

# School District of Phillips: Frequently Asked Questions 2021-22 School Year

August 5, 2021

The School District of Phillips is planning for the 2021-2022 school year with the goal of having all students in school five days a week with in-person instruction, following a normal school calendar. We realize families have questions concerning what the school year will look like. We have done our best to answer the questions below based on the information we have available at this time. The district will continue to follow the levels of positive COVID cases and will make adjustments as guidance becomes available from federal, state, and local health officials.

- Will the school be monitoring the symptoms of students?
  - COVID-19 and the prevalence of new COVID variants may still represent some risk; therefore, we ask parents to monitor student symptoms. When reporting an absence due to illness, please report symptoms when possible.
- What protocols will the school use to limit the spread of illness? (physical distancing)
  - The school community realizes the importance of sanitizing and healthy behaviors, including social distancing; however, it is not possible in many areas to maintain a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Will masks be required?
  - At this time, masks will be recommended but not required on school grounds or in school buildings. Athletics will continue to follow WIAA and Marawood Conference regulations.
  - The District's COVID protocols are subject to change based on federal, state, and local health officials recommendations. Any revisions made to our COVID protocols must be approved by the Phillips Board of Education. Updates will be provided via Parent Square on a monthly basis or when changes are required.
  - Masks on buses: Masks are currently required by the federal transportation agency for all schools nationwide.
- Will students have to follow quarantine/isolation rules when ill?
  - Yes, students will quarantine/isolate per guidance from local, state, and federal health officials. The District will continue to follow its established COVID protocols and will update those protocols as needed. Any revisions made to our COVID protocols will be shared with families.
- If my student is fully vaccinated, will he/she have to be isolated at home if identified as a close contact to someone with COVID?
  - If your student is fully vaccinated (an individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after having received the second of two doses or the first of a one-dose COVID vaccine) and is not symptomatic, your student can continue to attend in-person school. If the student develops symptoms, the student would then have to quarantine at home.

- Will visitors and volunteers be allowed in buildings?
  - Volunteers and visitors will be admitted on a limited and invitation-only basis.
- Can students bring birthday treats?
  - Yes, students will be permitted to bring birthday treats following the district's standard policies.
  - Current research indicates surface-to-surface transmission of COVID is very low, therefore this protocol has been modified accordingly.
- How will the district adjust to changing COVID rates of infection in our area?
  - The district will closely monitor the spread of COVID in our community and within our schools and adjust the mode of instruction as needed which could include blended or a fully virtual model. Please refer to the "Return to Learn" plan adopted by the board of education in August of 2020.
- What mitigation steps will the district take if COVID numbers increase?
  - The district will continue to monitor COVID cases and work with the State DHS and Price County Health Department. If it is determined to be necessary to return to standard COVID mitigation protocols the district may return to social distancing, cohorting, masking, or short term closures.
  - All mitigation measures will be reviewed for a length of time and the goal will be to return to the least restrictive learning environment as soon as safe for all students. Our goal is to have in-person instruction whenever possible.
- Will students have different start and ending times to the school day?
  - No. All schools will return to their standard set start and end times for all students.
- Will students be able to complete remote lessons if they are quarantined/ill at home?
  - At this time we are not planning for real-time learning for students that are out for illness or quarantine. Established protocols will be used. Teachers will continue to ensure lessons and materials are available. Two way communication should occur to support student learning.
- Will breakfast and lunch be free again during the 2021-22 school year?
  - Yes, breakfast and lunch will be free at both buildings. Extras will continue to cost money at school board approved rates.
  - Even with the federal government subsidizing meals again for the coming school year, it is very important that our families who qualify for Free or Reduced Meals to complete the necessary paperwork. This information is also used for other funding sources for our District receives or may apply for during the school year.
- Will parent-teacher conferences be held in-person or virtually?

- Schools will offer parents the opportunity to participate in conferences in-person.
- Will band classes be allowed to play instruments?
  - Yes, students will play instruments as they would on a normal year. The district will continue to monitor COVID suggested protocols and make adjustments to this policy if needed.
- Will students take field trips?
  - We plan to start the school year with as many opportunities as we can allow. We have confidence that field trips will be able to be offered safely.