



PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS

October 1, 2021

At the beginning of the school year, Pelham City Schools established mitigation levels to help guide our decision making regarding the operation of our schools during the pandemic. **Based on two consecutive weeks of data where we have had less than 0.5% positive COVID-19 cases, we will be moving to Mitigation Level 2 beginning Monday, October 4.** Our mitigation levels can be viewed [here](#). We will continue to implement Level 1 and Level 2 protocols.

Please see below for answers to some anticipated questions:

What changes as we move from Level 3 to Level 2?

Masks continue to be encouraged but do become optional for students, staff, and visitors. The one exception is on buses. Per federal guidelines, masks still will be required for all buses.

How will COVID-19 exposure notifications work?

Elementary Level: Close contacts of positive exposures will be identified, and parents will be notified. Our rationale is students are typically in one classroom or smaller number of classrooms throughout the day making close contact notification doable.

Secondary Level: A positive case in a secondary classroom will result in a notification sent to all students / parents in those classrooms. The mobility of students and the number of classrooms students visit make mass notification more practical.

How does mitigation Level 2 impact visitors?

Since reasonable physical distancing protocols at the elementary schools means we are still spacing and utilizing special schedules for lunch, there are still no lunchroom visitors allowed.

Visitors for individual volunteering and classroom presentation will be allowed and must follow the school-specific rules. Large group parent visits (example - class party) would not allow for reasonable physical distancing and therefore will not be allowed in Mitigation Level 2. Any time large groups come into the building, planning and preparation must occur to put those groups in large spaces that would allow for physical distancing.

How long will we stay in Mitigation Level 2?

We have not set dates to guide any of our decisions (other than the remote learning option deadline). We have been driven by the numbers. If our student positives and community positivity rate start increasing, it would push us back to Level 3. If our positive rates continue to decrease and if we see lower positivity rates in the community, we could transition to Level 1, which would remove the physical distancing protocols and possibly open up some of the visitor restrictions. Our preference is to have two week trends before making any transition to prevent constant changing.

Our two main goals have not wavered – keep students in school and keep our schools open while doing so in a safe manner. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we work through the challenges of the pandemic together.

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools