

2020-21 Pringle-Morse School Opening Plan

Superintendent Scott Burrow, August 4, 2020

Welcome back! We are very excited to welcome our students and staff back to school in August! Your kids are first with us, and we are preparing a safe and productive environment for all. We will provide traditional in-person classroom instruction as well as virtual instruction. We know parents and students have many questions about the new school year, and we want to form a partnership with parents to mitigate COVID-19 on our campus. After reading through our school opening plans, please complete the Back-to-School Parent Survey located in your child's registration packet. The short survey will provide guidance as we prepare for your child(ren)'s education.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through changing circumstances. We will keep you informed throughout the year as we receive guidance from the Texas Governor, Texas Education Agency, and the local authorities. Please do not hesitate to email us at pringle-morse@region16.net or call 806-733-2507 with your questions or concerns.

Learning options for students beginning August 12, 2020

Pringle-Morse CISD families must select a learning option on The Back-to-School Parent Survey located in each child's registration packet to begin school August 12, 2020.

- **Option 1:** Full-time traditional in-person classroom instruction with heightened disinfection protocols.
- **Option 2:** Full-time at-home virtual instruction received from Pringle-Morse School.

Option 2 will be "Synchronous and/or Asynchronous Instruction" depending on the child's grade level and will include district-provided technology devices as needed. Please understand that these are new educational terms for all of us.

Grades PK-2 (and as necessary for grades 3-12) Asynchronous Instruction:

The instructor and student may not be engaged at the same time. The teacher will instruct through pre-recorded video lessons, live video, online assignments, and through *Google Classroom*. Student engagement will be measured by the teacher daily. Instruction will address the required curriculum per Texas Education Code (TEC) 28.002, and daily contact with the school will be required for student attendance per TEA.

Grades 3-12 Synchronous Instruction: All participants are required to be present at the same time in a virtual classroom. We will use *Google Classroom* for live on-line instruction. The required amount of synchronized instruction is scheduled each day. Teacher instruction will address the required curriculum per TEC 28.002, and daily student attendance will be taken by the teacher per TEA.

Please complete parent survey found in the registration packet by August 4, 2020, so we can inform our teachers as they return August 4, 2020, to prepare for the new year.

School year calendar and school start-time changes

- The school year calendar has been revised to include ten days for emergency closure. The calendar is available on the website along with a school supply list.
- School breakfast will begin at 7:45 a.m. Grades PK - 4 will go directly to their classrooms and receive breakfast there. Grades 5 -12 will go directly to the cafeteria for breakfast. Classroom instruction will begin at 8:09 a.m. and release at 3:35 p.m. The office will close at 4:30 p.m.

Partnership with Parents to mitigate COVID-19 on campus

Together we can mitigate COVID-19 on our campus. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school with COVID-19 symptoms or if the child has tested positive for COVID-19. Parents should contact the school to begin at-home virtual instruction and continue until the return-to-school criteria are met.

Please call the school office at 806-733-2507 if your child will be absent for any reason. Each morning a parent should screen his/her child with the following questions to determine if the child should go to school or not:

1. Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher by mouth
2. Sore Throat
3. New uncontrollable cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in the cough from baseline)
4. Diarrhea
5. Vomiting
6. Abdominal pain
7. New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
8. Known *close contact* with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

Has my child been in *close contact* with someone who is lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive? A parent may choose to keep their child home if he/she has come into *close contact* with a COVID-19 infected person until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Staff must report to the school office if they have *close contact* with a COVID-19 person and must stay off campus until 14-day incubation period has passed. *Close contact* is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions like being coughed on while not wearing a mask or being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more with an infected person. A person is presumed infectious for at least 2 days prior to symptom onset or confirmed lab test. Call your medical clinic for advice.

A student or staff member may return to school with a doctor's note. Please do not hesitate to contact your medical clinic for advice.

Return-to-school criteria after COVID-19 infection

Any students or staff who themselves either:

- (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
- (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below)

must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- A. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may **return to school with a doctor's note** when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - 1. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - 2. the individual has improvement of symptoms (for example: cough, shortness of breath); and
 - 3. at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- B. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- C. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Parent conferencing through COVID-19

- At this time parent conferences will be conducted virtually or by phone.
- Parental concerns will also be addressed virtually or by phone.
- We want to limit visitation at this time, and all face-to-face conferences must be scheduled through the office, so we can prepare a meeting room according to the distancing protocols.

Pringle-Morse School Health and Safety Measures

School nurse procedures related to COVID-19

- Students, teachers, or staff who feel feverish or present symptoms of COVID-19 will have their temperature taken and be evaluated by the school nurse (or designee).
- When COVID-19 symptoms are present, masks will be required. The symptomatic student will be isolated until pick up, and the symptomatic staff members will be sent home. Symptomatic will be given the return-to-school criteria at departure.
- The nurse will contact a parent and tell them to wait in the parking lot for child.
- The nurse will contact the school office to move the class and have it disinfected.
- The student will be escorted to the parking lot once his/her ride arrives.
- The nurse will sign the student out at the office.
- Please refer to “The Partnership with Parents to mitigate COVID-19” section.
- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, school must notify all teachers, staff, and families of students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate on any on-campus activities.

Personal infection control measures

- We ask all parents to daily screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving their home for school.
- All employees will screen themselves daily before leaving their home for school.
- Visitors who do not call ahead will be screened via phone in the parking lot.
- All visitors should call the school to schedule a face-to-face meeting and will be health screened for COVID-19 before entering by calling 806-733-2507.
- All adults and visitors shall wear masks on campus.
- Pringle-Morse CISD is required to comply with Texas Governor Abbott’s executive order regarding masks or face coverings.
- Masks or face coverings are required for all Pringle-Morse CISD employees.
- We highly recommend masks for all students; although, it is optional for PK to 4th.
- Masks are required for 5th to 12th grade students until further notice.
- Staff and students are encouraged to provide their own masks or face coverings. We have a limited number of masks if your child needs a mask.
- Floor decals will guide student distancing as students move throughout the building.
- All persons will be distanced at least six feet whenever possible.

- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will receive instruction on effective 20-second handwashing techniques and proper covering of the face when sneezing or coughing. Used tissues should be thrown away and hands washed immediately for 20 seconds.
- Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be expected to wash and/or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer and tissues will be available at every entrance, classroom, and common area.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer available for students as they get on and off the bus.

Transportation infection control measures

- The safest means of transportation during COVID-19 is riding in the family car to and from school, but for many working parents that is not an option.
- Pringle-Morse CISD will provide bus transportation and distance student seating.
- Please temperature check and screen your child for COVID-19 before leaving your home in a personal vehicle or school bus.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer available for students as they get on and off the bus.
- Pringle-Morse CISD is required to comply with Texas Governor Abbott's executive order regarding masks or face coverings during transportation.
- We highly recommend masks for bus riders; although, it is optional according to the current executive order.
- Masks or face coverings are required for all Pringle-Morse CISD transportation employees.
- All buses will be sanitized thoroughly after each bus route.
- No drink or food will be allowed on the buses unless there is a medical requirement.

Breakfast and lunch Infection control measures

- Masks or face coverings are required for all Pringle-Morse food service personnel.
- Parents please drop delivered lunches in the entry and ring the doorbell.
- Upon arrival, grades PK to 4 will go directly to their classrooms each morning for breakfast. Grades 5 to 8 will go directly to the cafeteria.
- Floor decals will guide student distancing through the cafeteria line.
- Hand sanitizer will be available prior to entering the food area.
- An adult will pull student cards for scanning or enter their number in the system.
- Wrapped silverware will be placed on student trays.
- Students may not share any food, milk, or drinks from the cafeteria or home.
- Classroom desks and cafeteria tables will be sanitized between meals.
- Grab and go meals will be available for pick up by virtual learners enrolled in our school, and students will pay according to their eligibility. Prepayment is required. Please call the school cafeteria manager (806-733-2507) to sign up for Grab and Go Meals and further instructions. Students must be enrolled in the school district to receive meals from the school district this school year.

Classroom and building infection control measures

- Parents please drop forgotten backpacks and glasses in the entry and ring the doorbell.
- Pringle-Morse CISD has increased cleaning in all school areas to maintain a safe and productive environment.
- Custodial will regularly sanitize classrooms, restrooms, and high-traffic common areas throughout the day.
- The District will provide masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves as needed.
- Desk tops and work areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Desks and student work spaces will be arranged to maximize distancing.
- Teachers and classroom aides will minimize shared supplies.
- A Victory electrostatic applicator will be utilized according to manufacturer's recommendations for disinfection.

School Opening Frequently Asked Questions:

Will my child be required to wear a mask at school?

We are required to comply with Texas Governor Abbott's executive order regarding masks. Disposable masks will be available if your child needs one. Masks are not required for students 10 years old and under. Students may wear a mask from home.

Where can I find updated information about COVID-19 Disease?

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

If I choose one option and want to change the choice later in the year, can I make a switch?

Yes. If possible, we highly recommended that students only request a change after a six week period is complete. Should COVID-19 circumstances arise that require quarantining, the student will be able to change.

What if most families choose the traditional option? Would there have to be changes to accommodate social distancing or will there be a limit of how many students can select the traditional option?

With our small class sizes, we will be able to provide instruction to all students in the option their families choose. We will also comply with all mandates regarding social distancing, health, and hygiene protocols.

How will you address social emotional or mental health concerns?

Our school counselor, Darlene Curry, is available to support students academically, socially, and emotionally and can provide mental health support and/or resources for families who may be struggling emotionally. Access to schedule a meeting with the PMCISD counselor or to find a list of local counseling-based resources can be found on the [district website pringlemorsecisd.net](http://pringlemorsecisd.net).

Will health protocols and social distancing be observed on buses, and how will seating arrangements be determined?

Students will be assigned specific seats, and the seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver. Students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer prior to boarding the school bus. Students are required to remain seated at all times and keep their hands and arms to themselves. Students should not touch each other or share any items. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each route.

What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine and enroll in virtual school? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted?

When notification of a possible exposure occurs, PMCISD, in coordination with local health authorities, will begin contact tracing and complete a thorough risk assessment. Based on this assessment, a determination whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine will be made. Families will be informed of the quarantine, and students will access virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

How will we register for traditional or virtual school? Will I be able to make the choice or does the district choose for me?

Families will be able to make the choice online via the Back-to-School Parent Survey. All parents will be required to select to enroll their child(ren) in either traditional in-person classroom or virtual on-line school.

Can students who select virtual school still participate in athletics and extracurricular activities? No. (Revised July 23, 2020)

Will meals be provided for students who select virtual school?

Yes. Prepayment will be required. Grab and Go Meals will be available for pick up by virtual learners enrolled in our school, and students will pay according to their eligibility. Please call the school cafeteria manager (806-733-2507) to sign up for Grab and Go Meals and further instructions. Students must be enrolled in the school district to receive meals from the school district this school year.

Are immunizations required for virtual school?

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students.

How will schools monitor crowding in bathrooms, cafeterias, gyms, and other commons areas?

All areas of the campus will be monitored frequently to ensure there is no student crowding. Classrooms will be assigned specific bathroom, breakfast, lunch, and gym access times to limit the number of students in any given area. Signage reminding students and staff about handwashing, social distancing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school and in areas mentioned above.

How will virtual school be different from at-home learning during the closure last spring?

Students who select virtual school will be required to attend and participate in class daily during regular school hours, and instruction will be led by a teacher. In the spring last year, student assignments were limited as we all learned about virtual instruction together. This 2020-21 school year the traditional in-person student and virtual student will receive the same full course load of instruction and assignments. Teachers delivering virtual instruction will be prepared for the new school year. They are on board and will have received additional training and support in digital teaching strategies and using online curriculum for virtual school when school begins August 12, 2020.

What precautions will be in place on campus?

We will post signs around the school and on buses that promote COVID-19 safety. We will increase cleaning and sanitation practices, as well as frequently reminding students of hand washing and sanitization and social distancing.

We are reviewing proposals for glass or plexiglass shields for use in high traffic areas such as the front office reception area and the cafeteria serving line. We will update this information as it becomes available.

PMCIDSD will comply with all health and safety recommendations established by the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services, the TDA, the Texas Education Agency, the local health authorities, and local government officials.

Will there be an attendance requirement for credit this year?

Yes. The Commissioner of Education waived attendance rules during COVID-19 school closures for the spring of 2020, but the TEC 25.092 will be back in full effect for the 2020-2021 year. Students will have to be counted in attendance 90 percent of the time to be promoted to the next grade or get credit for coursework. More information on attendance requirements will be forthcoming.

What do I do if my child is struggling with school work and/or attitude about school?

Please call at the first sign of a problem. Student engagement and attendance is paramount for your child (ren)'s education this year. We want success for every child according to his or her abilities, and communication with teachers, the counselor, and the superintendent/principal will be the key to a great year.

Can I visit the school, attend student conferences, eat in the cafeteria with my child, or volunteer to help a teacher?

TEA advised Texas schools to restrict school visits to only those essential to school operation; although, parents and other adults can visit schools as permitted by local school system policies. During these visits, parents and other visitors must follow the virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school. Please call if you want to visit the school, and we can conduct COVID-19 screening. School conferences may be conducted virtually or by telephone.

What happens to my screening questionnaire?

When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a "yes" or "no" to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. Once it is determined that individuals who responded "yes" to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals' responses.