



*Piqua City Schools*  
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[www.piqua.org](http://www.piqua.org)



#wearepiqua

6/24/21 (additional notes added 8/16/21)

\*\*\* *The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. As a result, federal guidance clarifies expectations for states and districts, including the development of a state plan that must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The federal template for the plan includes a requirement that districts and community schools must publish local "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans" by June 24, 2021.*

It is the intent of the Piqua City Schools to provide in-person instruction and learning to all students while implementing and maintaining health protocols that protect our students, families and staff members. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "dangers of social isolation outweigh the risks of in-person classes for most children." Our district's plan takes into consideration the health and safety of our students and families, as well as the district staff and the community as a whole. While providing effective teaching and student learning, the goal is to also support our students' social, emotional, physical and behavioral health. Piqua City Schools will follow guidelines established by state and local officials as required. These are subject to change with little or no notice. Questions regarding this information may be emailed to [board@piqua.org](mailto:board@piqua.org) or by calling the Superintendent, Dwayne Thompson, at 937-773-4321. Thank you.

### **Continuity of Service**

- The Piqua City School District safely practiced successful in-person learning throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year – starting on time and not closing once due to COVID related incidents. The district plans to continue with in-person instruction for all students for the 2021-2022 school year. The district will continue to provide all services to students, including health services, food service, accommodations for students with disabilities, and social emotional services and support.

### **Closing the Gap**

- The district utilizes a variety of assessments to help in determining any learning loss in its students. The district will periodically administer these assessments, evaluate student needs, and provide intervention and support to students as needed. Interventions and supports can include but are not limited to summer learning programs, after school learning programs, in-class instruction supports, and the use of the state model curriculum.

### **Daily Self-Monitoring and Healthy Practices for Students and Staff**

- Students and staff should check their temperature and health should be monitored on a daily basis before coming into any school setting.
- Students will be encouraged and reminded to wash and sanitize hands throughout the day.
- Students will not share computers or other highly/regularly used equipment/materials
- When sharing basic supplies, students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands prior to accessing and sharing the resource.
- Students will be encouraged to use their own water bottles throughout the day. Drinking fountains will remain shut off, but water bottle fill stations will be left on.
- Students and staff will be taught and encouraged to use proper sneeze and cough etiquette.
- Sneeze and cough shields may be used when appropriate.
- Staff and students should maintain three (3) feet of distance when possible.

## Student and Staff Illnesses

- Any student or staff member with a fever over 100F should stay home.
  - Any student or staff member that has the following symptoms should stay home from school and should be assessed for COVID to prevent spread.
    - Any of the following symptoms: persistent moderate to severe cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- OR**
- Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shakes, muscle ache, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea or vomiting or diarrhea),

## Returning to School after Illness

- If a student or staff member is **diagnosed through testing** as having COVID, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - 3 days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
  - Other symptoms improved **AND**
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Students and staff that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies as outlined in the student handbook.
- Parents should contact the school nurse for any questions concerning student health.

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## Exclusion

- We are still required to follow CDC exclusion guidelines
- Only necessary and appropriate information will be shared with staff and families. Individual names will not be shared.
- The school district will cooperate with the Miami County Health Department's work in contract tracing.
- A confirmed positive case of COVID will be excluded from school and school related events for ten (10) days from onset of symptoms. If asymptomatic, ten (10) days will start from the day of the positive test result. A parent should contact the school nurse prior to their child returning to school.
- The CDC recommends that a close contact to a positive case be excluded from school per CDC guidelines. A close contact is defined as someone within three (3) feet for greater than fifteen (15) minutes with a mask or within six (6) feet for greater than fifteen (15) minutes without a mask.
- Students that are excluded will be able to keep up with work through Google classroom while at home.

## **Vaccines**

- The CDC recommends vaccinations for individuals that qualify. Piqua City Schools respects that this is a personal decision.

## **Thoroughly Clean and Sanitize School Environment to Limit Spread on Shared Surfaces**

- Schools will clean surfaces a minimum of two (2) times daily, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials.

## **Food Service**

- Piqua City Schools will offer food service according to current CDC guidelines in place.

## **Face Coverings**

- Parents, students and teachers are permitted to wear face coverings if they choose. Face coverings will not be required for students or teachers unless mandated by local, state or federal agencies.

## **Public Access to Building and School Sporting Events**

- Visitors will be asked to follow the same guidelines in place for staff and students.
- Visitors should refrain from visiting school grounds/events if they exhibit COVID symptoms.
- There are no limits due to CDC restrictions for guest attendance at sporting events.

## **Field Trips**

- Field trips have resumed and will be permitted if the approved destination can schedule and accommodate our visit.

## **Transportation**

- Piqua City Schools will offer transportation services according to current CDC guidelines in place.
- Staff, students, and chaperones riding a school bus to and from school or extra-curricular events are required to wear a mask per the CDC's order
- We kindly request that students bring a mask and wear it appropriately while being transported on the school bus. If a student forgets to bring a mask, we will provide one prior to boarding the bus.
- The CDC order provides limited exemptions to the mask requirement for certain categories of individuals, including: children under the age of 2; persons with disabilities who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty. A parent requesting a mask exemption for his/her child should put it in writing to the Superintendent at [thompsond@piqua.org](mailto:thompsond@piqua.org).
- Students that wish not to wear a mask on a school bus should secure another form of transportation to and from school.
- We appreciate your help with meeting the requirements of this mandate.

Visit: <https://www.miamicountyhealth.net/> for Miami County Health information.