



Picacho Elementary School District #33

2020 – 2021 COVID-19 PANDEMIC REOPENING PLAN

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August, 2020

July 23, 2020 State Executive Order: *The Arizona Department of Health Services shall develop public health benchmarks for the safe return of in-person, teacher-led classroom instruction, and make them available no later than August 7, 2020. These recommendations shall be informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, and may be revised as necessary to reflect the most current public health standards.*

Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction by Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels is an Important Factor in determining when it is safe to begin in-person instruction.

Appears to be a lower risk to children under the age of ten with COVID-19 in transmitting to household members. While

children under ten may not amplify transmission within the school setting, special attention should be given to prevent staff-to-staff transmission.

Two Equally Important Components to Reopening School Buildings for In-Person Instruction: School Plan & Community Spread of COVID-19.

- Plan outlining strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff upon reopening of school buildings.
 - The plan must be adopted, implemented, and posted on the District's website.
- COVID-19 Spread within the Community (information as follows).

COVID-19 Benchmarks as defined by CDC:

- Minimal Spread {less than 10 cases per 100,000} – evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting.

- Moderate Spread {10 to 100 cases per 100,000} – sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases.
- Substantial Spread {more than 100 cases per 100,000} – large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces).

Understanding the Benchmarks

- Cases: two-weeks below 100 cases per 100,000 or a decline in weekly average cases for two consecutive weeks (not including the current week).
- Percent Positivity: two-weeks with percent positivity below 7% (not including the current week).
- COVID-like Illness: two-weeks with hospital visits due to COVID-like illness below 10%.

The ADHS recommends county-specific public health benchmarks fall within the moderate or minimal spread category in all three benchmarks for two-weeks before providing hybrid learning (some students in physical buildings and some students distance learning).

School Learning Scenarios

- **Scenario 3** Virtual with Onsite Supports: Substantial Community Spread (one or more benchmarks in the substantial category) – large scale, controlled community transmission.
- **Scenario 2** Hybrid: Moderate Community Spread (all three benchmarks in the minimal or moderate categories) – sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases.
- **Scenario 1** Traditional: Minimal Community Spread (all three benchmarks in the minimal category) – evidence of isolated cases or limited community

transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting.

The ADHS recommends schools work with their local health departments. After transitioning to a hybrid model, school should consider resuming virtual learning when one or more benchmark categories are in substantial transmission.

Current numbers provided by ADHS for Pinal County: Cases – minimal; Percent Positivity – substantial; COVID-like illness – substantial. Consequently, Scenario 3 is fitting for our District.

- **First Day of School for Students: August 17, 2020**

- Calendar was revised from the original start date of August 3, 2020.

- **Instructional Days/Hours remain unrevised.**

- The last day for students will be May 21, 2021 to accommodate our traditional 181 days of instruction.
- Current schedule incorporates over 1,080 instructional hours.
 - We exceed the 890 instructional hour requirement by hundreds of hours with a traditional school calendar of 181 days.
 - The online instructional day will be to incorporate learning packets, teacher videos and class meetings on Google Classroom and ClassDojo.
 - Picacho School instructional staff will be at the school each day during distance learning. The staff will be on call for student and parent questions from:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday.

- **Teacher-led Online Learning: to begin on the first day for students.**

- Teacher-led Online Learning begins for all students on August 17, 2020.
- Teachers will conduct instruction and facilitate student learning from each classroom.

- **Set Students Up For Success: Scenario 3**

- Devices will be provided for student home-based learning.
- Internet connectivity, for families lacking internet services in the home, will be accommodated by the provision of wifi hot spots. In the event all hot spots are not ready and delivered before August 28th. By the end of the third week at the latest, all students are expected to be set up with Internet access. These students will receive at least one daily phone call as a check in and to offer assistance to ensure the student is progressing successfully. The paperwork will be returned to the school and graded.
- Uniform platform for instruction/learning via Google Classroom and ClassDojo will be afforded to all students. Flexibility allowance for special education, gifted, physical education, fine arts, English language learners, and early learners.
- Instructional support is built into the online learning schedule for special education students and English language learners. Teachers in these departments will be providing instruction and remediation.

- Each student will be accommodated on-site on an individual basis as per his/her situation, educational, or emotional need.
- On-site accommodations to service students with severe disabilities.
- Classified staff will report to the school sites. Paraprofessionals are scheduled to provide support for the teacher and student.
- Teacher training incorporates identification of instructional need and immediate response to such in an effort to address the individual needs of each student.
- Parent communication is expected and scheduled to convene on a regular basis and at anytime there is a student concern.

- **Set Students Up For Success: Scenario 2**

- Teacher-led Online Learning will continue for all students/families opting for such.
- Special on-site accommodations made to service students with severe disabilities.
- Students will be accommodated on-site on an individual basis as per their educational or emotional needs.
- Self-contained classrooms: students will remain with one group of students in one classroom. Students will not move among classrooms.

- **Set Students Up For Success: Scenario 1**

- Teacher-led Online Learning will continue for all students/families opting for such.
- Transportation will be provided. Students will be expected to follow current safety protocols, e.g. masks.

- **Social Emotional Support for Students**

- Staff trained in social and emotional support will offer on - line lessons and support.
- School staff will be available for any counseling needs.
- Partnerships with behavioral health agencies in the community when available.

- **Local School Leaders determine when to physically open for regular classes, considering recommendations and guidance from county health officials, community need, and available resources.**

- Changes to the instructional/learning plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in an effort to lessen disruptions to the educational process.
- Consult with state and county health officials will be sought prior to any change occurring; collaboration for health and safety guidance will be ongoing. Before the end of each quarter, approval will be sought (as directed) for expansion to on-site learning and will resume when determined to be safe to do so by health officials in alignment with the benchmarks established by the Arizona Department of Health Services. The ADHS Data Dashboard will be updated every Thursday covering the two-week period ending twelve days earlier.

- **Campus Sanitizing Procedures**

- Custodians will sanitize all classrooms, offices, and restrooms daily. After a wipe down with hospital strength sanitizer.
- Maintenance staff will be available during the day to address sanitizing needs.
- Frequently touched objects and surfaces will be wiped down with sanitizer at various times throughout the day.
- All classrooms and offices will be kept clear of clutter.
- All classrooms and offices are provided a bottle of sanitizer for use during the day when needed.
- Students will practice responsible citizenship with the task of maintaining tidiness in their work area throughout the school day.

- **Required Face Coverings**

- Face coverings for all staff and students will be provided and expected to facilitate health safety.

- **Stay Home When Sick**

- Staying home when sick will be emphasized. Staff and students/family members will be encouraged to self monitor for symptoms at home before coming to school. COVID-19 symptoms include: fever (greater than or equal to 100.4°), subjective chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body

aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

- Perfect attendance awards will be suspended throughout the school year.

- **Daily Temperature Checks**

- All students will have a temperature check upon arrival.
 - Student temperature checks will be conducted in the classrooms.
- Contingent upon any staff member or student indicating a temperature, he/she will be sent home immediately. If he/she exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, the following protocol will be followed.

- **Responding When Someone On-Site had COVID-19 Symptoms**

- If any of the above symptoms are suspected and are not related to an already diagnosed condition or illness (as known by school healthcare personnel), the student or staff member will not be allowed to physically attend school until clearance from isolation criteria (defined below) has been met or an alternative diagnosis is made.
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, he/she will be immediately removed from any group setting. He/she will be placed in a separate room with a face covering on, as tolerated.
- Staff tending to the sick individual will wear a mask, gloves, and a face shield.
- Contact will be made for the individual to be picked up from school as soon as possible, ideally within one hour.
- Emergency services will be called if the individual exhibits any serious symptoms, including difficulty getting enough air, change in alertness or responsiveness, bluish lips or face.
- All household members of any individual confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to physically attend school and will quarantine at home for 14 days.

- Families will be asked to notify the school in the event a student becomes sick of any household contact. Any person at school who was in contact with the ill student will be removed from the classroom and sent home even if not displaying symptoms.
- All outbreaks of COVID-19 will be reported to the local health department. Having one case within a school does not constitute an outbreak. An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting.
- Any decision to quarantine a class, close a portion of the school, or close the school entirely will be made by the Superintendent while in collaboration with the local health department.

Isolation Criteria as provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services (updated on 07/27/2020): *If a person is symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results: Stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until results are available. If results are delayed, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19. Once results are available, follow the recommendations below based on results. ●If a person is symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved. ●If a person is symptomatic and tested negative for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved. ●If a person is symptomatic and has not been tested for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved. ●If a person is asymptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results: No isolation is required while waiting for test results. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Once results are available, follow recommendations based on results. ●If a person is asymptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 10 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19. ●If a person is asymptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19 by serology: No isolation is required since there is a low likelihood of active infection. ●If a person is asymptomatic and tested negative for COVID-19 by PCR, antigen testing, or serology: No isolation is required. ●If a person has other non-compatible symptoms and has not been tested for COVID-19, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the*

*use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved. *A person who had severe/critical illness or is severely immunocompromised should: •If symptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND Other symptoms have improved. •If asymptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until: •At least 20 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19. Outside of these criteria above, extension of isolation is not routinely recommended if an individual is retested within 3 months of onset of symptoms or date of first positive test while asymptomatic. A person who had known close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case should quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the case regardless of negative tests results or illness where no testing was performed. However, if they test positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, they should follow the relevant isolation guidance. In addition, for people previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person. It is important to note that release from isolation DOES NOT require a provider's note and DOES NOT require repeat testing or a negative test. Verifying that a student or staff member meets criteria for release from isolation will be up to school administration. The following dates should be collected for verification: date of test collection (if tested), date of onset of symptoms; and date of resolution of fever.*

- **Student & Staff Emergency Information**

- Students: a new emergency card with updated information will be completed and returned to the front office before attending school in-person.
- Staff: emergency contact information will be provided and updated within 48 hours of any changes.

- **Liability Forms**

- COVID - 19 waiver forms will be signed by parent/guardian before any student is allowed admittance onto campus.

- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

- Hand washing stations will be conveniently provided for required usage in prominent areas throughout the campus.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be conveniently located for required usage immediately upon, or before, campus entry.

- **Signage**

- Signs will be posted throughout campus as reminders of safety protocols.
- Reminders include, but are not limited to: wash hands, cover cough and sneeze, stay home if sick, distance yourself from others, and symptoms for self-monitoring.

- **No Visitors**

- Visitors and volunteers will not be allowed on campus until ADHS has determined there is minimal community spread within the three determined thresholds and we are able to proceed onto scenario one.
- Parents are asked to call the front office with any concern instead of coming to the campus unless asked to pick up a student. Parents are welcome to email the teacher at any time. Meetings will be facilitated via phone or virtually.

- **Bus Transport**

- Sanitizing procedures are required before and after every route, which include routine cleaning with hospital strength sanitizer.
- Hand sanitizing is required before entry onto the bus.
- Face protection is always required on the bus.
- Students are required to sit where assigned.
- Families will be sat together.
- The bus will be loaded from back to front and unloaded from front to back.
- Students will follow all procedures or lose their privilege to ride the bus.

- **Student Backpacks**

- Backpacks will not be permitted unless a disability warrants such.
- Female students may bring in personal feminine supplies to be kept in the health office, although usage of the school provided supply of these items is preferred.

- **Classroom Arrangement**

- Desks/work areas will be feasibly spaced to accommodate physical distancing.
- All desks will face the same direction.

- All students will have assigned seating.
- The floor will be marked to accommodate physical distancing.
- Materials will be stored individually; no sharing allowed.
- Technology will facilitate partner/group work.

- **Work on Paper for Students**

- Paper homework will not be permitted during the entire school year.
- Paperwork packets will not be permitted unless there is a disability or special circumstance.

- **Breakfast and Lunch**

- While school is closed to on-site instruction/learning, breakfast and lunch will be available for pick up at assigned bus stops.
- When school resumes for on-site instruction/learning, breakfast will be served in the classroom. Lunch will be served in the dining room and gym areas with social distancing.
- Meals will be served on a disposable tray with disposable utensils. Single serve condiments will be utilized.
- Students are required to wash their hands prior to eating and again when finished eating his/her meal.

- Although not preferred, a student may bring his/her lunch from home. The container must be stored at his/her desk/personal work area.

- **Drinking Water**

- Students will drink from their personal water bottles.
- Water fountains will be used that facilitate the filling of water bottles.

- **Using the Restroom**

- Restrooms will be wiped down with sanitizer hourly.
- Hand washing reminders will be posted.
- Exterior doors will be kept open.
- Limited number of students allowed inside the restroom.
- Area to wait for entrance into the restroom will be clearly marked.

- **Recess**

- Times for outdoor recess will be staggered.

- Students will remain with their classroom group for recess.
- Hands will be washed before engaging in recess.
- Play structures will not be used since sanitization cannot be accommodated.
- Physical movement with appropriate distancing.
- Alternate games, permitting appropriate distancing, will be encouraged.
- Hands will be washed after recess and before reentrance into the classroom.

- **Group Gatherings**

- Field trip, evening events, and after school tutoring or clubs will not be scheduled until ADHS has determined there is minimal community spread within the three determined thresholds and we are able to proceed onto scenario one.
- Student sports will not convene until it is determined safe by health officials.
- When scheduled, the following will be conducted virtually until ADHS has determined there is minimal community spread within the three determined thresholds and we are able to proceed onto scenario one: school assemblies, student council meetings, parent-teacher organization meetings, kindergarten round-up, meet-the-teacher, family-teacher conferences, special education IEP meetings, and 504 meetings.

- **Back at Home**

- Upon arrival at home after each school day, wash hands, wash mask/face covering, monitor for symptoms. Check temperature each morning before leaving home.

Due to government directives subject to change,
we remain fluid in our planning for adaptation as necessary.
Compliance is imperative; the safety of our students and staff is paramount.