



Phalen Leadership Academies 2023-2024 Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

Return to In-Person Policies and Procedures

During the 2023-24 SY, PLA will continue to promote CDC recommendations regarding school prevention strategies regardless of the level of community transmission. It should be noted that all PLA schools may make adjustments to policies and/or procedures as needed.

While the rate of infection has decreased in many areas, COVID-19 is still a threat to the wellness of our school community. For the safe delivery of in-person instruction and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the CDC recommends prioritizing the below prevention strategies:

- Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations
- Staying Home When Sick
- Testing & Masking
- Responding to Outbreaks
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
- Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations

While many scholars, teachers and staff have been vaccinated, others may not have been vaccinated for a variety of reasons. Per CDC recommendations, staying up to date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent illness from many different infections in addition to COVID-19 as it helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill. For COVID-19, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the best strategy to prevent this severe disease. Please speak with your school's nurse if you need help locating off-site vaccination locations.

Staying Home When Sick

Per CDC recommendations, scholars, teachers and staff who have COVID-19 related symptoms should stay home. Testing is recommended for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.



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Testing & Masking

Per CDC recommendations, regardless of vaccination status, scholars, teachers and staff should isolate from others when testing positive for COVID-19. It is also recommended that scholars, teachers and staff isolate if they suspect that they have COVID-19 but have not yet received test results.

PLA encourages scholars, teachers and staff who test positive to stay home for at least 5 days and to isolate from others at home. If symptoms have improved after day 5, and returning to the building, we will also encourage that you wear a mask through day 10 when around others to help prevent the spread.

Most scholars, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a mask. However, a narrow subset of scholars with disabilities might not be able to wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask. PLA school administrators will make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws in order to determine if an exception to the mask requirement is necessary and appropriate for a particular scholar.

Responding to Outbreaks

In case of an outbreak, PLA schools will work with their local health department agency regarding any changes on contact tracing and providing notification to the broader school community.

Per CDC recommendations, early identification of cases to ensure that everyone affected stays home and properly isolates is a critical component of outbreak response. As part of our strategy, PLA schools may also consider suspending high-risk activities to control a school- or program-associated outbreak.

Scholars, teachers, and staff who are in isolation should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to return around others.



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Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Frequent and thorough washing of hands is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in any community. To prevent the spread of germs and illness, all school community members will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to clean hands BEFORE or AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Touching your mask
- Entering and leaving a public place
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by others, such as door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks

Healthy hygiene signage will be maintained throughout our schools and scholars will be reminded to wash their hands at critical times throughout the day. Additionally, classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer for frequent use.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities





PLA schools will ensure that high touch areas and surfaces are cleaned daily. Custodial staff will wipe down common areas throughout the day. Regular cleaning of the school facilities combined with wearing masks and consistent healthy hygiene practices will mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections. If someone within the school community tests positive for COVID-19, the school will be disinfected as recommended by the CDC guidelines. Routine cleaning of our schools, along with the other strategies outlined above, will mitigate the risk of community spread within our schools.



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Enhanced Protocols

Enhanced protocols will continue to be in place at all PLA schools during the upcoming school year:

	<p>Hand Sanitizer Stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout all buildings. • All scholars will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.
	<p>Additional Cleaning Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional cleaning protocols throughout the day will take place in classrooms and common areas. • Custodians will be sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks, etc). • Each classroom and all common areas will be deep cleaned each night.
	<p>Masks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After testing positive, scholars, teachers and staff may be required to wear a mask once they are back in the building until day 10.
	<p>Monitoring COVID Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholars, teachers and staff must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school. • Scholars, teachers and staff shall continue to isolate until they are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.



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	<p>COVID Holding Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event a scholar becomes sick during the school day, the scholar will be placed in a holding area away from other scholars to reduce chances of exposure.
	<p>Seating Charts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event of an outbreak, or if deemed necessary, scholars may be assigned seats in their classroom.
	<p>Water Bottles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.• Water fountains may be shut off following an outbreak, or if deemed necessary by school administration.



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DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask



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DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK

Tell your mom, dad, or caregiver before you come to school. Tell your teacher or an adult if you become sick at school



cough



*Shortness of breath
or problem breathing*



chills



sore throat



*loss of taste
or smell*



muscle pain

OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

*fever, runny nose, diarrhea, feeling nauseous
or vomiting, feeling tired, headache,
and poor appetite*



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Continuity of Services

Professional Development - PLA schools will continue to schedule professional development opportunities focused on the mental health and the overall wellness of our staff and identification of areas that require additional support for our scholars. We will also continue discussions on our instructional model and learning objectives.

Food Services - Food services will continue as normal in all schools throughout the entire school year. In the event that a school closure is necessary, PLA schools will continue to support our families by following the same process held during the 22-23 school year.

Special Population - PLA staff will continue to closely work and monitor scholars with an IEP regarding its implementation and delivery of services. For scholars with 504 Plans, their case manager will continue to communicate with parents about their scholar's program and progress.

General Support - PLA is excited to continue providing community outreach and family support for all of our scholars. Administrators will continue to complete training sessions that help recognize and provide support to scholars, teachers or staff who might be experiencing difficulties. Schools will also work with mental health service providers regarding counseling services for our scholars and families. Prior to the beginning of the school year, teachers and the required staff will also be trained in areas that help them prepare to be of better support to scholars suffering from anxiety, stress and other emotional needs while in the classroom.

PLA schools will continue to utilize 1:1 technology in conjunction with Google Classroom. All families will receive training on the platform prior to the beginning of the school year. Additional materials and resources will also be available for our Special Education and EL scholars as well as their families.



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Public Comment

PLA's Return to In-Person Instruction Plan has been developed to meet the current state requirements as well as CDC guidelines. Our leadership and administration will continue to seek public feedback, follow state guidance, and work towards meeting state's requirements, as well as to continue to be a support system for our scholars and families. This plan will be revised and updated every 6 months to ensure all state requirements, CDC guidelines and public input are met.

PLA families are highly encouraged to contact their local campus administration's office should they have additional questions.

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