



PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS

November 5, 2021

Pelham Family,

We have several updates to share this week. Please review the following information in detail.

COVID-19 Mitigation Level Change

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 current data related to COVID-19 in our schools and our community, we will be moving to Mitigation Level 1 beginning Monday, November 8.

Mitigation Level 1 means we will be returning to normal school operations while maintaining the following COVID-19 Mitigation protocols:

- Face coverings are still encouraged but are optional
- Continue to conduct daily self screenings at home with continued cleaning and hygiene protocols in the schools

Moving to Mitigation Level 1 represents a return to more normal school functions. Each school will be communicating with parents regarding procedures for school visitors. We understand there are many new families in our school system since we last used our visitor procedures in March of 2020. Regarding lunch visitors at the elementary level, there will be some transition time as our first step will be to get all students back into the cafeteria and establish those routines and procedures. We anticipate opening to lunch visitors following Thanksgiving Break. Please work with the schools as we reestablish these procedures.

Voluntary COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Pelham City Schools is partnering with University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama State Department of Education to provide an additional mitigation initiative which offers **free and voluntary asymptomatic COVID-19 testing** for our students, faculty, and staff. Only students whose parents or legal guardians have given consent and only faculty and staff who have given consent will be tested.

We believe that introducing voluntary asymptomatic testing adds another mitigation protocol that will help us monitor COVID-19 in our schools and help us make informed decisions moving forward. We encourage you to review the information from UAB and determine if the voluntary testing is the right choice for your child and your family.

Visit the [Voluntary COVID-19 Testing page](#) on the system website for details about the program and directions on how to opt-in to the voluntary COVID tests. Registration is open now. The start date for the voluntary testing is to be determined.

Child Nutrition Program Supply Chain Notice

Due to distributor labor and food shortages, we are seeing delays in food deliveries, substitutions to items ordered, and some items not being delivered at all. Because of this, please be aware that we may need to make adjustments to the breakfast and lunch menus in our schools. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Superintendent Search Survey

In follow-up to the October 25 announcement of Superintendent Dr. Scott Coefield's plans to retire in June of 2022, the Pelham City Schools Board of Education is reaching out to parents/guardians, employees, and community members to provide input in the search for the next superintendent. Please take a few minutes to complete the Superintendent Search Survey for an opportunity to share your thoughts about the strengths of our schools, and provide input about school system priorities and the traits and experience you would like to see in our next superintendent. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and all survey responses are anonymous. The deadline to complete the survey is Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Click here to begin: <https://forms.gle/cwC6awJGmy5GRmBi8>.

For survey in Spanish click here: <https://forms.gle/7FLHpYaoq9YteBEq6>.

School Calendar Reminders

Thursday, November 11: Veterans Day (Schools & Offices Closed)

Monday, November 22 - Friday, November 26: Thanksgiving Break (Schools & Offices Closed)

Upcoming Events

- The Pelham Panthers take on McGill-Toolen at 7PM TONIGHT at home in the first round of the 6A football playoffs. Let's pack the stands with Panther fans and support our team and coaches!
- Pelham High School Theatre's last performance of "The Legend of Lizzy Borden" will take place on Sunday, November 7 at 2 PM.
- Interested in Youth Wrestling? Boys & Girls in 1st-6th grades are invited to learn more about the program at an informational meeting on Monday, November 8 at 6 PM in the Pelham High School Wrestling Room.

Visit the Upcoming Events page on the Pelham City Schools website for details about these events and other activities happening in our schools and community. [Click here to view.](#)

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools