

# Pana Community Unit School Dist. No. 8

14 East Main Street  
P.O. Box 377  
Pana, IL 62557

## Be A Part of the Pride

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August 5, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Yesterday, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced masks will be required for students, teachers and staff at pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools. The new measure is part of the state's ongoing effort to combat a new surge as the Delta variant rapidly spreads.

The mask requirement is inclusive of youth sports and activities, with masks now required for all indoor extracurriculars and sports. In line with CDC guidance, masks are not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower.

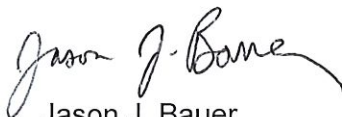
At this time, the District is in the process of updating the Back to School Plan to reflect this change. This is still a very fluid situation and there will be additional guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education in the coming days. As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and update you on any changes or developments.

I know that this will be a very unpopular decision with some folks while others will be relieved for this added layer of protection in our schools. Our goal is to keep students in school (in person) for as many days as possible during the upcoming year. Under the current guidance, the wearing of masks will reduce quarantine numbers when positive cases are reported.

I know this is a very difficult time for our nation as we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I will point out that our students did a really good job of wearing masks last year and that our teachers and staff were outstanding delivering educational services under difficult circumstances. I urge that you continue to show support for our students, teachers, and staff during this time by keeping all of us in your thoughts and prayers as we begin a new school year.

As always, thank you for your support of our students, and I look forward to a new school year in Panther Nation!

Sincerely,



Jason J. Bauer  
Superintendent

**Board of Education**  
Doug Kirkbride, President  
Kyle Anderson, Vice President  
Craig Deere, Secretary  
Anne Dorn  
Mark Beyers  
James Moon  
Michelle Blackwell

**Jason Bauer, Superintendent**



**Principals**  
Senior High, Kevin McDonald  
Assistant Principal, Heath Strom  
Junior High, Lisa Mayhall  
Lincoln, Kelly Millburg  
Washington, Cheri Wysong  
Adam Haston – Athletic Director

## Pana CUSD #8 Back to School Plan 2021-2022

### Schedule

- Pana CUSD #8 will return to 5 days per week in person learning with regular starting and dismissal times. Please refer to the schedule below and the school calendar on our website.

### **EVERY WEDNESDAY SCHOOL WILL DISMISS 45 MINUTES EARLY FOR PLC/BUILDING MEETINGS**

SCHOOL	STARTING TIME		REGULAR DAY DISMISSAL	45 MIN EARLY DISMISSAL	3 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL
WASHINGTON	8:15 a.m.	Cross-town Walking Bus	3:00 p.m. 3:05 p.m. 3:10 p.m.	2:15 p.m. 2:20 p.m. 2:25 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 12:05 p.m. 12:10 p.m.
LINCOLN	8:15 a.m.	Cross-town Walking Bus	3:00 p.m. 3:05 p.m. 3:10 p.m.	2:15 p.m. 2:20 p.m. 2:25 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 12:05 p.m. 12:10 p.m.
JUNIOR HIGH	8:00 a.m.		3:18 p.m.	2:38 p.m.	12:18 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL	8:00 a.m.		3:20 p.m.	2:38 p.m.	12:20 p.m.

### Mask Policy

1) Masks are a requirement for all students in school and for inside activities regardless of vaccination status. Masks exemption for medical conditions still exist, but will require a signed letter from a certified physician. Schools must enforce the mask mandate. At this time, there is no mask requirement for outdoor athletic activities though added protocols for student athletes will be put into place..

2) The CDC requires that masks be worn at all times while on public transportation (school buses). For those students, both public and private, a mask must be worn on the school bus. Parents are reminded to provide a clean mask for their student each day prior to boarding the bus. A limited number of masks may be available on school buses for those students who are unable to afford a mask. Parents are encouraged to transport their own students to and from school if wearing a mask cannot be adhered to.

3) Pana CUSD #8 will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of all students and staff and will adjust our policy if needed. If local metrics warrant there may be an increased enforcement of mask wearing for everyone's safety.

### **Social Distancing**

- 1) The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3-6 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing to reduce the risk of transmission to the greatest extent possible. For teachers, staff and adults inside of schools (without universal masking), the CDC defines a close contact as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- 2) Pana CUSD #8 will practice social distancing for all students and follow CDC guidelines to the greatest extent possible in all areas.
- 3) Teachers and staff will continue to utilize seating charts.
- 4) School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through lines in the cafeteria and while eating inside. Additional spaces during mealtime may be utilized outside (e.g. weather permitting). Students and staff who are fully vaccinated are still encouraged to distance while eating.

### **Hand Hygiene**

- 1) Students will be encouraged at all grade levels to continue good hand hygiene. Students will be reminded to use soap and water for at least 20 seconds while washing hands.
- 2) Pana CUSD #8 will make hand sanitizer stations available to students in all buildings. Hand sanitizer will continue to be safely stored and out of reach of young children and will only be used with adult supervision for children under the age of 6.
- 3) Students will be reminded to cover their mouths during coughs and sneezes.

### **Temperature Checks**

- 1) There will no daily temperature checks and/or symptom screenings prior to the start of each school day. Parents are reminded to *keep their children home* if they are sick or are exhibiting symptoms. Parents should monitor the health of their children and are encouraged to seek out COVID testing when necessary.

### **COVID Testing**

- 1) Pana CUSD #8 will be able to administer COVID-19 testing for students and staff that show symptoms at school with the ABBOTT BinaxNOW rapid test.
- 2) In order for a student to be tested, a waiver must be signed by a parent/legal guardian. The waiver is included in the online registration packet.

### **COVID Testing (Continued)**

- 3) The test is the less invasive nasal swab and only goes right inside nostril ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch). The test takes 15 minutes to obtain results.
- 4) Times and location for testing will be posted on the website.

### **Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

- 1) Students and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home, contact their child's school, and/or consider contacting their doctor.
- 2) Contact tracing is used by public health departments to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Contact tracing involves identifying people who have confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases and close contacts to prevent further spread. Asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine are part of the process. Fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are excluded from quarantine per IDPH.
- 3) In Illinois, contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine is required per Part 690 Control of Communicable Disease Code, Subpart I. Further, the Communicable Disease Code requires mandatory reporting of any suspect, confirmed or probably case of COVID-19 to the local health department immediately within 3 hours.
- 4) Definition of Close Contact:
  - a) An individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
  - b) Students in a classroom who were within 3 to 6 feet of the infected student are *not* treated as close contacts as long as both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of a mask and other prevention strategies (universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the school.
  - c) Only classroom contacts within 3 feet require quarantine as long as both the case and the contact was consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

### **Contact Tracing and Quarantine (Continued)**

d) In circumstances where exposure occurs outside of the classroom, for students and staff in the classroom where masks were not correctly and consistently worn by the infected person and/or the student, close contacts would be defined as individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had lab-diagnosed COVID-19 within the last 90 days who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. In general, individuals who are solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors should not be considered a close contact.

e) There is a higher risk of exposure/transmission the longer a person is exposed to an infected person. The infectious period of close contact begins two calendar days before the onset of symptoms (for a symptomatic person) or two calendar days before the positive sample was obtained (for an asymptomatic person). If the case was symptomatic (e.g., coughing, sneezing), persons with briefer periods of exposure may also be considered contacts, as determined by the local health department. Individuals who have had lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days or who are fully vaccinated who remain asymptomatic are not required to quarantine if identified as a close contact to a confirmed case per the CDC guidelines.

f) Local health departments are the final authority on identifying close contacts.

### **Options for Unvaccinated Students to Return to School from Quarantine after Exposure**

1) The local health department will make all final determinations on who is to be quarantined and for how long. They may also make the decision that a close contact is not a candidate for a modified quarantine due to a high-risk exposure (e.g. sustained close contact without wearing a mask).

**Option 1:** Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days. The date of last exposure is considered day 0.

**Option 2:** Quarantine for 10 calendar days after the close contact's last exposure to the COVID-19 case. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.

- The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring.
- SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and may be required by the local health department.
- The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.

### **Options for Unvaccinated Students to Return to School from Quarantine after Exposure (continued)**

**Option 3:** Quarantine period is for 7 calendar days after the last exposure if:

- No symptoms developed during daily monitoring AND the individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) that was collected within 48 hours of exposure day 7 (starting on day 6 or after).
  - The individual is responsible for obtaining a copy of the negative results for documentation purposes.
- The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.

**Option 4:** Test-to-Stay Strategy, as has been documented by CDC, if schools test close contacts, as defined above, on days one, three, five, and seven from date of exposure by a PCR or rapid antigen or molecular emergency use authorization (EUA)-approved test, close contacts are permitted to remain in the classroom as long as the results are negative.

- Only applicable when both the COVID-19 confirmed student and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks and school **requires** masking for all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated, as recommended by the CDC.
- Test to Stay may be used for any indoor exposure, with the exception of household exposures.
- Students engaged in Test-to-Stay after an exposure may participate in extracurricular activities. The local health department has the authority to order a classroom-only Test-to-Stay protocol after assessing the risk of an individual situation.
- Because students engaged in the Test-to-Stay protocol were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must wear a mask while indoors at school, regardless of the mask policy at school.
- However, if the close contact is identified five days or more from the date of exposure, adjust testing accordingly, ideally on days five and seven after the last exposure.
- When testing in the outlined cadence is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students should be tested at the earliest possible opportunity.

- At the conclusion of the Test-to-Stay modified quarantine period, the school should notify the local health department that the student has successfully completed testing and remained negative.
  - Local health departments have the authority to assess high-risk exposures and order a traditional quarantine without the option for Test to Stay.
  - If any time the student tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, and the local health department notified.
- ✚ Regardless of when an individual ends quarantine, daily symptom monitoring should continue through calendar day 14 after the exposure. Individuals should continue to adhere to recommended mitigation strategies, including proper and consistent mask use, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, avoiding crowds and sick people, and ensuring adequate indoor ventilation. If any symptoms develop during or after ending quarantine, the individual should immediately self-isolate and contact their local health department or healthcare provider to report their symptoms. The health department can provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

### **Cafeteria**

- 1) Non-vaccinated and vaccinated students are encouraged to socially distance to the greatest extent possible at all times.
- 2) Students are encouraged to eat outside when able to safely do so.
- 3) Full vaccinated students are not required to maintain social distancing when eating.

### **Physical Education**

- 1) Students are not required to wear a mask while participating outdoors during physical education. Mask wearing may be encouraged outdoors if social distancing is difficult due to the nature of the activity or due to high numbers of unvaccinated people present.
- 2) Students are required to use masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Lower-risk activities and increased social distancing are recommended while indoors.
- 3) Locker rooms will be utilized once again this year to change clothes for P.E. Students should limit the amount of time spent in locker rooms prior to the beginning of class. Social distancing and correct mask use are encouraged for all students.

### Driver Education

- 1) There will only be two students and one instructor allowed in the vehicle at one time.
- 2) It is required that face masks be worn inside of the vehicle.
- 3) Eating and drinking are prohibited while in the vehicle.
- 4) Windows will be open weather permitting.
- 5) There will be no unnecessary stops during behind the wheel instruction.
- 6) Students will wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer prior to and after driving.
- 7) The steering wheel, door handles, seatbelt fastener, controls/dials, keys, seats, etc. will be disinfected in between each behind-the-wheel session.

### Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities

- 1) Pana CUSD #8 will continue to follow CDC and IDPH guidelines as adopted by the Illinois High School Athletic Association (IHSA) and Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA).
- 2) Pana CUSD #8 coaches and athletes will follow the latest recommendations from the state governing associations as it pertains to athletics. **Guidelines for athletics are subject to change by those governing associations.**

### Remote Learning

- 1) ISBE Declaration: *“Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, **only while** they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health”.*

### Water Fountains

- 1) Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school for hydration needs. Each school has a bottle filler station to cut down on the number of germs present in halls around water fountains.



**Signage**

1) Signage will be posted regarding masks, handwashing, and social distancing.

**Sharing of Materials**

1) Students will not be allowed to share materials without first sanitizing those materials.

**Cleaning of Desks and Table Tops**

1) Extensive cleaning measures will be utilized to disinfect table tops and student desks.

**Parent / Teacher Conferences**

1) Parent / Teacher conferences may be conducted in-person for the upcoming school year. If a parent / guardian is unable to schedule a conference during normal regularly schedules times, they are encouraged to have a phone conference.

**Isolation Rooms**

1) Each building will continue to maintain an isolation room for students who display COVID-19 symptoms, but have to wait for a parent/guardian to pick them up from school.

**Meals**

1) Breakfast and lunch meals that meet USDA standards will be served at school on student attendance days free of charge. (There will be no lunch served on days that utilize a 3 hour early dismissal.)

**Visitors**

1) Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are discouraged from visiting schools during the regular school day.

2) Visitors will not have access to the building during the regular school day in order to protect the safety of our students and staff.

3) Those individuals that exhibit a fever (100.4 degrees F or higher), moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, and/or muscle or body aches from unknown cause shall refrain from entering the building for any reason.

### **County Health Departments**

1) District personnel will continue to collaborate with the Christian County, Shelby County, and Montgomery County Health Departments on various logistics and decision-making. Topics will include school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

### **Subject to Change**

1) Regular, special, and/or emergency meetings may be conducted by the Board of Education to amend or modify this plan based on the needs of the community and school administration. Mask use may universally be required (i.e., required regardless of vaccination status) if:

- Having a student population that is not yet eligible for vaccination (e.g., schools with grades PK-6).
- Increasing, substantial, or high COVID-19 transmission within the school or their surrounding community.
- Increasing community transmission of a variant that is spread more easily among children and adolescents or is resulting in more severe illness from COVID-19 among children and adolescents.
- Lacking a system to monitor the vaccine status of students and/or teachers and staff.
- Difficulty monitoring or enforcing mask policies that are not universal.
- Awareness of low vaccination uptake within the student, family, or teacher/staff population or within the community.
- Responding to community input that many teachers, staff, parents, or students would not participate in in-person learning if mask use was not universal.

### **Plan Review**

1) We will continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff and will adjust accordingly if needed. Everyone should be prepared to adjust accordingly if needed. Our main objective is to educate our students in person on a daily basis.

2) This plan will be reviewed no less than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC/IDPH and will be made publicly available on the District's website.

Please fill out the survey below and give your thoughts on the Back to School Plan.

<https://forms.gle/fmUna5LrVhDbMZp9>