



September 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Pearl River School District:

As we prepare to reopen our schools tomorrow morning to students, we focus on containing the transmission of COVID-19 in our buildings and maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff. Our health team remains constantly vigilant to the guidelines set forth by the New York State Health Department which are always subject to change based on the number of cases. We respectfully ask that you partner with us to ensure as healthy a learning environment as possible for all.

Through the hard work of many individuals made up of health professionals, administrators, faculty, parents, and community members, in conjunction with laws set forth by the CDC, NYSDOH, and RCDOH, district guidelines have been implemented. We ask families to follow these each morning at home prior to students leaving for school. The protocols will be practiced and reinforced throughout the school day. Your families have already been practicing most of these safety precautions from early on - hand washing, wearing face masks, social distancing, and staying home when sick.

- Communicate with your child every morning to get an accurate health assessment. If your child complains or exhibits [any symptoms of COVID-19](#), even very mild symptoms, keep your child home and seek medical advice from your child's pediatrician.
- As per NYSDOH and NYSED requirements, take your child's temperature daily and complete the screening questionnaire. Please see the [Daily Screening protocol sheet](#) the District sent out. **Do not send your child to school if your child's temperature is 100.0 degrees or higher or your child has [a symptom of COVID-19](#).**
- A student who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to in-person learning in accordance with CDC and DOH guidelines, [Commissioner's Isolation Order](#), minimally with documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing and resolution of symptoms. Anyone who has been around a person with COVID-19 must stay home for 14 days in quarantine. Anyone who has traveled out of the US or to states on the NY travel advisory list will require 14 days quarantine.

- Hand washing in schools is always expected as a priority. Please remind your child to always wash hands thoroughly. Hand sanitizers will also be used during school hours. Parents may have their child opt out of using hand sanitizers by sending a written note to the school nurse.
- Parents are strongly advised to get their child a flu shot, even if never done in the past. While it is important to get one every year, it is more critical now as we expect a convergence of both flu and coronavirus symptoms intensifying this fall. A flu shot will help to reduce the cases of flu which can mimic symptoms of COVID-19.
- A child who exhibits any [one symptom of COVID-19](#) at school will be sent home. A timely pick up is expected. Please make sure all emergency contact names and phone numbers on file are updated in case a parent cannot be contacted or is unable to get to the school right away. Please notify all emergency contacts to save the school's number on their cell phones so they can immediately recognize when the school is calling.
- If your child is not covered by a health insurance plan, New York State has a health insurance plan for children called Child Health Plus. Depending on your family's income, your child may be eligible to join either [Children's Medicaid or Child Health Plus](#). Both Children's Medicaid and Child Health Plus are available through dozens of providers throughout the state.

Call this toll-free number: 1-800-698-4KIDS (1-800-698-4543), and ask about Child Health Plus and Children's Medicaid. If you are hearing impaired call the TTY number, 1-877-898-5849.

As noted, many of the protective strategies our school district has implemented are actions families have been practicing for many months. Face coverings and hygiene are critical to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We must reinforce all of these guidelines in the best interest of everyone's health and safety.

Together, we will work tirelessly to keep our community safe.

Thank you for your cooperation and compliance. I wish all the members of the Pearl River School District, the Pearl River community and all your families a healthy and safe school year.

Sincerely,

Cindy V. Padre, M.D.

School Physician, Pearl River School District