desks a specified distance apart and facing forward.**
Teachers may return to flexible seating arrangements and the use of rugs and collaborative materials in their classrooms.
2. Some cohorting measures will be in place **at the PreK-6 level:**
 - a. Strive for 3' or more between students while seated at their desks.
 - b. Students will have assigned seating and collaboration in "table groups" for much of the day. This is common practice in our schools, before and during the pandemic.
 - c. Classes/LCs will be separated by a minimum of 6' during indoor lunches.
 - d. Outdoor lunches will be an option as often as possible.
 - e. 1 large tent each at Gibbs and AHS.
3. Students allowed to play, unmasked, with students from other classes outdoors during recess.
4. Outdoor instruction will be prioritized in instances where removal of masks is instructionally beneficial.

Illness Protocol



Students who are ill or show symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home, and parents should call the school to report the student's absence.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms.

Symptoms clarification: the top 4 symptoms in **BOLD** are stand-alone symptoms; others below are only considered symptoms of COVID-19 when in combination with other symptoms on the list.

Cough **is not** considered a stand-alone symptom, but this does not mean that parents should send students with a sudden cough with no other known cause to school. When in doubt, stay home and be tested.

Travel Recommendations



Our goal is for students to safely attend school as often as possible. Mitigation measures listed here are intended as suggestions, and should not preclude students from attending school.

We strongly recommend the following actions for families who are traveling out of state or out of the country:

- Vaccinate all eligible members of your household prior to travel.
- Wear masks during and after travel.
- Test for COVID-19 before returning to school.
- Test for COVID-19 again on day 5 following travel.
- Actively monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 following travel.
- Use mitigation strategies in public areas while traveling, such as masking, regardless of the vaccination status.

If you need information about COVID-19 testing, [please visit the Department of Health and Human Services Website.](#)

We will not be recommending or requiring quarantine for students following travel unless it is required by a state or national travel order.

Test-and-Stay

Close contacts may remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they:

- Are asymptomatic
- Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking), we will ensure they are distanced 3' or more from others.
- Take a rapid antigen test (e.g., BinaxNOW) at the start of each school day and receive a negative result.
- Individuals should quarantine on weekends and when not in school-based activities, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately.
- If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
- Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

Quarantine: Asymptomatic and Negative



Students who choose not to do “test and stay” OR who are identified as close contacts from exposure outside of school may return after 7 days, returning on day 8, provided that they:

- Remain asymptomatic
- Receive a COVID test (PCR or rapid antigen) on day 5 or later and receive a negative result.
- Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate if symptoms develop.

We will provide asynchronous work for students who quarantine, and we urge families to take precautions and participate in test-and-stay so that students miss as little school as possible.

Participation in Test-and-Stay requires consent for COVID-19 routine pooled testing!

Quarantine and Isolation: Symptomatic and Positive



POSITIVE	SYMPTOMATIC
<p>If an individual tests positive at any time, they follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and may return to school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After 10 days AND• Without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications) AND• Experienced improvement in other symptoms. <p>Individuals who do not meet these criteria after 10 days may receive clearance from Department of Health and Human Services or APS Nursing staff.</p>	<p>Not a close contact: May return to school once they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have received a negative PCR test result for COVID-19.• If a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test.• Have improvement in symptoms• Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. <p>If symptomatic individual chooses not to be tested, must remain out of school for 10 days and can return on Day 11, with symptom resolution and without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.</p> <p>Close contact: May return to school once they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a resolution of symptoms.• Received a negative PCR COVID-19 test. <p>Student in this scenario must participate in test and stay once they return to school, otherwise will be subject to close contact quarantine protocols.</p>

Responding to and Reporting COVID-19 Cases



When a positive case is identified, APS will:

- Identify Close Contacts:
 - Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.
 - In classroom settings where individuals are fully masked, close contacts are any individuals who have been within 3 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period.
 - We work in collaboration with teachers, the APS Nursing Department, and the Department of Health and Human Services to identify and notify close contacts.
- Inform Close Contacts: If your child is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual, a school or health department official will contact you as soon as possible with thorough instructions;
- Update the District COVID-19 Dashboard (under construction);
- Conduct test-and-stay with students who are close contacts; and
- After each case, follow up routinely and monitor pooled testing data and procedures at each school to ensure no school-based spread.

We are working on putting together a live FAQ document, to be published with the recovery plan on the APS website, to address questions we receive from families.