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**PRAIRIE CROSSING
CHARTER SCHOOL**



CREATING NATURAL LEADERS



**Phase 5B
Mask Choice Implementation Plan
February 2022**

Phase 5B Implementation- Mask Choice Overview

Below provides a quick guide to the procedures in Phase 5B that have new requirements and/or updates based on the most recent guidelines from the State. By sending your child to school in person, you are indicating that you have read and understood the Phase 5 & 5B procedures.

Please note: If the cases of COVID-19 begin to increase during the mask choice phase, PCCS will revisit these strategies up to, (and including) returning to [Phase 5 protocols](#).

| Item | 5 | 5B |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wearing Masks | Yes (while indoors) | Optional |
| Cleaning Protocols | Yes | Yes |
| Handwashing | Yes | Yes |
| Learning Distance | ≥ 3ft | ≥ 3ft |
| Student Per Class | ≤ 24 | ≤ 24 |
| Desk Barriers | Yes | Yes - (See FAQ #5 below) |
| Schedule ¹ | 8AM - 3:30PM | 8AM - 3:30PM |
| Lunch Microwaves | No | Yes (Lunch Only) ² |

1. Kindergarten remains at a 1PM dismissal
2. Pilot use of Microwaves while maintaining distancing.

Illness/Exclusion/Return to School

If a student has symptoms correlating with possible COVID-19 diagnosis, their disposition (home vs. school) will be left up to the clinical discretion of the school RN and/or administrator in place of RN. Rapid antigen and/or point of care testing may be used as criteria for return, but the RN/administrator has the final decision on whether or not that student will also need a confirmatory test (i.e. NAAT, lab based, RT-PCR) to determine return. Aligning with LCHD current practice, health office decisions will be made in consultation with the [CDC Antigen Testing Algorithm](#). The school nurse and/or administrator will work with each student/family on a case-by-case basis.

Quarantine/Isolation

Close contacts will no longer need to quarantine/be excluded from school unless showing COVID-19 symptoms per the JCAR decision on the IDPH emergency rule.

Face Coverings

Masks are highly recommended but optional wear for any student or staff. The exception will be that those who are returning from quarantine or isolation on Day 6 must wear a mask both indoors and out through the end of Day 10. If your child is resistant to wearing a mask between days 6-10, the other option would be to keep them remote through Day 10 and returning to a mask-optional choice Day 11. Remote learning would be allowed as an alternative.

Social Distancing

In all school buildings, social distance expectations will continue to be a minimum of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible.

Lunch and Snacks

Staff will maintain the safest distance possible for students at all times. During lunch and snack time this will include eating outdoors as much as possible. Microwaves can once again be used in the classrooms with distances being maintained.

Visitors/Volunteers

Administration may grant limited volunteers and/or visitors on a preapproved basis. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or visitors requesting campus access will be expected to follow the school's volunteer procedure protocols.

Sports

Sports programs will continue as scheduled by the Lakes District Athletics Conference. Those students returning from quarantine or isolation on Day 6 must wear a mask during all practices/games through the end of Day 10. When traveling to our fellow district schools, PCCS staff, students, and visitors will be expected to follow the masking guidelines that are in place at that location.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Clubs will be allowed and scheduled throughout the year. All clubs will follow the same safety protocols used throughout the school day.

Field Trips

During Phase 5B field trips will be allowed following ISBE Requirements and CDC recommendations for travel. Masking will be required on school buses as well as may be required during the field trip depending on location requirements. All travel will remain in state until further notice.

Band

Band will continue with necessary social distancing and safety protocols used throughout the school day.

Remote Learning

In alignment with the Illinois State Board of Education guidelines, remote instruction is available for students who have not received a vaccine and are under a quarantine consistent with the guidance or requirements from the local public health department or Illinois Department of Public Health.

For all other Phase 5B procedures not listed above, it is safe to assume that the mitigation strategies will be the same as in the [Phase 5 Implementation Plan](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Will my child be allowed preferential seating if they are masked and seated near unmasked students?**
 1. We do not want to create divides amongst our staff or students. We will avoid any seating arrangements that create those divides. If there is a medical concern, parents should contact either Mr. Zamiar or Mrs. Coyle for guidance.
- 2. How will the school ensure that my child(ren) won't be "picked on" for their mask choice option?**
 - a. Mask wear will be treated exactly like any other differences our staff and students may encounter; with respect. Prairie Crossing teachers and staff have already begun having conversations with their students to set the culture of respect for those that are masked or unmasked. Each family will decide what is most comfortable for their child and we will all be expected to honor those differences.
- 3. Will spectators be allowed at extracurricular events?**
 - a. Spectators will be allowed at all extracurricular events at PCCS. We ask that we continue to follow social distance strategies of having at least 3 feet between us during the event. For sporting events, PCCS will continue to honor the protocols in the other conference schools and abide by their policies and procedures.
- 4. Can we continue to have mask breaks?**
 - a. Absolutely. Those wearing masks will still be offered the opportunity to go outdoors for brief mask breaks as needed.
- 5. Can we start sending in Heat-ups for lunch?**
 - a. Yes - We will reinstall the microwaves on a trial basis.
- 6. Do the students have to use the shields any longer?**
 - a. The individual classrooms will determine the best arrangement of their classrooms to ensure the best learning environment for the lesson(s) being taught. Shields will be mandatory during indoor lunch and in cases where a close contact student returns to the classroom during their isolation period (day 6 to day 10).
- 7. Will "Test to Stay" remain in place?**
 - a. No, When moving to Mask Optional, the Test to Stay program is no longer provided in conjunction with the LCHD. We will continue to use symptomatic screening with BinaxNOW rapid antigen kits as long as we are able to obtain supply from the IDPH/LCHD. Please remember that your child must be opted in via PowerSchool in order for the school nurse to conduct any testing.
- 8. I want my child to wear a mask while at school. How do I assure he/she wears a mask in class?**
 - a. School staff will not be able to police the wearing of masks in the classroom for individual children. We recommend you continue to have conversations with your child to ensure they are adhering to your masking expectations.
- 9. If my child is considered a close contact do they still need to quarantine for 5 days.**
 - a. Close contacts will no longer need to quarantine/be excluded from school unless showing COVID-19 systems per the JCAR decision on the IDPH emergency rule. Those currently at home, as a close contact, may return as long as they are asymptomatic. We encourage those who are possibly exposed to the virus to wear a mask through their 10 day isolation period.

10. How does Masking work on School Busses for those going to field trips and/or sporting events at away schools?

- a. Due to Federal requirements, all riders on school buses must continue to wear masks. Students or staff who refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to ride.**

Have other questions? Please feel free to contact the school.