



January 2022

# The Impact of the Omicron Surge of COVID-19 on School Operations

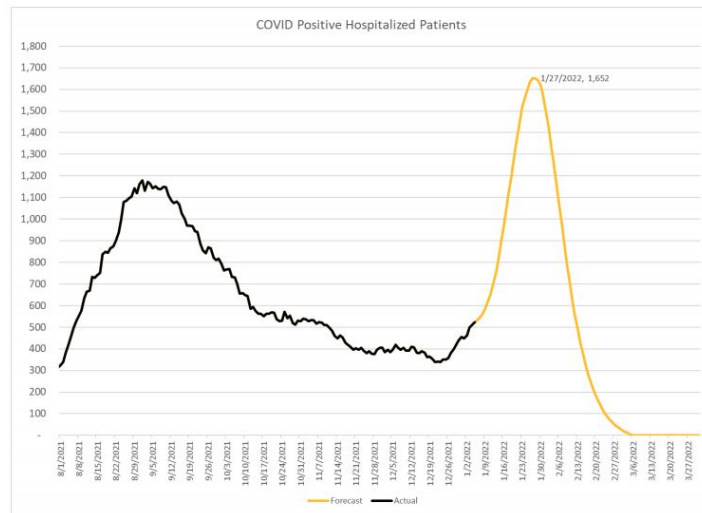


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# Introduction

- The Omicron variant of COVID-19, while less severe, is faster transmitting, meaning that it is spreading quickly across our community.
- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of serious illness and hospitalization, and yet it is more infectious than previous variants. Compared to Delta, it is less likely to hospitalize a person who fully vaccinated and has had booster.
- Local public health experts forecast January 27 to be the peak of this current surge.
- We are observing the rise of COVID-19 cases across our broader community; our schools—a reflection of the broader community—are seeing the impact: A dramatic rise in absences and reported illness by both students and staff.



“I want to be absolutely clear: Our goal is to keep our school buildings open and to maintain in-person instruction as much as possible....We consider the temporary closure of one of our schools to in-person learning and activities to be a measure of last resort.”

**- Guadalupe Guerrero, PPS Superintendent**



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# How Does PPS Determine if a School Should Transition to Temporary Distance Learning?

Our Emergency Operations Center is activated and serves as a central source of information, management and decision-making. This team reviews multiple data points throughout the day (at least 5 times beginning at 6:30am), including the following:

- Student and Staff Positive Cases of COVID-19
- Students and Staff in Quarantine/Isolation
- Student Attendance
- Staffing vacancies, including unfilled positions after subs are in place
- Certified central office support staff
- Considerations of special programs
- Regional public health metrics, rapidly changing public health guidance, etc

The decision is made by the collective EOC after direct consultation with the school administration.



**Of our 81 schools, 5 have transitioned to temporary distance learning.**

<b>School</b>	<b>Planning Day for Staff</b>	<b>Start Distance Learning</b>	<b>Projected End Distance Learning</b>
Cleveland High School	Friday, Jan. 7	Monday, Jan. 10	Friday, Jan. 14
McDaniel High School	Friday, Jan. 7	Monday, Jan. 10	Friday, Jan. 14
Roosevelt High School	Monday, Jan. 10	Tuesday, Jan. 11	Friday, Jan. 14
Ockley Green Middle School	Monday, Jan. 10	Tuesday, Jan. 11	Friday, Jan. 14
Faubion PK-8 School	Tuesday, Jan. 11	Wednesday, Jan. 12	Friday, Jan. 14



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# What Should Students and Families Expect in Temporary Distance Learning?

## **Day 1 - Transition Day**

The day after being notified that a school will move to distance learning, the school will closed. Families will have access to apps and featured learning content. Educators will use this opportunity to transition their classroom online.

## **Temporary Distance Learning**

Educators will meet with students synchronously with students during regular scheduled time. Teachers will provide whole class and small group instruction, as well as prepare and provide independent work for students.

Your school principal and classroom teacher will contact families and students with more information about daily schedule and learning activities.



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# What essential services is PPS providing families during this transition?

We are prioritizing access to essential services during distance learning. This includes nutrition services, our on-campus health centers, teen parent centers, and technology support for students.

- **Meals:** Breakfast and lunch will be offered to students for pickup while students are in temporary distance learning.
- **Technology:** This year, PPS students have been issued a PPS Chromebook as part of our 1:1 Chromebook Take Home Initiative. The PPS technical support remains available to families and students.
- **Health Centers:** Our health centers will remain open for any students in grades K-12 who live or go to school at PPS.



# NEW - Limited In-Person Supports and Extracurricular Activities

Last week, when we began to make the decision to shift schools into distance learning, we also made the decision to pause extra-curricular activities to properly assess system capacity and safety.

After careful consideration and preparation, we are reinstituting a number of limited in-person activities at campuses of schools in temporary distance learning.

- Temporary In Person Support (TIPS):
  - Provide **in-person academic supports** those students needing to successfully complete coursework.
  - Provide student needing in-person counseling, resources, technology, navigating online learning support, McKinney-Vento, reconnection with school, etc.
- **PIL Sports and Performing Arts** will resume at schools that transition to distance learning.
  - Limited Spectators.





# Health and Safety Update



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# Layered Health and Safety Measures at PPS



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# Vaccination Pop-up Clinics + COVID-19 Staff Testing Site

PPS continues to partner with local health partners to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations for students, staff and families, including booster shots.

## Upcoming Pop-up Clinics

- **James John ES** - Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 9
- **Markham ES** - Jan 21, Feb 11

## COVID-19 Staff Testing Site

PPS established a COVID-19 testing site for school-based staff who are serving students in-person and have been recently exposed to COVID-19, are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic.



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# NEW K-12 Isolation/Quarantine Procedures

## NO HOME Quarantine Required

If you are 18 years and older and:

- Have had your **booster shot**, OR;
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months or the J&J vaccine within the last two months

If you are 5-17 years old and completed the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine.

### What Should I Do?

1. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure
2. Get tested around day 5, if possible.

**If you develop symptoms at anytime, stay home. Get tested if you are able.**

## 5 Day Quarantine Period

If you are 18 years and older and:

- Have not had your **booster shot**, OR;
- Have received only one dose of Pfizer/Moderna vaccine, OR;
- Are unvaccinated

If you are 5-17 years old and:

- Are unvaccinated; OR
- Have received only one dose of Pfizer vaccine; OR
- It has been less than 2 weeks since you received a second Pfizer vaccine

### What Should I Do?

1. Quarantine: stay home for 5 days after exposure (day 0 = last day of exposure)
2. After that, continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 more days when you are around anyone
3. Get tested around day 5, if possible.



**Thank You.**



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