



BACK TO SCHOOL

Portage Township Schools Plan Summary (2021-2022)

The model for student learning and procedures for school is based on community spread of COVID-19. The following tiered approach lays the groundwork for determining a school model and the additional protocols to be put into effect to support the health of our students, staff, families, and community.

COVID Spread in Portage Township

BLUE

- Minimal community spread
- No known active exposure cases in school building(s)

YELLOW

- Moderate community spread
- Minimal or moderate active exposure cases in school building(s)

ORANGE

- Moderate to high community spread
- Moderate active exposure cases or absences impact a school building

RED

- High community spread
- Substantial active exposure cases or absences impact a school building

Daily Schedule

- Students attend school 5 days a week and follow the regular schedule designed by the school

- Students attend school 5 days a week and follow the regular schedule designed by the school

- Students attend school 5 days a week and follow the regular schedule unless staffing cannot be maintained or the health department advises closure

- Students attend school 5 days a week and follow the regular schedule unless staffing cannot be maintained or the health department advises closure

Models of Instruction

- Students attend school 5 days a week to receive instruction from their classroom teacher(s)
- Social distancing encouraged when possible

- Students attend school 5 days a week to receive instruction from their classroom teacher(s)
- Social distancing encouraged when possible

- Students attend school 5 days a week to receive instruction from their classroom teacher(s)
- 3 feet of distance encouraged

- Students attend school 5 days a week to receive instruction from their classroom teacher(s)
- 3 feet of distance encouraged

Protective Measures

- Students complete health screening before arriving to school
- Masks optional unless directed by state and local health officials
- Cleaning of all touch points
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette remains a priority

- Students complete health screening before arriving to school
- Masks optional unless directed by state and local health officials
- Cleaning of all touch points
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette remains a priority

- Students complete health screening before arriving to school
- Masks optional unless directed by state and local health officials
- Cleaning of all touch points
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette remains a priority

- Students complete health screening before arriving to school
- Masks optional unless directed by state and local health officials
- Cleaning of all touch points
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette remains a priority

Transportation

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required by Federal law (currently through 9/13/21), then optional unless law is extended• Field trips permitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required by Federal law (currently through 9/13/21), then optional unless law is extended• Field trips permitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required by Federal law (currently through 9/13/21), then optional unless law is extended• Field trips limited based on approval | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required by Federal law (currently through 9/13/21), then optional unless law is extended• Field trips limited based on approval |
|---|---|---|---|

Contact Tracing

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• 7, 10, or 14 day quarantine possible for close contacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• 7, 10, or 14 day quarantine possible for close contacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who had COVID in the last 90 days unless symptomatic• 7, 10, or 14 day quarantine possible for close contacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• 7, 10, or 14 day quarantine possible for close contacts |
|--|--|---|--|

Visitors

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• Complete a health screening and remain home if ill• Social distancing encouraged when possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• Complete a health screening and remain home if ill• Social distancing encouraged when possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors may be limited• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• Complete a health screening and remain home if ill• 3 feet of distancing encouraged | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors may be limited• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• Complete a health screening and remain home if ill• 3 feet of distancing encouraged |
|---|---|--|--|

Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular Groups

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who have had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• Social distancing encouraged when possible• Events may be hosted with precautions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who have had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• Social distancing encouraged when possible• Events may be hosted with precaution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who have had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• Social distancing encouraged• Events may be hosted with precaution• Spectators limited when directed by state and local health officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks optional, unless directed by state and local health officials• No quarantines for vaccinated students/staff and those who have had COVID in the last 90 days, unless symptomatic• Social distancing encouraged• Events may be hosted with precaution• Spectators limited when directed by state and local health officials |
|--|---|--|--|



Questions? Contact us!

Email us at ptscommunications@portage.k12.in.us



BACK TO SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions for the 2021-2022 School Year

Q: Will students attend school in-person five days a week?

A: Yes. Families who have students with special medical concerns should contact their child's school. Should the health department advise a temporary closure or we have concerns with our ability to properly staff our buildings, we may adjust the school schedule as needed.

Q: What is the significance of a four-color plan?

A: The colors in our Back to School Plan align with the state and county color system to signify the spread of COVID-19. This plan allows us to make adjustments when needed while providing our students, staff, and families with the information needed to formulate contingency plans.

Q: On which "color" or "tier" will PTS begin the school year?

A: It depends. If community spread is low or nonexistent, we can begin in the blue or yellow tiers. If community spread is high, we may need to begin in the orange or red tiers.

Q: Will all students continue to participate in an E-Learning Day on the first Wednesday of each month?

A: Yes. This time has been beneficial for our staff and students, and it will continue into the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: Will high school students participate in an E-Learning Day every Wednesday?

A: No. High school students will attend classes in-person five days per week.

Q: What are the cleaning and hygiene protocols in the schools?

A: We will continue to consistently disinfect all surfaces and common touch points (door handles, light switches, cafeteria tables, etc.) throughout the school. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, hallways, and common areas (library, cafeteria, main office, etc.), and students will have the opportunity to wash and sanitize their hands throughout the school day.

Q: What is the health screening students and staff will complete each day?

A: All students and staff will be expected to self-screen at home each day prior to their arrival at the schools. This screening will check for common symptoms of COVID-19 and inquire about potential exposure to COVID-19 outside of the schools.

Q: Can I still choose to self-transport my child to and from school each day?

A: Yes.

Q: Will students be required to wear masks on the school bus following the end of the transportation mandate in September?

A: When the state lifts its mask mandate for mass transportation, we will reassess the status of the pandemic and follow guidance from the state and local health departments.

Q: Will dividers be used in the classroom and lunchroom?

A: Dividers will continue to be used in the lunchroom. Classroom dividers may be removed as long as social distancing can be achieved.

Q: Will students and staff still be contact traced and required to quarantine in the event of a positive case in a school?

A: Possibly. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school officials will continue to contact trace to determine who is identified as a "close contact." Those close contacts who have been vaccinated will not be required to quarantine. Close contacts who have not been vaccinated will need to quarantine according to these guidelines:

- Those who have tested on or after day 5 and received a negative result may return on DAY 7.
- Those who have not tested and are not experiencing symptoms may return on DAY 10.
- Those who have not tested and have experienced symptoms may return on DAY 14 providing any symptoms have improved and any fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication.

Q: Will I need to call my child's school if they have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Yes. Your child's school nurse can provide you with quarantine information and we can determine if contact tracing is necessary.

Q: Will students at the high school and middle schools be permitted to use their lockers?

A: Yes.

Q: Will visitors be permitted in the schools?

A: Yes, providing we remain within the blue and yellow tiers. Visitors may be limited if community spread becomes high. All visitors must adhere to the PTS Back to School Plan as well as follow safety protocols. Please be prepared to check in at the main office and show your state-issued ID.

Q: Will students K-12 be able to participate in all extra-curricular and co-curricular events?

A: Yes. All groups will adhere to the items outlined in the PTS Back to School Plan.

Q: Will spectators be permitted at extra-curricular and co-curricular events?

A: Yes, providing we remain within the blue and yellow tiers. Spectators may be limited if community spread becomes high. All spectators must adhere to the PTS Back to School Plan and follow all health and safety protocols.

Q: Will before- and after-school care be available?

A: A number of community organizations offer before- and after-school child care to our families. Families who would like more information on these programs may contact the organizations directly to arrange child care. Students must adhere to the health and safety protocols of each organization while in their care. Portage Township Schools provides transportation to and/or from the following community organizations:

- Portage Boys & Girls Club (after school)
- South Haven Boys & Girls Club (after school)
- Portage Township YMCA
- Portage Child Care Center
- Ma's Lil' Champs Learning Academy

Q: Will students be required to wear masks or use protective coverings in music classes in middle and high school?

A: Masks and protective coverings will be required in middle and high school music classes if social distancing cannot be achieved.