

Perry Community School District

2021 Return to Learn On-Site Manual

May 18, 2021

## Onsite Learning for Perry Community School District COVID-19 Safety Practices

It is the goal of Perry Community School District to return to on-site learning for all students at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The proposed safety practices are created with guidance from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure a safe learning environment for all students and staff. The safety of our students, staff members, and our community are of utmost importance, and we will be implementing a number of changes to the structure and routine of our school buildings and classrooms. These changes are to ensure that all students, staff, and families stay healthy, while also providing an engaging and safe learning environment for all students in the Perry Community School District.

### **Illness Policy:**

- Consistent with IDPH and school policies, staff or students who are ill should stay home. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend that schools screen students and staff upon entering the building, as one symptom is not necessarily indicative of communicable disease. However, it is recommended that students and staff check their own temperature before arriving at school, and any student or staff member with a temperature at or above 100.4 degrees should remain home.
- Parents will be notified immediately if their child displays any of the following symptoms: A fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, other related respiratory symptoms, vomiting, or other illness as deemed appropriate by the school nurse or building principal as detailed in the school illness policy. It is expected that a parent or emergency contact picks the child up from school within one hour. ***Please ensure that emergency contact information is updated with each building office so that school nurses can readily reach parents in the event of an emergency.***
  - Students may return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours (1 day) without the use of fever reducing medication, and respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) have improved, and it has been at least since 10 days since symptoms first appeared, or have evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.
- A child who is ill with potential COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated to a COVID nursing area, and parents or emergency contact will be required to pick their child up within one hour. Students with potential COVID-19 symptoms will be required to wear a mask while isolated and waiting for a parent or emergency contact.
- All classroom and nursing areas in which a child with potential-COVID-19 symptoms was that day will be disinfected.
- If the school or district is made aware that a student has tested positive for COVID-19 the district will follow guidelines and recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- If a student is sent to the nurse's office from a classroom at the elementary, the student will need a note from the teacher explaining their nursing needs. For all students (elementary,

MS, and HS), teachers will need to call the nurse's office prior to sending students, to ensure the nurse's office is available.

- Wearing a mask will be required by all students and staff visiting the nurse's office. Masks will be provided if necessary.
- At this time, nebulizer treatments will not be able to be provided during the school day. Inhalers or alternate treatment will need to be provided. Please contact Nurse Shelly or Nurse Jenny for questions.

### **Transportation Procedures:**

- Parents are encouraged to seek alternate means of transportation such as carpooling, walking, or biking to school, to reduce the number of students riding to and from school each day and allow for recommended social distancing on the bus when possible.
- Transportation will be provided. Parents living to town are encouraged to bring their child to the school site if at all possible to ensure lower numbers riding the bus. The goal is to have two students per seat. The school will continue to pick up students at the bus pick up areas and will not leave any student at any pickup points.
- Buses will be cleaned after every route and disinfected at the end of each day using a disinfectant cleaner by the transportation department.

### **Building Offices:**

- The number of families permitted in each building office at one time will be limited to allow for social distancing. Please be patient and courteous while waiting and practice social distancing while waiting to speak to office staff when possible.
- Plexiglass will be in place to protect our office staff. Wearing a mask or face covering while visiting any building office is highly recommended.
- Perry Elementary:
  - Families and visitors will be limited to the building office. To limit the spread of COVID-19, visitors will not be permitted access to any other parts of the school buildings including common areas and classrooms at this time.
- Perry Middle School:
  - Parents are encouraged to call the office for release of their student and not to come into the building to pick them up, for students leaving during the school day.
- Perry High School:
  - Parents are encouraged to call the office for release of their student and not to come into the building to pick them up, for students leaving during the school day.
  - Students who are requiring a tardy slip will proceed to an attendance window (in lieu of the office).

### **Before School Supervision/Admittance:**

- Students are encouraged to practice social distancing in common areas.
  - Elementary School:

- Upon arrival at school, students will report directly to their ‘indoor recess hallways’. There will be no before-school recess at this time due to the large number of students from multiple grades. Instead, students will report to the hallways/classrooms. We encourage students not eating breakfast to arrive at school as close to 8:10am as possible.
  - Middle School:
    - Students will be sent to their classroom upon arrival to school after 7:35am and may receive a grab-n-go breakfast.
  - High School:
    - Students not eating breakfast will be encouraged to report to their first period class. Social distancing rules are recommended.
- Breakfast Service and Seating:
  - Elementary:
    - Students eating breakfast will pick up a grab-and-go style breakfast and sit in the MPR or gym, practicing social distancing as much as possible. Building staff will remind students of social distancing practices and encourage students to sit in every other seat when possible. Parents and visitors will not be permitted to join students for breakfast. Once students have finished their breakfast, they will report to their classroom/hallway until the start of the school day.
  - Middle School:
    - Students will pick up a grab-and-go style breakfast and practice social distancing as much as possible, eating breakfast in the lunchroom or possibly classroom
  - High School:
    - Students will pick up a grab-and-go style breakfast and sit in the commons, practicing social distancing as much as possible. Students may eat in the hallways on hard surfaces for additional space.

### **Classrooms:**

- Teachers will arrange classrooms to allow for as much social distancing as possible. This may include removing excess furniture or storage to allow for desks and students to have as much space as possible.
- Tables or small group arrangements may be required in some settings, but social distancing practices will be used as much as possible, as well as increased sanitization procedures for those groups or classes.
- Students will be taught and reinforced hand-washing techniques with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, following CDC guidance. If soap and water are not readily available, students will be taught and reinforced the use of hand sanitizer using CDC guidance.
- At the end of each class teachers will clean all desks and surfaces. Teachers may solicit help from students, based on their ability to adhere to cleanliness standards and safety precautions.

- At the end of each day, staff will thoroughly sanitize all desks, chairs, and classroom surfaces with a disinfectant solution.
- To the extent possible, students will all have their own supplies (pencils, papers, computer, manipulatives, etc) and limit shared materials within the classroom.
  - For preschool and early elementary where students share manipulatives and resources, such as items in play centers or books, increased cleaning of shared supplies will be completed.
  - For MS/HS calculators and shared supplies, students/teachers will wipe down materials at the end of each class period.

### **Hallways:**

- Students will be expected to gather their necessary materials from hallways or lockers quickly and report to their next class to prevent congregating in the hallways.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use the refillable water stations throughout the buildings as needed.
- In high-density traffic areas, such as in hallways during passing periods, students are highly encouraged to wear face coverings.

### **Restrooms:**

- Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily by janitorial staff.
- Students will be reminded to thoroughly wash hands after using the restroom before returning to class.

### **Lunch:**

- Due to limitations from the CDC, Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Education, the use of salad bars, condiment bars, and buffet-style meal serving are not permitted at this time. Entrees will be limited to two options per day and will include a rotation of a hot option and a cold option. One option will be a Grab and Go. The second option will be a hot entree. All components with the hot meal will be served by the kitchen staff.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available as students enter the lunchroom.
- Elementary Lunchroom Procedures:
  - One grade level will eat lunch in the MPR at a time, practicing social distancing to the extent possible, sitting every other seat.
  - Teachers may assist with counting students/tabulating students who eat a school lunch to eliminate the use of the ID keypad entry.
- Middle School Lunchroom Procedures:
  - The number of students entering the lunchroom will be limited. Staff will be monitoring students as they enter the lunchroom. Tables will be sanitized and disinfected after each lunch service. Social distancing will be monitored.
- High School Lunchroom Procedures:

- The number of students entering the lunchroom will be limited. Staff will be monitoring students as they enter the lunchroom. Tables will be sanitized and disinfected after each lunch service. Social distancing will be monitored.
- One time use foam trays will be used in all buildings along with plastic one use flatware.
- Flatware will be handed to each student by a gloved staff member. No student will be allowed to grab their own flatware.
- Staff members will serve all condiments to students. No student will be allowed to serve themselves their condiments

### **Recess**

- Elementary students will continue to enjoy outdoor recess (weather permitting), where students will be reminded to practice social distancing when possible.
- Each grade level will continue to supply/use their own recess equipment. Teachers and students will be reminded to clean equipment at the end of each recess with a disinfecting solution or wipe.
- At the conclusion of recess, students will line up in the designated lined spaces and guided into the buildings as quickly as possible, to reduce any unnecessary fidgeting or physical contact between students standing in line

### **Dismissal:**

- High School: Social Distancing will be encouraged during dismissal. Dismissal time is 1:45 PM each day.
- Middle School: Social Distancing will be encouraged during dismissal. Dismissal time is 1:45 PM each day.
- Elementary School: Dismissal times will be staggered to ensure that walkers, PACES, and bussers are exiting the building at different times. Bussers at Perry Elementary will be escorted out to the busses by their classroom teacher, rather than congregating in the gym for bus dismissal. Dismissal time will be 2:00 each day.

### **General Recommendations and Expectations:**

- Face Masks:
  - We (IDPH) urge schools and child care settings to provide parents and students with the option to make their own decision about mask usage.
- Sanitization and Cleaning:
  - Signs will be posted throughout the school buildings on how to stop the spread of illness, properly washing hands, and promoting everyday proactive measures. Preventative health measures will be communicated with students and staff on a regular basis, while maintaining confidentiality of students and staff.
  - Perry Community School District already has stringent cleaning routines in place for all school buildings. Our staff will continue to clean all classrooms and surfaces throughout the school buildings including common areas, restrooms, door handles etc.
- Social Distancing:

- Perry Community School District may not be able to guarantee that physical distancing can be met in all school settings throughout the entire school day, during school activities, or with transportation. However, PCSD will implement preventative health changes, as outlined above, including a plan for students or staff who may become sick, providing education for students and staff on a range of preventative health practices to reduce risks associated with communicable disease spread.
- Students and staff are encouraged to promote and practice social distancing throughout their school day.
- There may be times where social distancing is not practical, but our staff will continue to work with students to encourage distancing as much as possible, as well as provide increased opportunities for cleaning when applicable.
- Substitute teachers and staff:
  - Substitute teachers and staff members will be provided a copy of this plan, and ensure that they are familiar with the expectations and guidelines to ensure student and staff safety.
  - Substitute staff will be responsible for ensuring they are healthy and meet the guidelines as listed above including a temperature less than 100.4 degrees and have no symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Illness Reporting
  - Perry Community School District will communicate with the Iowa Department of Public Health if the district is made aware of a positive COVID-19 case within the district.
  - PCSD will communicate with student families that if there is a health concern, the family should speak with a health care provider. PCSD will maintain confidentiality in received reports of any staff member or student having a communicable disease or illness. Contact tracing and self-isolation may be required upon recommendation by public health.
- School District Closure
  - SF 2310 authorizes school boards, if the governor proclaims a health disaster, to close a school district due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the school district, or any school district attendance center.
  - Decisions to close school are made at the local level, in collaboration with public health.