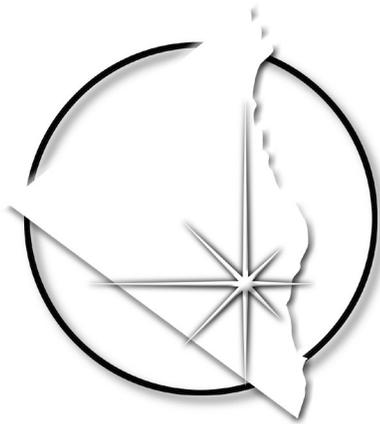


PEARL RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT PANDEMIC ILLNESS PLAN

Prepared by



Pearl River School District
and
Rockland BOCES
Safety & Risk Management

Revised 7/15/20

PANDEMIC ILLNESS PLAN

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government, via Presidential Directive, has required schools to develop a plan for dealing with the challenges that could be created in the event of a Pandemic Illness. This Pandemic Illness Plan, in conjunction with the Pearl River School District Emergency Plan, outlines steps that may be taken should a widespread communicable disease occur.

Throughout this document several assumptions have been made. These assumptions are based upon documentation from various Federal and State health authorities. These assumptions are as follows:

1. There will be little or no warning that an outbreak of a contagious illness is about to occur.
2. The illness is transmitted from person-to-person contact.
3. Natural immunity to the pathogen is limited or non-existent.
4. The pandemic could cause at least 2.5 percent morbidity in the general population.
5. The disease will impact all segments of the school community including students, staff, parents, and suppliers of essential services and supplies.

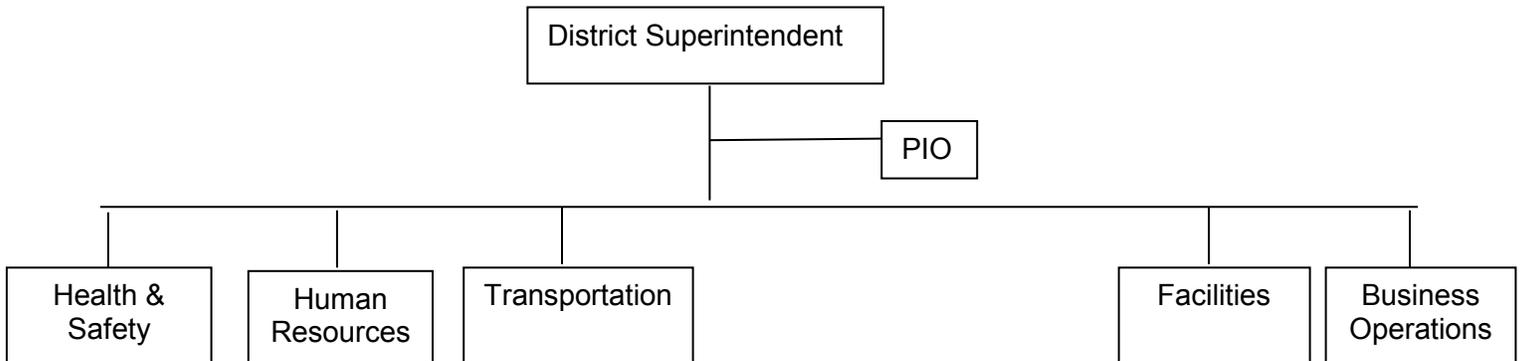
AUTHORITY

The New York State Department of Health or the Rockland County Health Commissioner will make a declaration of a public health emergency. Once this declaration is made, the Pearl River School District Superintendent shall implement all or any portion of this plan in coordination with Federal, State, and local authorities. In the event of any emergency, Pearl River School District, via the Pearl River School District Emergency Plan, has established various methods for communication with the local authorities and has created liaisons who will interact with these governmental agencies. In the event of a public health crisis, those interagency procedures outlined in the Pearl River School District Emergency Plan shall be implemented.

CHAIN of COMMAND: The Pandemic Response Team

In an effort to provide for a coordinated response to any school emergency, it is important that all response agencies operate using a common emergency management method. The National Unified Incident Command System (ICS) will be used when responding to an emergency at Pearl River School District. All administrative staff shall be trained in ICS on an annual basis as outlined in our Pearl River School District Emergency Plan. Accordingly, in compliance with the National Incident Management System, Pearl River School District has identified the following critical operations and instituted the following Incident Command Structure for those operations.

The Pandemic Response Team shall be activated by the District Superintendent or their alternate when the World Health Organization raises the Pandemic Alert Level to Level 4 or under direction of State or County Health Officials.



PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

The following are the current assignments for the Incident Command System:

- Superintendent of Schools
- Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Community Services
- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Director for Special Education
- Director of Facilities

Alternates

In the event that the Superintendent of Schools is not available, the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Community Services (and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction next) shall serve as Incident Commander. All chiefs of critical operation sectors shall designate at least one alternate Sector Chief who shall serve in the event of their absence. It is further recommended that those Sector Chiefs responsible for large departments create their own departmental ICS to ensure adequate accountability in light of the anticipated morbidity rate.

In the event of a Pandemic Illness, the Pearl River School District shall create a Pandemic Response Team. This team shall be under the authority of the Pearl River School District Superintendent. The team's responsibilities shall include implementation of this plan to ensure that vital operations continue.

Notification of Parents, Guardians, and Staff

In an effort to provide a safe, secure, and conducive learning environment, Pearl River School District has developed a District Wide Safety Plan and Building Specific Safety Plans to address issues that could adversely affect the employees, staff, students, and visitors of Pearl River School District. These plans provide for specific procedures as to the method and manner by which the District Superintendent shall ensure that timely and appropriate information about incidents in or on the Pearl River School District owned property is communicated to parents, guardians, and persons in parental relationship. The notifications will include such information that is pertinent to the incident but that will not compromise an on going investigation, violate laws of privacy or civil rights, compromise sensitive or confidential information or violate any other Pearl River School District policy, procedure or legal statute. Notification may include but will not be limited to written, video, audio, or other electronic methods.

INFECTION CONTROL

1. Display notices at entry points to the buildings advising staff, students, and visitors not to enter if they have symptoms.
2. Take all measures to ensure ample supply of cleaning supplies, gloves, thermometers, masks, tissues, waste receptacles, and soap or hand sanitizing gels.
3. Take all measures to ensure that surfaces are cleaned at least daily.
4. Where possible, increase building ventilation and replace filters frequently.
5. Cancel group activities that encourage close personal contact.
6. Encourage staff and students to seek medical assistance as soon as symptoms develop.
7. Discourage the use of shared workspaces such as desks.
8. In addition to standard precautions, school nurses shall implement Droplet Precautions in accordance with World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
9. Students and Staff shall be encouraged to adopt CDC procedures as outlined below.
10. If necessary, close school. Implement Continuity of Learning, Continuity of Operations, Communication and Re-Opening Plans for prolonged closures.

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL PROCEDURES

How germs spread

Pandemic Illnesses are caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Illnesses spread from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

How to help stop the spread of germs

Take care to:

- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Stay home when you are sick, and check with a health care provider when needed
- Practice other good health habits

Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Put your used tissue in a waste basket. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Clean your hands often

When available, wash your hands -- with soap and warm water -- then rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Wash for 15 to 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs.

When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using a gel, rub the gel in your hands until they are dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in the gel kills germs that cause illness.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs can live for a long time (some can live for 2 hours or more) on surfaces like doorknobs, desks, and tables.

When you are sick or have symptoms, stay home, get plenty of rest, and check with a health care provider as needed. Your employer may need a doctor's note for an excused absence. **Remember:** Keeping your distance from others may protect them from getting sick. Common symptoms may include:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

The CDC and NYS Department of Health may have additional specific guidelines for specific illnesses, such as COVID-19.

ABSENCES: Staff and Students

Staff and students with a known or suspected Pandemic Illness should not remain in school, and they should not return until they are fever free and the exposure period based on the diagnosis has expired with a letter from their physician. Under the direction of the CDC and HHS, the Pearl River School District has adopted the following Pandemic Illness sick-leave policies.

The Pandemic Illness Team shall ensure that all staff members are aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease that prompted the public health emergency. This awareness training shall take the form of departmental meetings, posters, email, or Pearl River School District District Wide awareness training. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Community Services shall encourage all ill staff members to stay home and seek medical attention. Infected staff shall not return to work until such time that they are cleared by their health care provider. Staff members who become ill and stay home shall not be penalized with regard to their employment.

Students who display the signs and symptoms of the illness will be sent home after being evaluated by the school nurse. In the event that the student's illness appears to require immediate medical care, the nurse shall call 911. Where possible, all students displaying signs and symptoms of the Pandemic Illness will be part of a cohort and separated from the general population until they leave the school. Students shall not return to school until such time that they are cleared by their health care provider. Upon return to school and prior to entering the general population, the student shall report to the school nurse for evaluation. In the event that a child is still exhibiting signs and symptoms, i.e. fever, the student shall be sent home. Student absenteeism policies shall follow New York State Education Department guidelines.

Student absences that appear to be part of a contagious illness cluster shall be reported to the Pandemic Response Team via the nurse leader.

TRANSPORTATION

Student transportation will be assessed in one of three methods: (1) Having the ill student transported by their parents is the ideal scenario; (2) in the event that the parent or guardian cannot pick up an ill student, ambulance transportation should be obtained; (3) in event that a shortage of ambulances arises, the school nurse will make every attempt within her/his scope of practice to make the patient as comfortable as possible. All well students shall be transported in their usual fashion. Should the need arise, Pearl River School District may have to suspend student transportation due to lack of staff.

OFF CAMPUS EDUCATION (Remote Learning)

Pearl River School District will follow the directives of the New York State Education Department and the Governor's Office to develop a plan that addresses the continuity of instruction for students in the event that schools are closed due to pandemic illness.

Useful Healthcare Resource Links

Rockland County Department of Health: <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/>

Westchester County: <https://health.westchestergov.com/>

Orange County: <https://www.orangecountygov.com/149/Health>

NYS Health Department: <https://www.health.ny.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/>

The World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

NYS Department of Health Coronavirus Page <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

Non Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) Category Definitions

1. **Isolation:** Separation from other persons, in such places, under such conditions, and for such time, as will prevent transmission of the infectious agent, of persons known to be ill or suspected of being infected.
2. **Quarantine:**
 - a. **Quarantine of premises.**
 - The prohibition of entrance into or exit from the premises, as designated by the health officer, where a case of communicable disease exists of any person other than medical attendants and such others as may be authorized by the health officer.
 - Or the prohibition, without permission and instruction from the health officer, of the removal from such premises of any article liable to contamination with infective material through contact with the patient with his secretions or excretions, unless such article has been disinfected.
 - b. **Personal Quarantine:** the restriction of household contacts and or incidental contacts to premises designated by the health officer.
3. **Social Distancing:** actions to reduce spread of virus or disease by decreasing the frequency and duration of social contact among people in schools, workplaces, businesses, health care facilities, community spaces, and public gathering sites, etc.; and potentially at home.
4. **Decontamination:** to use registered EPA detergent-based cleaners or disinfectants, know to minimize and/or eliminate bacteria and viruses, to clean frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as tables, door knobs, toys, desks, and computer keyboards.
5. **Hygiene:** a set of practices to preserve health and to minimize the spread of virus and disease.
6. **Restrictions on movement and travel advisory:** Limiting the ability and mechanisms by which a person or persons are permitted to travel within and out of a community/county/state in order to minimize the spread of a virus or disease. Publishing travel advisories and warnings as well as issuing travel precautions.
7. **Personal Protective Behaviors:** Implementing the use of personal protective supplies and equipment in order to reduce infection rates by those who are ill and exposing the virus or disease to those who are vulnerable.