



PRESS RELEASE ON OPENING OF SCHOOLS

JULY 22, 2021

On behalf of Superintendent Young, please be advised that with a few exceptions, which will be clarified by your child's principal, Pickens County School District (PCSD) is returning to pre-pandemic operations for the 2021-22 school year. This decision comes following the Governor's Executive Order to end the Public Health State of Emergency on June 30, 2021. School begins on Monday, August 2, 2021 for all Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 5th grade, 7th grade, and 9th grade students. The remaining students will begin the following day. We will follow state-mandated practices for infectious illnesses which focus on preventing, identifying, and controlling their spread. Based on these changes:

- **There will be no precautionary quarantines** for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. When a school is notified of a positive case among students or staff, parents will be notified via Infinite Campus Parent Portal and email to monitor their child closely for symptoms, but no precautionary quarantines will be required. This follows state-mandated practices for communicable diseases.
- **Students and staff who test positive** for COVID-19 will continue to follow Department of Health guidelines which require you to stay home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared and be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Students and staff are not required to wear masks** but we will continue to make disposable masks available to anyone who requests one.
- **PCSD will continue to focus on enhanced cleaning practices** and will continue to make sanitizer available.
- **Vaccinations are not required** for employees or students, but are encouraged.

Additionally,

- Any person who becomes sick while at school/work and has symptoms of infection should go to the nurse for screening. If symptoms are significant and indicate possible infection the student/staff will be sent home.
- Parent/guardian and staff are responsible to notify the school nurse or principal when testing positive for COVID-19.
- If you are sick, stay home. Follow parent tip sheet "[Is your child too sick for school](#)" which can be found on the PCSD School Health web page.

