

# Health and Safety Plan for The Pittsburgh New Church School

Initial Effective Date: July 28, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 28, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 28, 2021

Pandemic Coordinator - Gabrielle Uber

Pandemic Team - Cyndi Glenn, Joseph Nocera, Gerda Griffiths, Melissa Sellner, Clare Stefanini.

Roles and Tasks have been assigned and coordinated by Gabrielle Uber and managed through team meetings.

1. The Pittsburgh New Church School (PNCS) will support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate for in-person learning. This means use of layered prevention strategies as outlined by the CDC, including masks, social distancing, cohorting, handwashing, regular cleaning, ventilation, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, testing, and quarantining / isolating as appropriate within current recommendations. This will be adjusted in response to changes in community transmission levels (see chart from CDC website), vaccination coverage and the occurrence of outbreaks.

<b>Level of Community Transmission &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>Low Blue</b>	<b>Moderate Yellow</b>	<b>Substantial Orange</b>	<b>High Red</b>
<b>Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected V</b>				
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs <sup>1</sup> that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

PNCS will ensure continuity of services, including serving the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs. Students benefit from a stable, in-person learning opportunity, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 is a priority. PNCS is dedicated to remaining open unless fully

remote teaching is mandated or deemed necessary by the school, most likely due to Covid cases or exposure within the school.

Fully remote learning will only be offered in the event of School closure due to local, state or federal mandate or due to Covid exposure within the school, at the discretion of the school or in collaboration with local health authorities. Remote school interactive sessions will take place Monday - Friday from at least 9:00am - 2:30pm. Classes will be offered via video conferencing led by classroom teachers based on daily schedule.

It is important to maintain the quality of instruction for all students. This includes minimizing those times when teachers are simultaneously delivering instruction in-person and remotely. Students will be required to commit to maintaining in class learning unless remote is appropriate due to illness with COVID-19, quarantine or school closure. In the event that a teacher is out sick, increased staffing requirements needed under these circumstances mean that staff may not be available to teach those classes, in which case, classwork for those students will be provided for asynchronous learning at home.

2. Communication between school administration, staff and families is vitally important. The PNCS Health and Safety Plan will be posted on the school's website on the COVID-19 webpage. The School Pandemic Coordinator and Principal will provide regular updates to the website and information via constant contact, or email. CDC Signs explaining how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are posted in highly visible locations. A COVID-19 response page is on our school website. The website page is live and will be updated regularly by our Director of Admissions. The school is currently posting updates to our families via email and website. Any new time-sensitive information in the Health and Safety Plan will be presented to staff in timely training sessions and train-the-trainer sessions.

3. The table below explains how PNCS will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff within the context of our specific circumstances and the extent to

which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

Recommendation	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p><b>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</b></p>	<p>Masks will be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) irrespective of vaccination status as currently recommended by the CDC in light of the recent development of the delta variant. This will be adjusted as new recommendations come forward. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors, during substantial to high transmission levels, and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Masks are not currently recommended outdoors and children and staff at PNCS will be allowed to remove masks while outside. Children and staff will be reminded and instructed in proper mask wearing technique. PNCS will limit visitors into the building. Masks must be worn by visitors at all times. Anyone without a mask will be given one before they can enter any location.</p>
<p><b>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Several studies from the 2020-2021 school year show low COVID-19 transmission levels among students in schools that had less than 6 feet of physical distance when the school implemented and layered other prevention strategies, such as the use of masks. PNCS will maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. Classes will be maintained in ‘pods’ to reduce potential exposure across large numbers of students (usually no more than 6-9 students per ‘pod’) and will not be combined unless appropriate room size will allow for it. In order to provide appropriate academic instruction, some students will move between pods, however this will be minimized. Students will go to the restroom one at a time, and follow social distancing when transitioning to the restroom. Hand sanitizer will be located in hallways, bathrooms, and each classroom.</p>

	<p>PNCS field trips will be limited to those where appropriate social distancing protocols can be maintained. The frequency of trips will be reduced and limited to 6 students per every 1 adult/teacher as appropriate and allowed by local health officials.</p>
<p><b>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</b></p>	<p>All staff will attend a train-the-trainer information session that describes the protocol for handwashing, covering coughs/sneezes, and face coverings.</p> <p>PNCS will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds throughout the day including on arrival, and before and after eating, remind everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing.</p> <p>If handwashing is not possible, use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) will be encouraged and supplies made readily available.</p>
<p><b>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving</b></p>	<p>Common area touch points are disinfected at least 1x per day. The whole facility is cleaned once weekly.</p> <p>If a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 has been in the school within the last 24 hours, the space will be cleaned and disinfected prior to use.</p> <p>All of the PNCS classrooms have proper ventilation including windows. In addition, rooms have fans to circulate the air and air purifiers.</p> <p>Students will bring water bottles from home. PNCS will provide one time use bottles of drinking water to students if a student has forgotten water from home. The communal drinking fountains will be turned off.</p> <p>Students will bring a packed lunch each day. (Disposable lunch sacks and ziplock bags are encouraged.) Students will not trade or share lunches.</p> <p>Supplies will be cleaned before using them with another student.</p> <p>Each student at PNCS using an iPad will have one assigned for their use at school and at home for remote learning when applicable.</p>

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;**

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of [symptoms](#) from no or mild symptoms to severe illness. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old). Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Because some of the symptoms of [flu](#), common cold, and COVID-19 are similar, it is hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. [Testing](#) can help confirm a diagnosis, and inform medical treatment and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

In the event of a student or staff member developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the school day, the staff excuses the student(s) from the classroom and alerts the COVID-19 coordinator who takes the student(s) to an isolation room and ensures the student(s) is properly supervised and masked. The parent, guardian, or caregiver is called. Arrangements are made for the student(s) to either go home or seek emergency medical attention. The parent, guardian, or caregiver picks up the student(s) and contacts their healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 testing.

The isolation room and the student's work area are cleaned, ventilated and disinfected. Staff will wait as long as possible before cleaning unused areas to let virus particles settle (at least several hours), and use personal protective equipment (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of infection.

If the student has a negative COVID-19 test result, they may return to school following existing school illness management policies. If the student has a positive COVID-19 test result, (s)he begins home isolation. See below.

Close contacts of the ill student(s) are informed of possible exposure. Close Contact through [Proximity and Duration of Exposure](#) is defined as someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for [discontinuing home isolation](#). Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) where both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use

of [well-fitting masks](#); and other [K–12 school prevention strategies](#) (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

The ACHD is contacted to assess spread and support follow up with staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of student(s) that had contact with the ill student(s).

Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine according to local health department requirements) and to consult with the student(s) healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test. Members of the ill student(s) household and staff who had close contact with the student are advised to quarantine according to local health department requirements. The ill student(s) can return to school and end isolation once 10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND symptoms have improved.

CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated, or have had a positive COVID test within the last 3 months, and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19. At PNCS, we will require 4 days of quarantine and a negative test for return to school, in line with studies which have shown high viral load in vaccinated people with the delta variant. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 for the full 14 days.

It is encouraged that students and staff who are vaccinated provide that information to the school. Anyone not providing information will be assumed to be unvaccinated in the event of Close Contact exposure.

<p><b>Diagnostic and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>Testing gives communities, schools, and families added assurance that schools can open and remain open safely for all students. By identifying infections early, testing helps keep COVID-19 transmission low and students in school for in-person learning.</p> <p>All COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing will be performed by community based testing facilities and health professionals at the effected parent or staff member’s discession. When symptoms or suspected contact is present, testing is highly encouraged to facilitate efficient communication and action planning for other members within the school community. Any information given to the school concerning testing results will remain strictly confidential.</p>
<p><b>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</b></p>	<p>It is beyond the scope of PNCS to provide vaccinations. Students and staff are encouraged to use local and CDC resources if they wish to obtain vaccination.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;</b></p>	<p>The most important means of accommodating our special needs students is to maintain in-person instruction to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Consideration will be made for those students for whom, for an identifiable reason, wearing masks for the whole day is an excessive hardship.</p>

<p><b>and Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>PNCS will work with the Allegheny County Department of Health in the event of a case(s) of COVID at school to quickly take appropriate action to minimize the risk to students and staff, such as prompt communication with at risk contacts, quarantining and testing. Additionally, PNCS will monitor levels of community transmission and vaccination coverage in our area to react appropriately to local conditions. If PNCS decides to add or remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions, we would add or remove them one at a time and clearly communicate any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families.</p>
---	--

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for The Pittsburgh New Church School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on September 8, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

  10   Yes  
   0   No

Affirmed on: **September 8, 2021**

By: Radford Sellner

*(Signature\* of Board Secretary)*

*(Print Name of Board President)*

\*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

**Option A:** The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

**Option B:** If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.