



Presque Isle Academy Safe Return to School Plan

Introduction:

Consistent with our charter, we believe that the best learning environment for our students includes regular, day-to-day, in-school instruction provided by a teacher. Our goal is to have an in-school learning environment for our students if this can be accomplished while keeping students and staff safe and healthy. As we pursue this goal, we continually seek guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on best practices in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. This document summarizes our school's safe return to school plan for the 2021-22 school year. As the CDC, State, and local health department guidelines change, the school will update its plan and practice. These updates will occur every six months, and more frequently as needed.

Maintaining Health and Safety:

Presque Isle Academy (PIA) has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. PIA will continue to follow mitigation guidance from the CDC and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Our mitigation strategies include the following safety practices and policies:

- **Masking:** Masks will be required for all staff and students to start the school year off as required by the Bay Mills Executive Council. This could change throughout the year depending on the COVID-19 statistics in our region. Masks will be made available for any individual who would like one.
- **Physical distancing:** We have modified our spaces to promote physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities:**
 - Daily surface cleaning
 - Evening deep cleaning as needed
 - Continued cleaning of surfaces as classes change
 - Frequent handwashing by staff and students
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers in every space
- **Quarantine Protocols:** When notified of a positive case of COVID-19 within the PIA community, school leadership will work with the local health department to enforce the safety protocols and requirements for those identified as being within range of the positive individual.
 - Subject to change based on requirements of the local health department.
- **Screening / Entry protocols:** Staff, students, and visitors are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily. The very best safeguard is for individuals experiencing symptoms to stay home.



Continuity of Services:

PIA has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services to address the needs of both students and staff. Additional mental health support and guidance is being provided at the school in order to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of both students and staff.

Through implementation of the mitigation strategies listed above, PIA can offer in-person learning to students to address academic needs. In-person learning offers the best strategy for continuity of services. Students with IEPs and 504s access the same learning opportunities offered to the general education students. Special education providers collaborate with general education teachers to ensure provision of accommodations and modifications that allow students to access learning opportunities.

Communication:

This plan will be posted on the school website (www.presqueisleacademy.com) and will be made available at the school.

Updates/Changes:

This plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and revised as needed for safe in-person instruction and continuity of services. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance, if issued.