

AUGUST 2021

RETURN- TO-SCHOOL PLAN



**The
Pinnacle
School**

OVERVIEW

Guiding Principles

Eighteen months into the coronavirus pandemic, The Pinnacle School continues to prioritize the importance of in-person learning. As we look to the coming year, we will continue to adhere to our Return-to-School Plan's guiding principles:

1. Health and safety of all members of the community
2. Most up to date research, guidance, and practices
3. Maintaining high quality, engaging, and developmentally appropriate teaching and learning
4. Supporting the social-emotional well being of all members of our community
5. Equity for all of our students

FALL RETURN

Summary

We are planning for a full physical return to school on Monday, August 30.

Mitigation protocols will include:

- Masks required indoors for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status
- Required Weekly Covid Testing for unvaccinated staff
- Physical distancing of 3' between students in the classroom and 6' between staff throughout the school. Students should observe 6' of physical distancing in all indoor spaces other than the classroom.
- Multiple hand washing and sanitizing stations
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing
- Limited access for visitors and parents in the building
- Cohorting of students where appropriate
- Contact tracing to identify students and staff who have been in close contact with an infected person
- Continued use of upgraded and enhanced HVAC filtration and disinfectant capabilities

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

When Students and Staff Must Stay Home

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school is for an infected person to isolate themselves from the rest of the school community. Students and staff should stay home if any of the following circumstances apply:

1. Travel Subject to Quarantine:

Individuals returning from foreign travel must obtain a negative test prior to entering the United States. Please inform the school nurse of any international travel plans. As with last spring, there are currently no mandated quarantine periods or testing requirements for domestic travel. However, a student or staff member who comes in contact with an infected person while traveling must quarantine (as described on page 4) unless they are fully vaccinated.

2. Temperature:

All students and staff must take their temperature at home every morning before coming to school. If you have a temperature of 100.0-degrees or above in the morning before school, please stay home. Please obtain a COVID test if recommended by your healthcare provider and notify the school nurse of results prior to your return to school.

3. Symptoms:

Regardless of vaccination status, if you are exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and contact your healthcare provider. If you develop COVID-19, you must quarantine as instructed by your health care provider. Please refer to the CDC's list of symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

4. Contact with Others:

If you have been in close contact with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, you must quarantine for 10 days, unless you are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic. For students, "close contact" means that you were within 3 feet (if you were masked) or within 6 feet (if you were unmasked) for 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. Please note that the special 3-foot rule for students who are masked applies only to the classroom setting. In all other settings, the 6-foot rule still applies. For adults, "close contact" means that you were within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. Please note that the 15 minutes means a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period rather than 15 consecutive minutes.

5. Positive Test:

If you test positive for COVID-19, even if you are not experiencing symptoms, you must quarantine as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Do not come to school if you have a pending COVID test. Results must be cleared by the school nurse prior to your return. All testing information will remain strictly confidential.

Masking

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, the Commissioner of the DPH's order, the Mayor of Stamford's order, and guidance from the CDC, all individuals inside of school buildings must wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status. Masks do not need to be worn outside at school. The Governor's Executive Order expires on September 30, 2021, but it may be extended.

Quarantines

Unvaccinated individuals must quarantine if they have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19. In Stamford, the quarantine period is 10 calendar days. Schools follow the Stamford Department of Health's guidance for isolation and quarantine policies. Please note that these may differ from your home district's recommendations.

Remote Learning

The Pinnacle School will be fully in-person and voluntary remote learning will not be offered during the 2021/2022 school year.

Social Distancing

Students must keep a minimum distance of 3' from other students while in school. 6' is no longer required unless the student is unmasked, such as when eating or on an indoor mask break. Staff must continue to maintain a 6' distance in schools.

Testing

Prior to students' return on August 30, students will need to provide our school nurse with EITHER proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test taken 3-5 days prior to August 30. Unvaccinated staff members are required to provide a negative PCR test taken within 3-5 days of August 30. Please note: to be considered fully vaccinated, the final dose must have been administered at least two weeks prior to August 30. Additionally, the State will be offering free weekly testing of students and unvaccinated staff. We are still finalizing details and will communicate additional information as it becomes available.

Transportation

Students will continue to need to wear masks and social distance as feasible when riding school transportation.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are readily available for individuals 12 and older. We encourage all students and staff who are eligible to get vaccinated. Over 90% of our school staff have been vaccinated.

Visitor Policy

As with last spring, visitors and parents will be permitted into the building on a limited basis, provided they complete a COVID screening and wear masks. Wearing of masks and the completion of COVID screening will be required regardless of vaccination status.