



PILGRIM AREA COLLABORATIVE

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Dympna M. Thomas, Ph.D., Executive Director

Connecting SCHOOL – HOME – COMMUNITY

September 9, 2020

Dear Pilgrim Area Collaborative Families,

We are really looking forward to having your children return to school. It will be great to connect, get back into a structured routine, and together face these new challenges of COVID-19 in our learning environments. We want to assure you that staff has worked hard and has been trained to meet all the safety measures required for this upcoming school year.

You, as parents/guardians, also have a very important role in contributing to the safety of our students and staff members. Please encourage your child to follow the mandatory mask safety measures, unless they have a medical exemption. We will be encouraging our students to self-assess and we also ask that you assess your child every morning **before** sending him/her to school. Together we can create a safe learning environment for everyone!

Specific assessment questions are listed below:

1. Has there been any exposure to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
2. Does the child have a fever of 100.0
3. Sore throat?
4. Sudden onset of cough, not allergy related?
5. Body aches/chills?
6. Unusual fatigue?
7. Headache?
8. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
9. New loss of taste or smell?
10. Nausea or vomiting?
11. Diarrhea?
12. Unexplained rash?

If your child has any of these symptoms, we ask you to keep them home from school and if they are not resolved over a 24-hour period, the next step is to call your physician. Most times these symptoms resolve themselves over a 72-hour period. If your student ever has a fever, please do not send them back until they are fever-free without any help of over the counter fever reducing medications for at least 24 hrs. As you are aware the COVID-19 symptoms are closely related to flu symptoms and some of the common cold symptoms **but in all instances**, to prevent the spread of viruses, please keep your child at home.

If a student is observed displaying these symptoms at school, they will be placed in a separate room/space until a parent or emergency contact can pick them up. They will not be allowed to take the bus home. We understand that parents/guardians need to work and if there is no flexibility in your workplace, please arrange a **backup plan** with three reliable family members or friends on your child's emergency contact list.

If your child has been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact his/her doctor for guidance as to whether to obtain a COVID test. Your PAC nurse and child's physician will give guidance as to how long your child should remain home from school.

Frequent mask breaks will take place throughout the school day. If a student refuses to wear their mask at school and does not have a medical exemption, we will do our best to work with that student however, mask wearing will be the expectation for all students and staff. Alternative learning options will be arranged for specific circumstances.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us for support and resources. We will continue to keep you apprised of any new updates including the new mandatory flu vaccine regulations that include, medical and religious exemptions. If your child has already had the flu vaccine, please send in the proof of immunization form. The CDC website also provides important guidance and is updated frequently:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Lastly, please keep your smile on behind those masks 😊

Sincerely,

Sarah Henry, RN

Ann Kerr, LPN

Holly Malone, RN

The Pilgrim Area Collaborative School Nurse Team