

Matthew C. Fedders
Superintendent of Schools



Michaela B. Martin
Co-Director of School Transformation

Andrea M. Wasson
Co-Director of School Transformation

Christopher F. Locarno
Director of Finance & Facilities

Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

August 19, 2021

Dear Paine Mountain Families and Staff,

We have so much to celebrate! For the first time in over a year, all students will be returning to a full time, five-day per week school schedule! In addition, the state has removed the mandate to cohort students into pods, there are no requirements for physical distancing, no requirements for temperature checks, and no limitation on in person gatherings or visitors on campus!

Since the onset of this pandemic, it has been the decision of Paine Mountain School District to align their COVID-19 practices and prevention policies with the guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH). This guidance has allowed Paine Mountain schools to operate through the pandemic with a very limited number of COVID cases in our schools.

As superintendent, my goal is to maintain full in-person instruction throughout the 21/22 school year. To ensure we can meet this goal, all schools within the Paine Mountain School District schools will continue to use the guidance of the AOE and VDH, and require **all students and staff to wear a facial covering when indoors to begin the school year**. I recognize this decision is difficult, but it is a precaution we all must take to ensure the medically-fragile and those ineligible for vaccinations remain safe and healthy until this pandemic is behind us.

If there is one thing I have learned in my short time as superintendent is that the communities of Northfield, Orange, Washington, and Williamstown care about each other. Our communities have set themselves apart from other parts of the nation in that we understand the collective responsibility to our neighbors. Our communities recognize that individual actions impact the collective group around them. Over the next week, please talk about this collective responsibility with your children. I know that many students who have been vaccinated will be discouraged by the mask requirement inside schools, but it is important to remind them that the mask mandate is how they can do their part to protect themselves and others in the community.

On the pages ahead, I have outlined the procedures and practices Paine Mountain schools will follow to begin the year. Our COVID-19 coordination team will continue to monitor state guidance and **we will revisit these policies on a monthly basis**. I am confident these precautions should ensure the health and safety of our students until children under 12 years of age have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and epidemiological data indicates these precautions are no longer necessary. Should you have any questions, please contact your site principal or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Matthew Fedders'.

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Paine Mountain School District COVID Practices to Start the 2021-2022 School Year

<u>Item</u>	<u>PK - 5</u>	<u>6-12</u>
<u>School Status</u>	School Buildings are open. All schools are offering 5 days a week of in-person learning. CVSU is not offering any form of virtual learning option at this time.	
	<u>Transportation and Arrival/Dismissal</u>	
<u>Transportation</u>	Facial coverings are required for ALL individuals on ALL school transportation: buses, drivers ed vehicles, coach bussing or other bus companies. Assigned seats and daily seating charts with last names, dates, and school will be recorded using the same format as the end of the year. We are encouraging: Windows down and physical distancing on the bus as much as possible.	
<u>Arrival/Dismissal</u>	<i>Each school will share their specific arrival and dismissal procedures with parents in a separate communication, including drop-off and pick up times.</i>	
	<u>Health and Safety</u>	
<u>Masks/ Facial Coverings</u>	Facial Coverings Required for ALL when indoors, including main offices. Facial coverings are not required when outdoors. Employees are not required to wear a mask when alone in their classroom/office with the door shut. Facial coverings may be removed when necessary for instruction or operational purposes. Facial coverings should have two or more layers (cloth or disposable). The CDC does not recommend the use of single layer gaiter/buff style masks	Facial Coverings Required for ALL when indoors, including main offices. Once 80% of students are fully vaccinated we will revisit the mandatory use of facial coverings. Facial coverings are not required when outdoors. Employees are not required to wear a mask when alone in their classroom/office with the door shut. Facial coverings may be removed when necessary for instruction or operational purposes. Facial coverings should have two or more layers (cloth or disposable).

		The CDC does not recommend the use of single layer gaiter/buff style facial coverings.
<u>Opening Inservice/ Staff Meetings/ Employee Meetings</u>	Facial coverings are required for all indoor meetings.	
<u>Isolation Space</u>	Symptomatic students should be isolated in an isolation room until picked up.	
<u>Cleaning</u>	Daily custodial cleaning	
<u>Handwashing</u>	Frequent hand washing is encouraged.	
	<u>Food Services</u>	
<u>Meals</u>	Use of the cafeteria for breakfast & lunch is permitted. Students should sit at assigned tables with their class. Seating charts must be maintained for contact tracing purposes. Students may remove facial coverings while eating Schools may choose to eat in classrooms or limit the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.	Use of the cafeteria for breakfast & lunch is permitted. Seating charts should be maintained to the extent possible to assist with contact tracing purposes. Students may remove facial coverings while eating. Schools may choose to eat in classrooms or limit the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
<u>Meals & School Vacations</u>	Meals will no longer be available for family pick up.	
	<u>Facilities</u>	
<u>Interior Facility Use</u>	Outside groups will not be permitted to use schools during the school day. After school hours building use is allowed following guidance/safety protocols.	
<u>Exterior Facilities Use</u>	The public may use exterior school grounds. Outdoor recess space/playgrounds are open.	
<u>Visitors Volunteers</u>	Visitors/Volunteers are permitted and are expected to wear facial coverings for the duration of their time in the building.	Visitors/Volunteers are permitted and are expected to wear facial coverings for the duration of their time in the building.
<u>Staff Room/Hallways/Lockers/Cubbies/Locker Rooms</u>	Facilities will be used as normal, no restrictions other than facial coverings for all.	
<u>Congregate Spaces</u>	Playgrounds are open. Library and Gym are open for normal use. Cafeterias are open with additional precautions during lunch.	
	<u>Instruction</u>	
<u>Sharing of materials</u>	Sharing of materials is allowable, however limiting the sharing of materials when possible is encouraged.	
<u>All-School Student Assemblies</u>	Indoor assemblies are permitted.	

	<p>Administrators are encouraged to limit the number of students attending an assembly based on the room capacity, ventilation, and ability to hold multiple smaller assemblies.</p> <p>Outdoor and virtual assemblies are encouraged.</p>	
<u>Cohorts</u>	<p>Students are no longer restricted to cohorts. Contact tracing will still be expected among students and staff when a positive case is identified, therefore maintenance of a sign-in/sign-out sheets in each classroom is necessary</p>	<p>Students are no longer restricted to pods.</p>
<u>Seating Charts/ Seating Arrangements</u>	<p>Seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing in the event a positive case is identified.</p>	
<u>PE</u>	<p>Classes will continue to be outside as often as possible, weather permitting.</p> <p>No restriction on the types of activities that students can participate in.</p>	
<u>MUSIC</u>	<p>Resumes pre-covid procedures and protocols.</p>	<p>Resumes pre-covid procedures and protocols.</p>
<u>LIBRARY</u>	<p>Resumes pre-covid procedures and protocols.</p>	<p>Resumes pre-covid procedures and protocols.</p>
<u>Field Trips</u>	<p>Will be considered on a case by case basis and will require approval by the Principal AND Superintendent.</p> <p>No overnight, out of state or international trips without prior board approval.</p>	
<u>Virtual Learning Model</u>	<p>No formal virtual learning model will be offered. All students are back for in-person 5 days per week.</p>	
<u>Open Houses</u>	<p>Open Houses are allowed. Facial coverings are required for everyone indoors.</p>	<p>Open Houses are allowed. Facial coverings are required for everyone indoors.</p>
<u>After School Programming</u>	<p>Onward/Bridges Onward/Bridges programs will follow the same procedures as during the school day.</p>	<p>Onward/Bridges Onward/Bridges programs will follow the same procedures as during the school day.</p> <p>Clubs and Athletics Indoor sports will require facial coverings for athletes and fans.</p> <p>Outdoor sports do not require masks for athletes or fans.</p> <p>All athletic team personnel will follow mask guidance when in any of the school buildings including before and after school hours</p>
	<u>Positive Cases in CVSU</u>	
<u>Contact Tracing Guidelines</u>	<p>Contract Tracing will continue when positive cases are identified.</p>	
<u>Quarantining Guidelines</u>	<p><i>Additional Guidance is forthcoming from the state.</i></p>	
<u>"Remote Learning"</u>	<p>1. If <i>an individual student or small number of students</i> need to quarantine,</p>	

<p><u>Procedures</u></p>	<p>then families will work with their child's teacher to stay up to date on the learning taking place in the classroom.</p> <p>2. If <i>an entire class</i> needs to go into quarantine, then the teachers will work with building and district leadership to consider the best options to continue student learning given the circumstances.</p>
	<p><u>Other</u></p>
<p><u>Accomodations</u></p>	<p>Accommodations due to health, medical, or disability should be referred to the principal to consider the reasonableness of the accommodation</p>