



FORWARD
TOGETHER

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

Prioritizing a healthy in-person learning
experience for every PPS student and educator.



Portland Public Schools



We are excited to return to
in-person, five days a week and full-
time learning, extended learning and
enrichment for PPS students
for the 2021-2022 school year.



Layered health and safety measures **will help** **us maximize full, in-person learning at PPS.**



Training and
Education



Hand
Washing



Regular
cleaning and
disinfection



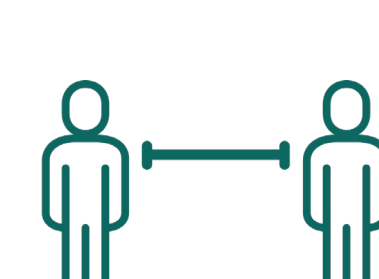
Isolation and
Quarantine



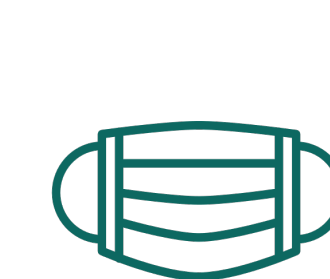
Symptomatic
COVID-19
Testing



Airflow and
Circulation



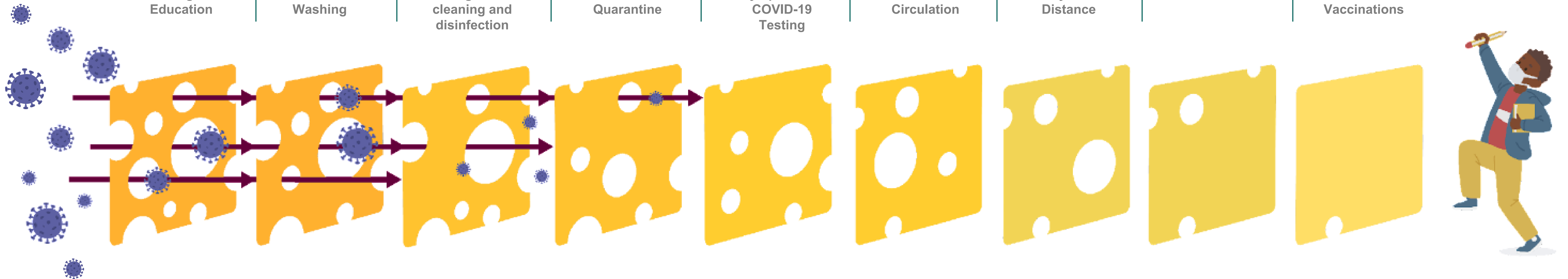
Physical
Distance



Masks



COVID-19
Vaccinations



✓ By establishing a strong set of layered health and safety measures against COVID-19, we can and will maximize a full, uninterrupted in-person learning experience for PPS students all school year.

✓ We remain firm on **being guided by public health experts.**

✓ **Public health experts agree** that using multiple health and safety measures together and consistently protects students and staff.



COVID-19 Vaccinations

Guidance and Operations

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

To learn more about our effort to promote and create access to the COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

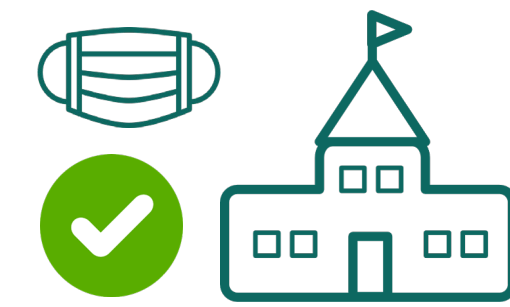
[PPS.net/COVID-19Vaccination](https://pps.net/COVID-19Vaccination)



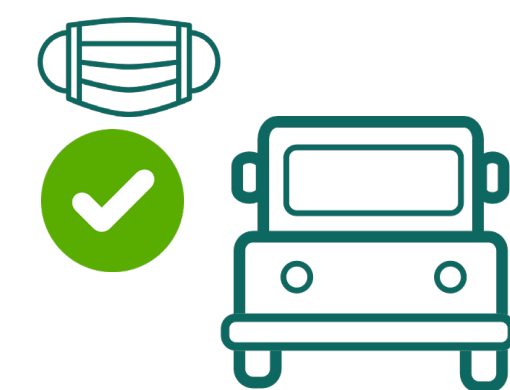
- **Vaccinations are the most effective way to end the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **PPS will promote and create access to COVID-19 vaccinations** for families, students, staff, and partners this fall.
- **We will focus our efforts on increasing awareness and confidence** that fully vaccinated people are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection from COVID-19.
- **We also recognize that the COVID-19 vaccination is currently approved only for adults and children over the age of 12** and eagerly await authorization for children under 12.



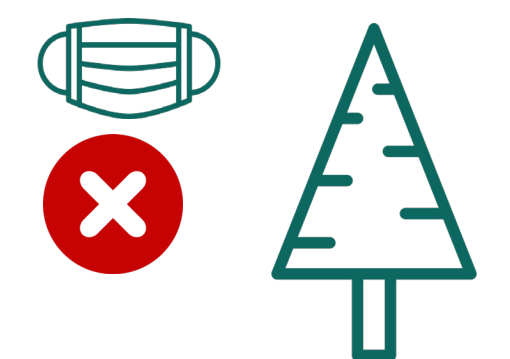
Masks



- **All PPS staff (and partner staff) and PreK-12 students will be required to wear masks** when indoors and around people, regardless of vaccination status.



- **Masks will be required on school buses.**

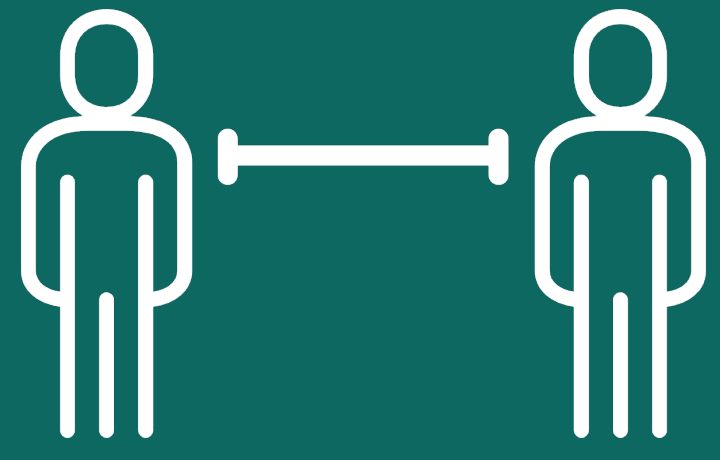


- **Masks will not be required during outdoor activities;** however, anyone may choose to wear a mask in situations when it is not required.
- Masks are not required if an individual is actively eating or drinking, playing an instrument that requires using the mouth, and in some athletics events and other instances.

Guidance and Operations

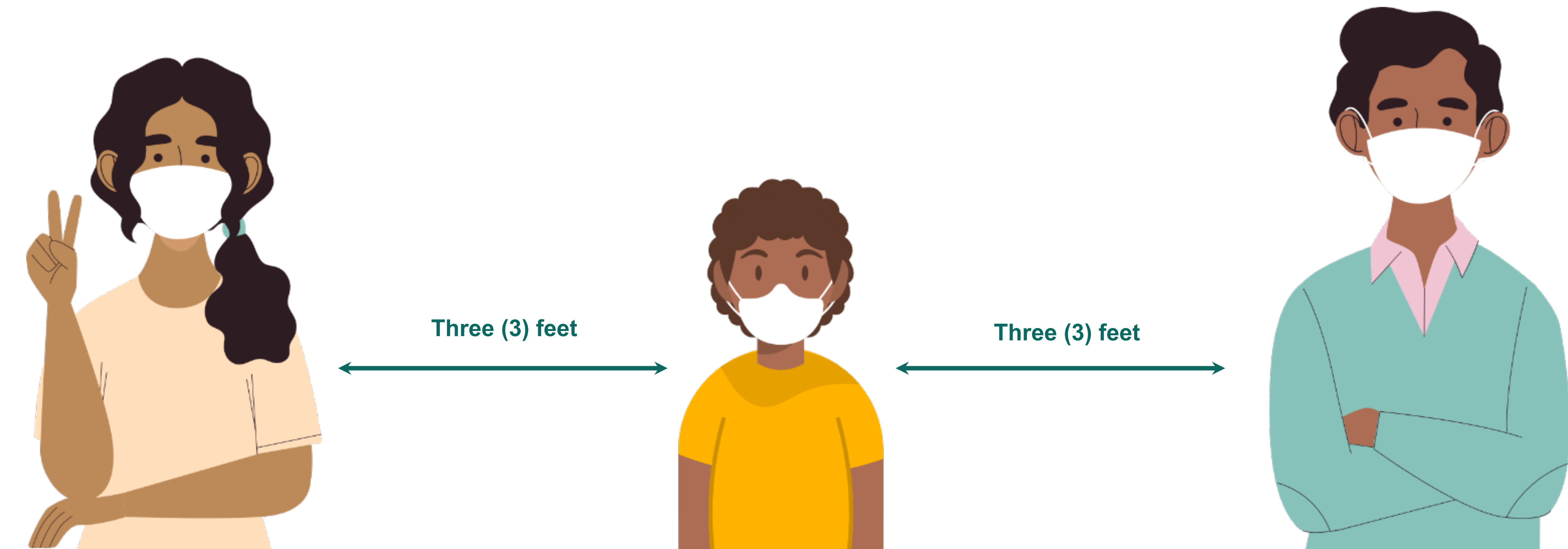
On July 29, Oregon Governor Kate Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to require the use of masks indoors for K-12 schools statewide for the 2021-22 school year, in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recently updated guidance and based on the latest science on the spread of the Delta variant.

PPS has over 1.7 million age-appropriate masks in stock. which will be made available in schools.



Physical Distance

Guidance and Operations

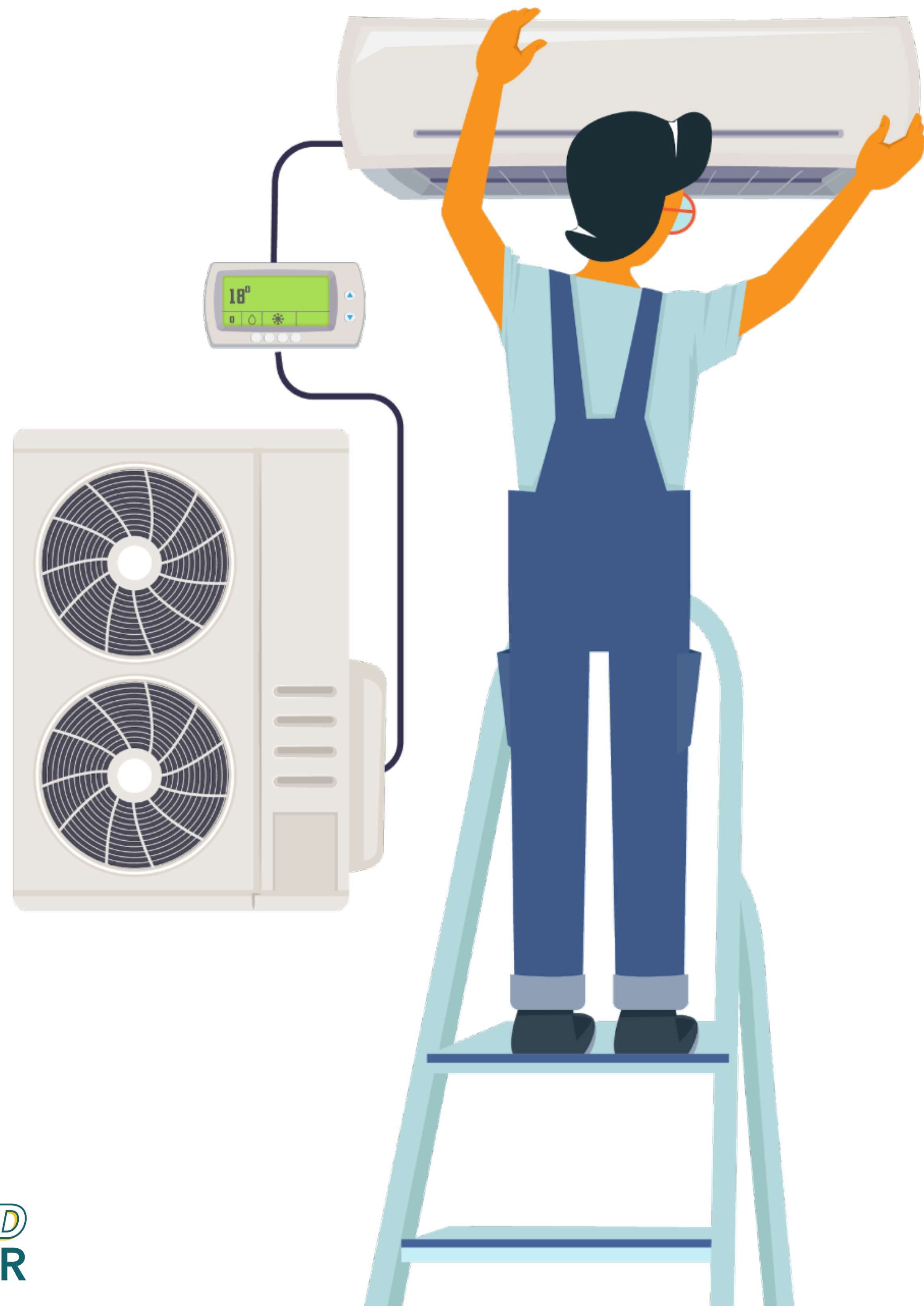


- **Three (3) feet physical distancing for students and staff will be maintained** to the extent possible.

- Maintaining physical distancing **should not preclude return to full-time, in-person instruction for all students** ([RSSL](#), p. 14)
- Distancing of desks across the majority of schools will be 3 feet, nose to nose.
- Floor markers and one-way traffic will no longer be required.



Airflow and Circulation



Our indoor air quality efforts include::

- **Continuing to introduce fresh outside air into the system.**
- **Exhausting air from indoors to the outdoors.**
- **Cleaning the air that is recirculated indoors with **HEPA filters** in every classroom and school buses.**
- **Upgrading central air filters to MERV 13 standards across our schools.**

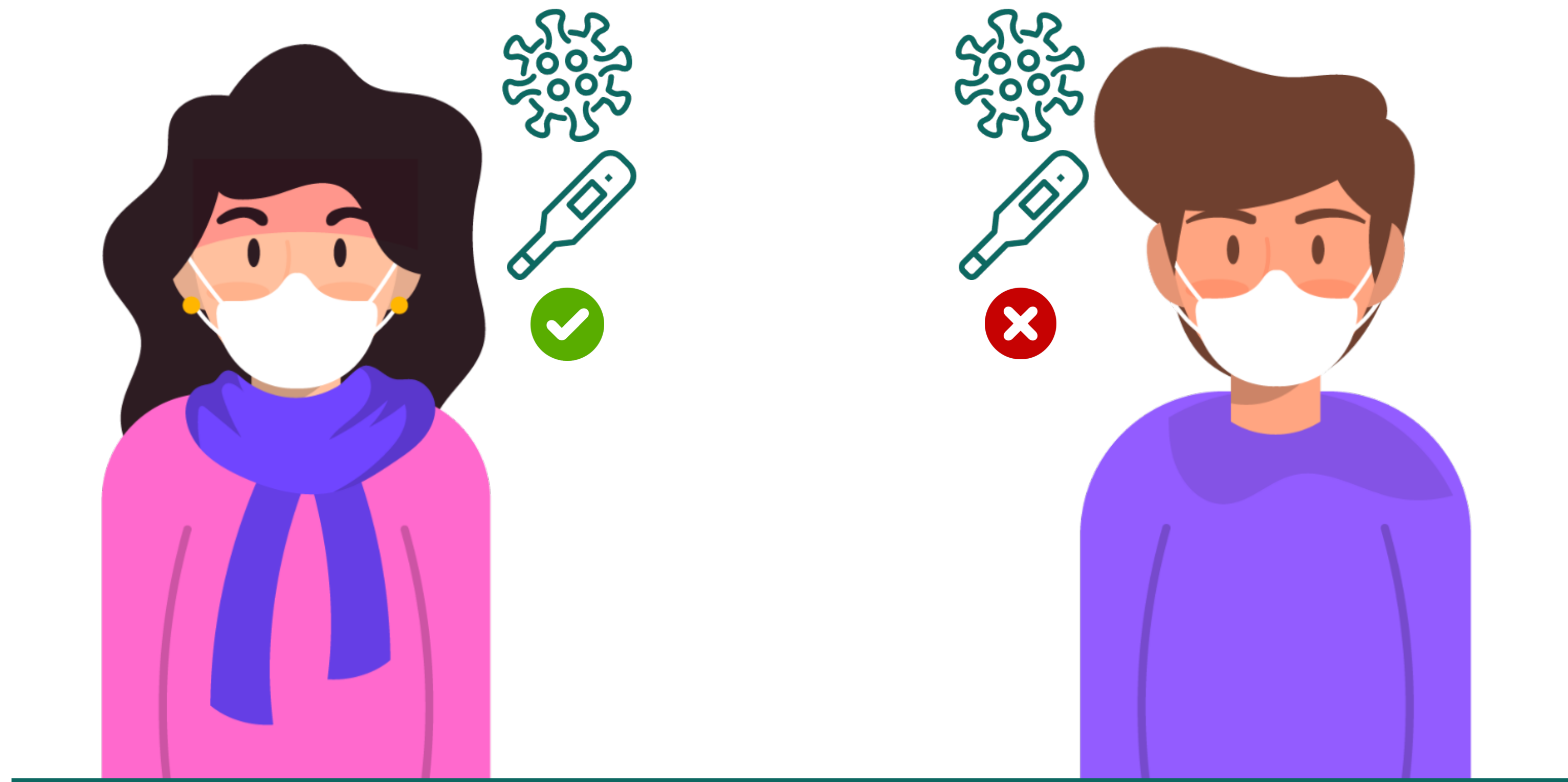
Guidance and Operations

- Our airflow strategies are based on guidance from [CDC](#) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers ([ASHRAE](#)).
- As specified by [National Air Filtration Association](#), to be labeled as MERV 13, **a filter must successfully remove at least 90% of E3 particles, 85% of E2 particles, and 50% of E1 particles.**



COVID-19 Testing

Guidance and Operations



- PPS will continue to have **Symptom Spaces** in all schools.
- COVID testing **is intended to test symptomatic students and school staff.**

- “Symptomatic testing” is testing of students or staff who develop symptoms at school
- This [OHA/ODHS testing program](#) was rolled out in January 2021 and **100 percent** of our PPS schools are registered.



Isolation and Quarantine



- Children who are **exhibiting COVID-19 primary symptoms must stay home** (and families should consult their primary care provider).
- **We will follow local public health guidance** and requirements regarding COVID-19 isolation and quarantine procedures.
- If there is a case, we will follow **MESD and Multnomah County Health Department contact tracing and quarantine procedures**.

Guidance and Operations

In alignment with [RSSL](#), students do not need to quarantine if they were within 3 or more feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case, and both students were consistently and correctly wearing masks. Symptom-free students and adults who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine after exposure.

[CDC](#) guidance states that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.



Cleaning and Disinfection

Guidance and Operations

PPS COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):

- Clean and Disinfect Vehicles
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools
- Table Washing and Sanitation

- **PPS will continue to implement regular cleaning procedures in all District facilities.** Special attention by custodial staff will be given to high-touch surfaces throughout the day.
- **Classroom outbreaks of COVID-19 will result in comprehensive disinfection** of associated areas per local and CDC guidance.
- School buses will be cleaned and **disinfected daily.**





Hand Washing

Guidance and Operations



- **PPS will continue to provide ready access to soap, water and alcohol-based hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol.
- **Schools will prioritize handwashing with soap and water** after students, educators and partner staff use the restroom and throughout the day as appropriate.

- Each classroom will continue to be stocked with disinfectant and hand sanitizer.
- Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette (SOP)
- Regular hand washing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. ([RSSL](#), p.18)



Training and Education

Guidance and Operations



- Our schools serve as learning hubs in our community. **PPS will partner with public health agencies to educate and promote COVID-19 vaccinations and other health and safety measures to protect against COVID-19.**
- **All staff and partners will have access to COVID-19 health and safety trainings that provide updated information and clear guidelines** to meet the health and safety expectations set out by the District.

OHA and ODE strongly advise that school districts “develop plans for training all staff in their health and safety protocols,” and “for communicating health and safety protocols to students, families and communities.” ([RSSL](#), p 19)

Health and Safety Plans



We will have:

- A “**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**” Plan, describing our layered mitigation strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19. ([OAR 581-022-0105](#))
- An updated **Communicable Disease Management Plan**, explaining our emergency operation plans in addressing infectious disease during a pandemic. ([OAR 581-022-2220](#))

Visitors and Volunteers



Visitors and volunteers will be allowed into school and central office buildings during the 2021-2022 school year. All visitors and volunteers must sign in and follow PPS health and safety protocols while on school and central office grounds.

Guidance and Operations

All will be required to wear masks when indoors and around people, regardless of vaccination status; those exhibiting COVID-19 primary symptoms must stay home.

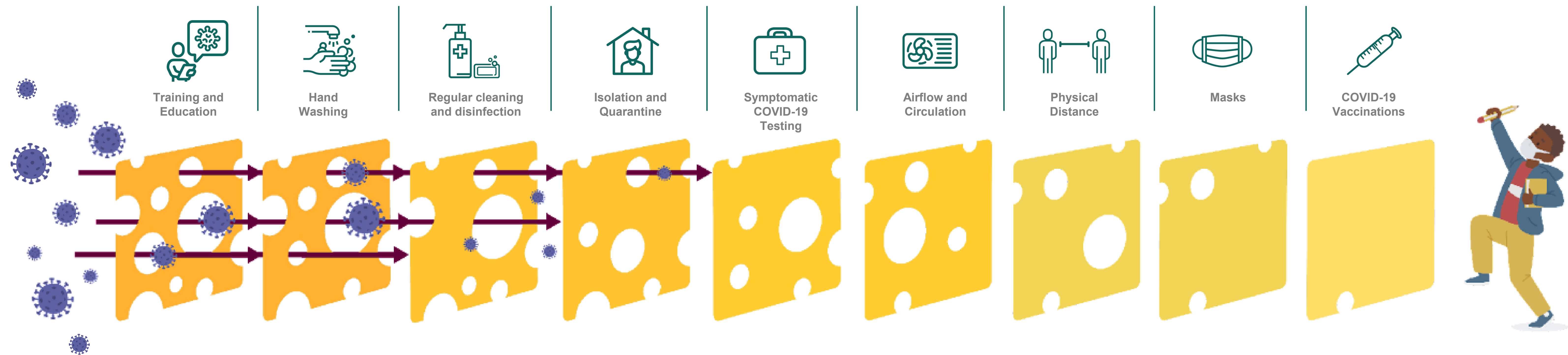
All must sign in and out using our visitor and volunteer management system.

Ultimate discretion on visitors and volunteers at school will be handled through the principal's office.

Cohorting



- **Elementary schools will continue to use classroom cohorts** for students to the extent possible.
- Class cohorting will not be implemented **for middle or high schools.**
- **Student contact tracing will be completed via attendance** for each time a student moves to another class.



We will remain nimble to adapt to changing guidance, but firm in following the expertise of public health experts, in service to our PPS community.



We are excited to see our students, educators and partners for a new school year!

