



Reimagining Education During the Pandemic

**PORTLAND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Hybrid Health and Safety Planning

For families considering hybrid learning for their students, it's important to know that PPS continues to collaborate with public health experts and agencies and our [PPS Health Advisory Panel](#). We also continue to follow [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#) from the Oregon Department of Education.

We are following ODE safety rules regarding social distancing and spacing:

- Student “cohort” groups will be kept under 100 students. A cohort is a group of students that does not interact with other students.
- We will stay under the threshold for students and staff per square feet in classrooms. In a typical PPS elementary school classroom, that means we can include about 12 students in an in-person learning block.
- Windows on school buses will be open to allow proper ventilation and seating will be staggered to make sure students are at least 6 feet apart from one another and the bus driver. Buses will also be cleaned in between cohorts.

We are following all required public health practices:

- Students and staff will wear masks at all times
- All school staff will continue to receive safety training
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout buildings

We are implementing specific training and special protocols:

- Self-screening of COVID symptoms for all students and staff before entering buildings
- Specific sign-in and sign-out protocols will be in place
- Ongoing safety training for staff

Physical spaces will look different from when students were last inside their schools:

- Signs posted on walls, doors, floors to reinforce hygiene and social distancing practices
- Hallways designated for safe traffic flow
- Plexiglass and other physical barriers where needed

We have added specific-use spaces:

- Dedicated space for students or staff who become symptomatic during the day
- We will maintain spaces where students can safely take a break, if needed

Our Facilities and Maintenance teams are following COVID-specific practices:

- Bathroom planning for safety and social distancing
- Regular cleaning of often-used surfaces
- We have optimized ventilation systems where needed to ensure that all PPS school buildings meet current public health air quality standards.

We are improving healthy air quality in our buildings:

- HVAC systems will be inspected regularly to make sure they are functioning properly
- Outside air will be allowed into buildings and fans will be used to increase air flow
- Filters will be inspected and changed on a regular schedule
- Portable high-efficiency particulate air (commonly known as HEPA) ventilators will be utilized