

Return to Learn 2021-22



PUEBLO
SCHOOL DISTRICT 60
Educating for Purpose and Impact

Release date: August 27, 2021

Letter from the Superintendent



D60 Students and Families:

The Pueblo School District 60 Return to Learn School Plan is the product of extensive planning and collaboration with the D60 community, as well as the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and our local health partners at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE). This document reflects an intentional plan for transitioning our District back to normal operation.

District 60 will provide full in-person learning at all K-12 schools, four days per week M-Th for the 2021-22 school year. The district has made available a 100% remote learning option for students 1-8 through the launch of D60 Online.

Parents must register for this option and enroll in that specific school. In addition, Paragon Learning Academy also provides a hybrid or 100% remote learning option for students in grades 9-12. Again, students must enroll in that school in order to access that instructional model.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back and kicking off the school year, on Monday August 16, for a reorientation and transition day, which will enable staff and students to build and nurture positive relationships and make valuable connections. Individual schools will be communicating to families regarding the schedule for reorientation day.

First day of classes for all K-12 students will begin on Tuesday August 17, 2021. PreK students will also attend in-person four days a week (½ day or full-day program). First day of school for preschool students will be Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

As students return to the classroom, we will ensure to the greatest extent possible, the safety of our students and staff. This is a community-wide priority and we all have to do our part to make this happen. Included in the D60 Return to Learn School Plan are numerous health and safety protocols that D60 is taking to minimize the exposure and spread of COVID-19. Remember that the number one protective strategy families can take is to ensure all eligible family members are fully vaccinated. Currently, the COVID vaccine is free and available to all individuals 12 years and older.



Per the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, effective August 30, all individuals age two (2) and older (students, visitors, staff, and contractors) must wear a Face Covering while inside any school building or D60 facility or while participating in any indoor school-sponsored sport or school-sponsored indoor extracurricular activity within Pueblo County, regardless of vaccination status.

Sanitizing and hand washing expectations will be put in place in all buildings. We will continue a cleaning regimen that is frequent, targeted, and of a scope sufficient to reduce transmission. Parents and guardians will need to screen, monitor and self-report their child's health when concerns arise and stay home when they are sick, exhibiting symptoms and/or tested positive for COVID.

This Return to Learn plan is intended to strike a balance between the health concerns posed by COVID-19, quality educational programming, and the needs of our community. D60 will continue to focus on the guiding principles offered in our Strategic Plan, including our core value that the social and emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic needs. We will remain prepared to adjust and adapt instructional delivery as the local Pueblo County health or D60 specific health context changes. Our plan is intended to support schools in transitioning back to normal operation for the start of the school year and will be updated as necessary to align with current health practices.

In D60, we understand that the last school year was unlike any previous year in our Nation's or District's history. We know that each family has a personal choice to make when it comes to the educational options for their children. We are striving to adapt to the continually changing conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, while also providing equitable access to a high-quality PreK-12 education in a safe environment. We're confident that the D60 Return to Learn School Plan will accomplish this.

We appreciate your support, understanding, and patience as D60 transitions back to normal operation in the safest and most effective way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Macaluso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools

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The impact of COVID-19 is an ongoing situation. This information may be updated depending upon additional information.



Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

We are preparing for a safe return to school in a traditional format for the 2021-2022 school year. As we continue to work through the effects of COVID-19, Pueblo School District 60 strives to return to school this fall utilizing the new knowledge the past year has taught us. In the following information, you will see the 2021-2022 re-entry plan for our school district. Getting our students back to safe and consistent in-person learning is a top priority for us, and we are confident that our drive to return to “normal” is with the safety and well-being of all our students, faculty, and staff at the forefront. Extra precautions will continue to be in place to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please review the Return to Learn Plan and be assured that we will continue to be anchored in excellence in all we do at Pueblo School District 60.

Guiding Recommendations from the CDC (July 9, 2021)

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Masks are recommended to be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
 - *Note: On August 5, 2021, this CDC guidance was updated to recommend universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.*
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

With these CDE guidelines in mind, this planning document is organized into two sections:

- **D60 PreK-12 Health and Safety Guidelines**
- **D60 PreK-12 Instructional Delivery and Start Dates**

Additionally, the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment released [School COVID-19 Protocols 2021-2022](#) on August 23, 2021, and a [Public Health Order](#) which addresses mask requirements for school buildings on August 27, 2021.

D60 PreK-12 Health and Safety Guidelines

Promoting a Return to In-Person Instruction and Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Staying Home When Appropriate

- Employees and students who are sick, have a temperature or who have recently had [“close contact”](#) with a person with COVID-19 are asked to stay at home. This includes any individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, are displaying possible symptoms of COVID-19, or have had “close contact” with individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Social Distancing

- With the full return to in-person learning, D60 will not require any specific social distance expectations.
- PK-12 students should have assigned seats in each classroom to facilitate contact tracing, if necessary. All classes will need to have an accurate and current seating chart.

Mask-wearing (also known as Face Covering-wearing)

- Per the August 27, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) by the Pueblo Department of Pueblo Health and Environment, masks will be required for staff, students and visitors, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Specifically, the Public Health Order reads:
 - *“All individuals age two (2) and older (students, visitors, staff, and contractors) must wear a Face Covering while inside any school building or childcare center or while participating in any indoor school-sponsored sport or school-sponsored indoor extracurricular activity within Pueblo County, regardless of vaccination status.”*
- Per the August 27, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) by the Pueblo Department of Pueblo Health and Environment, a mask or face covering means:
 - *“a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. Mesh, netting, or similarly porous material does not meet the requirements or definition of a Face Covering. A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade and improvised by using ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; allow for breathing without restriction; and either be constructed of disposable mask materials or include multiple layers of fabric that can be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape.”*
- This guidance applies to all D60 schools and school district buildings.

- As required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all individuals will be required to wear a mask on D60 and STA transportation when boarding, disembarking and for the duration of travel.
- Masks must always cover the nose and mouth. Masks should be replaced if they become dirty, wet, and/or difficult to breathe through.
- Any adult or student who because of health considerations is unable to wear a mask will be handled on a case by case basis and accommodations may be made.
- Visitors and district staff will be required to wear a mask in order to enter the building
- Masks must fit appropriately, must be worn to cover nose and mouth, and should not be shared.
- Masks may be taken off during outdoor recess, exercise activities (i.e., high aerobic PE activities).
- Students and staff will be expected to wash cloth face masks with soap and water, rinse and dry masks at home daily or wear a clean mask to school.
- Extra disposable paper masks will be available in each school for students, adult staff members, and visitors who may forget their mask.

Frequent handwashing

- Proper hand washing protocols will continue to be taught to all students, and frequent hand washing will be encouraged/scheduled whenever feasible (when in classrooms with sinks, during restroom visits).
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands or use provided hand sanitizer directly before eating lunch.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer after using shared equipment - ie. playground, athletic equipment.

Signs and Floor Stickers

- Although not required, D60 schools may place developmentally appropriate signage such as social distancing and good hygiene (handwashing). Signs may be hung on walls and stickers placed on floors of public areas, including the cafeteria, hallways, front office, classrooms and all major entrances.

Transportation

- As required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all individuals will be required to wear a mask on D60 and STA transportation when boarding, disembarking and for the duration of travel.
 - *Note: Effective August 30 2021, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment will require “all individuals age two (2) and older are required to wear a Face Covering while on public transportation, including school buses, as required by the CDC’s Requirement for Persons Age 2+ Years to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs.”*
- Bussing will operate normal schedules.
- Busses will be disinfected between routes.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- High touch areas (bathrooms, water fountains, door handles, shared surfaces, etc.) will be cleaned throughout the day by custodians.
- As necessary and/or appropriate, buildings will be disinfected regularly using appropriate disinfectant, sprayers and foggers.

Use of Water Fountains

- Students and staff will be able to use water fountains. The use of water bottles is encouraged but not required. Water bottles should not be shared.
- As in the past, disposable plastic bottles of water may be provided during high heat days only, as needed.

Ventilation

- Buildings will increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, as long as doing so does not pose a safety risk. (This may need to be limited in air conditioned buildings during extremely hot weather.).
- Fans and other devices for circulating indoor air should be minimized; however, they may be used in extreme heat conditions.

Sharing of Materials

- Textbooks and supplies may be shared if necessary for instructional purposes
- Sharing/checking out of Media Center books will be permitted.

Lockers

- Student hallway and PE/athletic lockers may be used.

Cafeteria Use - Breakfast and Lunch Service

- All kitchens will be fully cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served per normal school routines and schedules
- Sneeze guards and barriers will continue to be used in the serving line.
- Masks and/or face shields and gloves will be worn by all nutrition services workers.
- PreK-8 students will have assigned seats during lunch when indoors.
- Per the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order, masks will be worn by students at all times, except when “actively eating or drinking during meals or snack time.”
- Students are encouraged to use social distance during cafeteria service.

High Aerosol Classes

- High aerosol classes, including PE, will continue to be encouraged to meet outdoors when possible.
 - Students will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after PE class if equipment is shared.
 - PE lockers may be used.
 - Masks will be worn by teachers and coaches at all times.

- Per the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order, masks will generally be worn by students in PE classes except during “high intensity activities when breathing becomes difficult” (i.e., high aerobic activities).
- To the extent possible, PE classes should not mix cohorts.
- Elementary Music
 - Masks will be required for students and staff at all times.
 - Students playing non-mouth instruments (strings, percussion, etc.) will be required to wear a facial mask at all times.
 - No use of wind instruments (recorders).
 - Singing will be limited (with a mask on).
- Band/Orchestra/Instrumental Music in grades 6-12
 - Per the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order, students are not required to wear a mask “*when a student in a classroom setting for academic credit at a PreK-12 school is actively playing an instrument that cannot otherwise be played while wearing a Face Covering and the instrument has a bell cover.*”
 - Students playing non-mouth instruments (strings, percussion, etc.) will be required to wear a facial mask at all times.
 - Students playing brass and woodwind instruments will be allowed to take facial masks off during play only. During these times the mask should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods where the student is not playing. No talking without a mask.
 - Instruments will not be shared by students (drummers issued their own drum sticks, etc.).
 - All brass and most woodwind instruments should continue to use “instrument bell mask” during practice, dress rehearsal and performances.
 - Spit valves should be emptied on a moisture collecting material (i.e. puppy pads) and discarded by the student at the end of every class period.
- Choir
 - Masks will be worn at all times when in class and during rehearsals, even when singing. (Masking guidance during indoor vocal performances will be forthcoming.)

Athletics

- All athletic practices and events will follow current athletic procedures, as well as the current guidelines from CHSAA and the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment..

Large in Person Group Events

- Large, school sponsored, in person student events (ie. assemblies, field trips, pep rallies) will be allowed. Those in attendance must follow the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.

- Large, school sponsored, in person school community events will be allowed. Those in attendance must follow the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Parent/teacher conferences may take place in person. Those in attendance must follow the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

Arrival/Dismissal

- D60 schools will return to normal arrival and dismissal routines.

Hallway Transitions

- “One way” hallways and/or staggered transition times will not be required. Individual schools may enact such procedures per their discretion.

Visitors and Volunteers

- Outside visitors, volunteers and community partners will be permitted. Visitors, volunteers and community partners must follow the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Use of school facilities by outside organizations will be permitted. Outside organizations must follow the August 27, 2021 Public Health Order from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.

Responding to Illness, COVID “Close Contact” Exposure, and Confirmed COVID Cases

Below are CDPHE protocols for addressing positive cases and close contacts. Additionally, D60 staff, parents and students will follow specific isolation and quarantine guidance from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.

Isolation

- Individuals should stay home from work, school, and activities when a person is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19. Isolation lasts for at least 10 days (specifically ten 24-hour periods) after the onset of symptoms — and for 24 hours after being fever-free without the aid of fever-reducing medication and if the person shows an improvement of symptoms. For people who have not had symptoms, isolation lasts 10 days from the day they had their first positive test. In rare instances (for example, if a person was very sick or has certain medical problems), isolation may last 20 days. Public health experts do not recommend repeat testing to decide when to end the period of isolation except in rare circumstances in consultation with a medical provider. [Find information about how to isolate.](#)

Quarantine

- *Individuals should stay home from work, school, and activities after a person was in close contact with someone with COVID-19.* Find [guidance on how to quarantine and how long quarantine lasts](#). A person should not attend work, school, or out of school

activities if they are under quarantine following an exposure in school. If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 during their quarantine period, they should begin [isolation](#).

Reporting of Positive COVID-19 Cases

- School districts are able to disclose this information to local and state public health officials without prior written consent under FERPA's health or safety emergency exception, because a person with COVID-19 represents a potential threat to the health and safety of others at the school. This is true even if there is not an outbreak.
- Public health then interviews the people who have COVID-19 and conducts contact tracing to determine who might be close contacts of the case, and makes recommendations about isolation and quarantine.
- The Office of Human Resources and the Office of Student Support Services will serve as the official D60 reporting parties. Schools and departments should immediately share any COVID-19 positive case information to the appropriate office.

D60 PreK-12 Instructional Delivery Model

D60 believes that in person learning is the optimal instructional delivery model for most PreK-12 learners and therefore will return all PreK-12 students to in person, full time instruction beginning the first official day of school, Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Each school will also plan for and communicate with parents regarding a “re-orientation” day for students at all grade levels on Monday, August 16, 2021. This will provide a “soft start” for students to be welcomed back to school, to begin to form strong relationships with their teachers, and to engage in team building activities with peers and school staff.

Online School Options

- If a family desires online instruction for their student, they will need to fill out a school transfer request to D60 Online (grades 1-8) or Dutch Clark at Paragon (grades 9-12). It is important for parents to recognize that this should be a long term decision, and should not be considered for anyone anticipating less than a full year's worth of online instruction. D60 will not offer online learning to students in preschool or kindergarten in the 2021-22 school year.

Use of Technology

- Each student in grades K-12 will be issued a district technology device (e.g., chromebook) for their use throughout the school year. All classrooms will capitalize on the use of digital textbooks, teacher presentations, assessments, and applications as part of their daily in-classroom instruction as well as for homework as appropriate.

Seating Charts

- PreK-12 students will be assigned a specific seat within each classroom. PreK-8 students will have assigned seats during lunch when indoors.

COVID-related student absences, including quarantines

- Most COVID-related student absences and quarantines will be treated like a regular student absence. In accordance with Board policy, make-up work shall be provided for any class in which a student has an excused or unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to pick up any make-up assignments which will receive full credit. There shall be one day allowed for make-up work for each day of absence.
- COVID-related student absences, including quarantines, will be excused.