

Pygmalion School Infectious Disease Policy
4/6/22

Pygmalion School at People Places takes proactive steps to protect our students and staff from the spread of infectious diseases. It is the goal of Pygmalion School at People Places to ensure that all essential services are continuously provided and that students and staff are safe while they are physically present on school property.

Pygmalion School at People Places promotes maintaining a clean school, including the regular cleaning and sanitizing of objects and areas that are frequently used, such as bathrooms, desks, chairs, door handles, and railings. We will also continue daily health screenings (temperature check) of students and staff. Sanitation supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and alcohol-based hand sanitizers are provided in each building as well as in school vehicles.

All staff, students, and their caregivers are expected to cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of infectious disease within the school. Prevention strategies include, but are not limited to, staying home when ill, regular sanitization of surfaces, frequent hand washing with warm, soapy water; covering your mouth whenever you sneeze or cough; and discarding used tissues in covered wastebaskets.

Unless specifically notified, our normal attendance (for students) and leave policies (for staff) will remain in place. Individuals who believe they may face particular challenges reporting to work during peak infectious disease seasons or cycles should take steps to develop any necessary contingency plans with their direct supervisor. For example, students and staff might want to arrange for alternative sources of child care should schools close and/or speak with the Director about the potential to work from home temporarily or on an alternative work schedule.

Telecommuting & Virtual Instruction

Telework requests for staff will be handled on a case-by-case basis. While not all positions will be eligible, requests for temporary telecommuting should be submitted to the staff member's direct supervisor for consideration. The supervisor will collaborate with the Director to determine the appropriateness of the request.

Virtual Instruction will be offered to all students who are expected to stay home as a result of this plan. Virtual instruction will be discussed on an individual basis to meet the needs of the child and their family/caregivers. Virtual instruction includes but is not limited to asynchronous paper based activities, asynchronous assignments completed in the SeeSaw app, asynchronous activities completed in Google Classroom, and/or synchronous live virtual instruction through Google Meet.

Staying Home When Ill

Many times, with the best of intentions, students and staff report to school even though they feel ill. Pygmalion School at People Places provides paid medical leave to all full-time staff for use when they are unable to work due to illness. Students who stay home while ill as a result of this plan, will be offered virtual instruction, and if participation in virtual instruction is not possible, the absences will be excused.

It is critical that students and staff do not report to school while they are ill and/or experiencing symptoms commonly associated with infectious diseases such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people with an infectious illness such as the flu remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C) without the use of fever-reducing medications. Students and staff who report to work ill will be sent home in accordance with these health guidelines. Caregivers are expected to notify the Director or their child's teacher, and staff are expected to notify the Director and the HR Department of their symptoms and refrain from all in-person activities for 5 days* from the date symptoms first appeared or until they receive negative results from a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test.

**For the purposes of calculating the return-to-school date, the date on which symptoms first appeared will be considered day 0, with day 1 beginning on the following day.*

Household members

To further prevent the spread of infection in the school, Pygmalion School at People Places expects staff and families/caregivers to take a considerate and commonsense approach when a household member exhibits symptoms commonly associated with infectious diseases such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Students and staff are expected to notify the Director and refrain from all in-person activities for 5 days, or until the household member receives a negative test result or differential diagnosis.

Known Exposures

Students and staff with known exposures to infectious diseases are expected to refrain from all in-person activities for 5 days*. Caregivers should notify the Director and staff should notify the Director and HR Department of the exposure as soon as reasonably possible.

**For the purposes of calculating the return-to-school date, the date on which the exposure occurred will be considered day 0, with day 1 beginning on the following day.*

Requests for Medical Information and/or Documentation

If you are out sick or show symptoms of being ill, it may become necessary to request information from you and/or your healthcare provider. In general, we would request medical information to confirm your need to be absent, to show whether and how an absence relates to the infection, and to know that it is appropriate for you to return to school. As always, we expect and appreciate your cooperation if and when medical information is sought.

Confidentiality of Medical Information

Our policy is to treat any medical information as a confidential medical record. In furtherance of this policy, any disclosure of medical information is in limited circumstances with, first aid and safety personnel, and government officials as required by law.

Social Distancing Guidelines

Desks will continue to be spaced 3 feet apart. In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, Pygmalion School at People Places will implement social distancing guidelines to minimize the spread of the disease among staff and students.

When social distancing guidelines are implemented, students and staff are requested to:

1. Remain seated 3-6 feet apart.
2. If gathering within 3 feet is necessary, wear a mask, minimize contact time, choose a larger classroom or outdoor space, and avoid person-to-person contact such as shaking hands.
3. Avoid any unnecessary travel and move any meetings to virtual if possible.