

Albuquerque Public Schools
Reentry Plan
2021-2022 SY

INTRODUCTION

During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is critically important to keep in mind preventative COVID-safety precautions in order to limit exposure. All individuals must make the utmost effort to remain healthy for their own well-being as well as that of others in their lives, including family members, friends, colleagues and students.

Even though New Mexico has reduced restrictions, there is still a COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, schools must make every effort to implement all COVID-Safe preventive practices in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. The Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Reentry plan contains information on what schools must do to promote student and staff safety.

The purpose of the APS Reentry Entry Plan is to provide guidance and requirements that will allow for students and staff to safely return to in-person school for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, APS is phasing in non-APS staff providing in-person services on campuses.

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the most important COVID-Safe Practice for those eligible to receive the vaccine, and the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) is providing vaccination events for interested school communities.

Schools must advise individuals who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system to talk with their healthcare provider about steps that can be taken to manage health risks.

Note: APS must follow all current public health and NMPED guidance, in as such, changes may occur with short notice in requirements for reentry.

This document provides updated information on the following:

- Masks/Face Covering
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- Health Screens
 - Staff
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- Attachment A: Entering APS Facilities, COVID-19 Questionnaire

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

Definitions – For the purpose of this document:

- **Universal Masking** means both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear masks with limited exceptions.
- **Outdoors** means being entirely outside the school building; if under a roofed or canopied structure, 25 percent or more of the structure’s perimeter must be wholly open to the outdoors.

Indoors – Includes all APS facilities, on school buses and at indoor sponsored events with the exception for athletics:

- **Universal Masking is required.**
 - **Everyone (vaccinated and unvaccinated)** wears mask indoors
 - **Exceptions:**
 - **Indoor athletics** will follow NMAA guidelines. Unvaccinated athletes and all spectators must wear masks. Vaccinated athletes and spectators do not have to wear masks.
 - **For students** who cannot wear a face mask and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan, the IEP team or 504 committee should meet to make a determination about possible accommodations based on the totality of needs, including the student’s needs and the community’s public health needs.
 - **For staff** who cannot wear a face mask, reasonable accommodations such as alternate work assignments may be available to an employee, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Contact Human Resources for further information.
 - **Families, visitors, volunteers, providers, etc.** who cannot wear a face mask, as appropriate, may participate virtually or in outdoor settings.

Outdoors – **Masks are NOT required for anyone**, but masks **ARE** recommended for unvaccinated individuals to wear masks outdoors.

Note: In areas with substantial or high transmission, CDC recommends that everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent spread of the Delta variant and protect others. Additionally, CDC updated the guidance for masking in the K-12 setting. Specifically, CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, families and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Given the high mixing of vaccinated and unvaccinated people in schools, and the fact that vaccines are not available to children under 12, CDC recommends universal masking in schools. CDC continues to recommend that children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

Implementation

- Schools must provide masks to students who need them, including on buses.
- Students can NOT be suspended or expelled for not having a mask.
- Violation of mask-wearing requirements:
 - School must focus on supportive instructional approaches.
 - ***Students who refuse to wear masks:** Schools will follow the dress code policy for students who refuse to wear masks.
 - **Multiple mask violations by a student:** school should consider remote instruction, or other suitable instructions options.
 - **Schools must provide notice to families** about the inclusion of mask wearing as part of the dress code policy and collect parent/guardian signatures indicating receipt of this notice.
 - **APS Employees** – Employees who cannot wear masks must have an ADA. Employees who refuse to wear masks are subject to progressive discipline.
 - **Families, visitors, volunteers, providers, etc.** – who cannot or refuse to wear a mask will be asked to leave.

**Students who cannot wear a face mask and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan, the IEP team or 504 committee should meet to make a determination about possible accommodations based on the totality of needs, including the student's needs and the community's public health needs. In most cases, the IEP team or 504 committee should consider fully remote learning as the appropriate accommodation. In other cases, such as when the student has a breathing obstruction or other severe medical condition that would be exacerbated by mask-wearing, the IEP team or 504 committee may determine whether a face shield could be substituted for a face mask after receiving medical documentation that would support such a determination.*

SOCIAL DISTANCING

To the greatest extent possible, Social Distancing both indoors and outdoors is 3 feet for students and 6 feet for adults.

FAMILY MEMBERS, VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, PROVIDERS, ETC. ON CAMPUSES

During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is critically important to keep in mind preventative COVID-safety precautions in order to limit exposure. All individuals must make the utmost effort to remain healthy for their own well-being as well as that of others in their lives, including family members, friends, colleagues and students. **Even though New Mexico has reduced restrictions, there is still a COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, APS must follow the NMPED guidance. Therefore, APS is still limiting the number of family members, visitors, volunteers, providers, etc. on campuses, especially those within the physical proximity to students. APS' goal is to get back to normal as much as possible and will continue to evaluate the number of individuals allowed on campuses when students are present.**

MASS GATHERINGS

For the purpose of this document, “Mass Gatherings” means any public gathering, private gathering, organized event, ceremony, parade, funeral, or any other grouping that brings together a specified number of individuals in a single room or connected space, confined outdoor space, or open outdoor space. "Mass Gatherings" also includes coordinated events in which individuals gather in vehicles. Schools should avoid and restrict indoor mass gatherings and to the greatest extent possible, mass gatherings should be conducted outside.

Indoors/outdoors Mass Gatherings

- Indoors mass gatherings are allowed with social distancing to the greatest extent possible and Universal Mask wearing is required. When students are present it is recommended to conduct gatherings virtually or outdoors.
- Outdoors mass gatherings are allowed without masks.

Athletics/Activities

- APS is following the NMAA guidelines for athletics and activities. See NMAA Guidance for athletics and activities for more details (<https://www.nmact.org/news/covid-19-guidelines-resources/>).

Meetings

- **Staff meetings** can be in-person. Universal Mask wearing and social distancing, to the greatest extent possible, of 6 feet is recommended.
- **Meetings with families** can occur in person. It is recommended that, when possible, conduct **meetings, other events, gatherings that include families, visitors, volunteers, providers, etc. are held virtually.**

PARTNERSHIPS

General

Per the NMPED and CDC guidance, APS will be phasing in non-APS staff providing services in-person on campuses. Schools must give priority for in-person on campus services to Critical Partnership Services.

Definitions:

- **Critical Partnership Services**

For the purpose of this document, “Critical Partnership Services” means

- Community Mental Health Providers that are under contract with APS,
- School-Based Health, Centers;
- Out-of-School Time that provide School-Aged Childcare Programs,
- Early Childhood Programs and
- Tutors.

Critical Partners are allowed, depending on space, to provide in-person contact with students at the school site.

Note: critical partners are specific to partnership services that support students, it does not apply to vendors and state agencies requirements (such as Children, Youth and Family investigations and the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization clinics).

- **Essential Partnership Services**

For the purpose of this document, “Essential Partnership Services” means basic needs support including distribution of food, clothing and educational materials, and school supplies will be allowed on campus.

- **Other Partnerships Services**

For the purposes of this document, “Other Partnerships” means any other partnership not defined as Critical or Essential such as volunteers, families, and other visitors. Other partnership services will have no or limited access to the school campus

- **Mentoring**

For the purposes of this document, “Mentoring/Mentorship” means a supportive relationship between a Mentor (experienced non parental adult) and Mentee (APS student) where the experienced Mentor guides the Mentee, over a period of time, to develop academic, social, and/or emotional understanding through development. Teaching the mentees the skills needed to achieve upward mobility to their goals to be successful in society. If the relationship is strictly to improve academic achievement, then the individual would be defined as a tutor.

Considerations for Partnerships

School administrators must ensure that all partners understand and can adhere to preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions.

- **Critical Partnership Services:** School administrators must work first work with **Critical Partners** to determine space, dates, times and services before scheduling any other partnerships in-person on school campuses.
- **Essential Partnership Services:** Secondary considerations to in-person services should be given to **Essential Partnership Services**.
- **Other Partnership Services:** If all COVID-Safe practice can be maintained, all critical and essential partnerships are accommodated, then school administrators can consider **Other Partnership Services** in-person on school campuses.
- **Mentoring:** Mentoring services for students that are run by, or in conjunction with APS, will not occur until such time as the district can safely educate students without precautions. The district is in the process of developing structures, processes and partnership supports to facilitate mentorship of students

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DETERMINING OUTSIDE PROVIDERS ON CAMPUS

Depending on the ability of the school to meet preventative COVID-safety precautions, school administrators can determine, on a case-by-case basis, other (non-critical) outside providers that may be allowed in-person access to students on campus.

Important Note: When providing services on an APS facility, all partners must register on APS' facilities usage website (SchoolDude) and complete a license agreement for each space needed in APS to perform the services per this agreement.

<https://www.aps.edu/community/facility-rentals/user-groups#Registration%20Process>

The following questionnaire should be utilized by school administrators in making these decisions:

Questionnaire for Determining Partners in-person campus

1. Does the provider have an agreement with APS ensuring they understand preventative COVID-safety precautions and restrictions (see approved provider list)?
 - YES, go to #2
 - NO, **do not allow on campus**, instruct the provider to contact Kristine Meurer (Kristine.meurer@aps.edu) to discuss an agreement.
2. Does the provider have a current APS background check clearance?
 - YES (provider should have a background clearance ID badge which has an expiration date) go to #3
 - NO, **do not allow on campus**, instruct the provider to email sfcs.clearance@aps.edu to obtain a current background check.
3. Is the service the provider is offering essential and in alignment with the schools' goals/mission (see definitions of partnerships)?
 - YES, go to #4
 - NO, if there **is** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions, go to #4

OR if there is **not** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions – **STOP** and let provider know that you will communicate with them when there is adequate space or restrictions are lifted

4. Does the number of students served by the program justify the need for the service on campus?
 - YES, go to #5
 - NO, if there **is** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions, go to #5.

OR if there is **not** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions – **STOP** and let provider know that you will communicate with them when there is adequate space or restrictions are lifted

5. Can the provider provide the service virtually?
 - YES, work with the provider on how to safely provide virtual services (see Virtual Services Section for more details)
 - NO, if there **is** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions, work with the provider on dates, times and services they will be providing on the campus.

OR if there is **not** adequate space to provide the services following all preventative COVID-safe precautions and restrictions – **STOP** and let provider know that you will communicate with them when there is adequate space or restrictions are lifted.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers include family members, community members and providers that volunteer their services. APS believes that volunteers are important in order to advance the school/district's educational priorities, goals and mission and to support student academic achievement.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, APS is limiting the number of family members, visitors, volunteers, providers, etc. indoor on school campuses, especially those within the physical proximity to students. However, APS' goal is to get back to normal as much as possible and will continue to evaluate the number of individuals allowed indoors on school campuses when students are present.

Volunteers in the classroom

Volunteers to assist in the classroom will be limited as we begin school and at the discretion of the school principal. Schools may decide to not allow volunteers initially as we begin this return to school. Phase in of more classroom volunteers may begin after APS can ensure that local conditions will allow for more non-APS individuals in schools.

Determining Volunteers on School Campuses

In order to determine volunteers on school campuses school administrators should:

- Determine if the volunteer has the appropriate background check clearance (either supervised or unsupervised).
- Strategically limit the total number of volunteers indoors to ensure all COVID-Safe practices can be followed.
- Determine if there is adequate space for the volunteer to be on campus and still allow space for Critical Partnership Services.
- The principal must approval the number of volunteers allowed.
- The time frame the volunteer will be on campus.
- Whether the volunteer will be indoors or outdoors.
- Prioritize volunteers that assist with basic needs such as food distributions.
- Ensure all extra health precautions are in place, including:
 - All volunteers are required to wear face coverings on school site except while eating and drinking.
 - Social distancing from others (staff, volunteers, etc.)
 - All volunteers must review the Entering APS Facilities COVID-19 Questionnaire each time prior to being at APS facilities.
 - ***If the answer to any of the questions on the questionnaire is 'Yes', the provider should not be physically in an APS school. The provider should notify the school immediately if they will not be able to make their scheduled time. It is recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.***
 - ***If a provider becomes ill while at a school, they must notify the school administration and leave the school immediately. It is also recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.***
 - Individuals who exhibit symptoms should contact the school to determine if they can volunteer.

For more information please contact volunteer.programs@aps.edu.

FIELD TRIPS

Are allowable, but should focus on important events. Must continue to use all COVID-safe practices.

Overnight and Out-of-state Trips with Students

Are allowable. Only vaccinated students can share a room. Unvaccinated can only share with household members

GUEST SPEAKERS/IN-PERSON CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

For the purposes of this document, “Guest Speakers and In-class Programs” means any non-APS staff that is providing in-class instruction/presentations to students. **Guest Speakers and In-Class Programs may occur if 1) the school administrator has approved the guest speaker(s) 2) the speaker/presenter agrees to follow all of the below outlined COVID-safe practices and 3) the classroom has sufficient space to allow for social distancing.**

COVID-Safe practices for Guest Speakers and In-Class Programs by Non-APS staff: Guest Speakers/In-Class Program Providers must agree to the following:

- Follow the current COVID-Safe Practices, current Public Health Orders, and NMPED requirements.
- Have both school administrator and teacher approval for in-person presentations.
- Wear a face mask on school sites except while eating and drinking.
- Limit the number of outside individuals in a class to no more than 2 and must ensure that the space can accommodate 2 with social distancing of 6 feet.
- If using supplies or manipulatives, enough must be available for all students to have their own set.
- Sign in and out at the front desk.
- Screen on a daily basis, including temperature check and review of potential COVID-19 symptoms; (see: [Entering APS Facilities COVID-19 Questionnaire](#)).
 - *If the answer to any of the questions on the questionnaire is ‘Yes’, the provider should not be physically in an APS school. The provider should notify the school immediately if they will not be able to make their scheduled time. It is recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.*
 - *If a provider becomes ill while at a school, they must notify the school administration and leave the school immediately. It is also recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.*
- Immediately notify the school administrator and nursingservices@aps.edu if the provider tests positive for COVID-19 within in 48 hours of providing services on an APS Campus.
- Meet APS policy and procedural directives.
- Be in line of sight of an APS employee at all times while on campus. Guest speakers/in-Class program staff should never be left alone with students.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

*Virtual Services do **NOT** apply to any form of tele-medicine or tele-mental health services.*

- **Virtual Services:** For the purpose of this document, “Virtual Services” means specific partnership services, supports, and activities which are conducted online (with interactions with students, families, or staff) or pre-recorded and then shared with students, families, or staff at a later time. These services are designed to facilitate student learning and whole child development, and to support families and staff.

Any partner that has virtual access to student must utilize safe virtual program practices. Safe virtual program practice including, but not limited to:

- Obtaining parental consent for the program.
- Not publicly sharing students' names.
- Being careful of how information is shared with students.
- Always using school-related email addresses.
- Ensuring students are never left alone in an online session.
- Ensuring staff and/or service providers are the first into on-line sessions and the last to leave.
- Ensuring that students' names are not shared publicly.
- Promoting the use of school-related email addresses rather than private email addresses.
- Fostering understanding of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA). COPPA is a federal law that prohibits websites from collecting personal information from children under the age of thirteen without parental consent.
- Only recording sessions with students where the parent/guardian has provided prior written consent.
- Following district guidelines when choosing online platforms and tools for students. It is highly recommended that services utilize Google Meets and Google Classroom.
 - Ensuring sessions are only conducted by phone or on-line meeting portal/software (e.g. Google Meets).

RAPID RESPONSE (see updated Rapid Response Check List for details)

Reporting of COVID-19 Positive Cases

- Administrators/Supervisors will continue to report COVID-19 positive cases to nursingservices@aps.edu and to the NMPED

NMPED Reporting

- NMPED Reporting of students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 continue to be required, but do not have to be reported after hours. Reporting can wait until the next business day.

NM Environment Department Reporting

- NM Environment Department Reporting of staff who test positive for COVID-19 continue to be required within 4 hours of notification.
- Nursing Services will continue to make this report.

Close Contacts of COVID-19 Positive

- Administrators/Supervisors will continue to identify close contacts of a COVID-19 positive that was on campus or in an APS facility.

Close contact is someone who:

Over a 24-hour period, has a cumulative exposure of fifteen minutes or longer within six feet of a *confirmed* COVID-19 case with or without a face covering, or
 Was in the same class or cohort as a *confirmed* COVID-19 case in a school, or
 Was on the same bus as a *confirmed* COVID-19 case.

Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who are sick with COVID-like symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation.
- Students and staff who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are required to quarantine unless the individuals is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and who have had close contact with a COVID-19 infectious individual and they meet the following criteria:
 - Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
 - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure unless fully vaccinated or for the first 90 days after a positive PCR test.

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

COVID-Like Symptoms

Acute (new onset) symptoms including: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Health Office

- Schools will continue to maintain an isolation room for the care of individuals with COVID-like symptoms.
- Care for well children, chronic conditions, and injuries will continue to be done in a space separate from the isolation room.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING (see updated surveillance testing for details)

COVID-19 surveillance testing is for staff, students and athletics. The purpose of surveillance testing is to detect COVID-19 outbreaks as early as possible by screening asymptomatic individuals. Unvaccinated individuals or individuals who wish not to be identified as vaccinated will be included in the surveillance testing samples.

Staff

- Staff are required to participate in surveillance testing. 25% of staff who are unvaccinated or who do not wish to be identified as vaccinated will be required to participate in surveillance testing weekly.

Students

- Students participate in surveillance testing on a voluntary basis. 25% of students who volunteer to participate, are unvaccinated or who do not wish to be identified as vaccinated will be part of surveillance testing weekly.

HEALTH SCREENS

Staff

- Daily, at home health screens are still required, APS will continue to provide the link to this screen.

Students

- Families will continue to be asked to do a health screen of students before sending to school and asked to keep students with COVID-like symptoms home.

Family Members, Visitors, Volunteers, Providers, etc. on Campuses

- Will continue to be asked to do a health screen before entering an APS facility/campus and asked to not come if experiencing COVID-like symptoms (see attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A
ENTERING APS FACILITIES
COVID-19 QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you currently have a temperature of over 100.4°F (38°C): Yes No

In the past 24 hours, have you experienced any NEW or UNEXPECTED symptoms such as:

- Fever: Yes No
- Chills: Yes No
- Sweating: Yes No
- Difficulty breathing: Yes No
- Shortness of breath: Yes No
- Fatigue: Yes No
- Muscle or body aches and pains: Yes No
- Runny nose: Yes No
- Congestion: Yes No
- New Frequent, dry Cough: Yes No
- Sore throat: Yes No
- Diarrhea: Yes No
- Headaches: Yes No
- Loss of smell or taste: Yes No

Have you recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any symptoms listed above?

Yes No

Have you recently been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes No

If the answer to any of the above questions above is ‘Yes’, the provider should not be physically in an APS school. It is recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.

If a provider becomes ill while at a school, they must notify the school administration and leave the school immediately. It is also recommended that the provider should consult with a medical professional.