

Health and Safety Protocol



It is essential for PLEA to work together with our families, our community, and our partnering schools to limit the introduction and spread of any sickness, including COVID-19, in the school environment and in the community and homes while still providing a quality program in which our children can learn, grow, and thrive. Although this protocol, in no way, guarantees an environment without sickness, it is a description of our detailed efforts to provide a healthy and safe place for everyone.

In order to thoroughly commit to the safety and health of our staff and students, we've selected a team of Health and Safety Point Persons to help effectively and efficiently manage the many protocols put in place.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TEAM & RESPONSIBILITIES

Health and Safety Coordinator	Rob Anderson
Pre-opening Sanitizing	Rob Anderson
Post-opening Sanitizing	Chrissy Hunter
Cleaning and Sanitizing Supply Coordination	Tara Beato
Social Distancing and Classroom Organization	Aaron Libman
Food and Snack Preparation and Service	Gretchen Kelly
Screening Procedure and Monitoring	LaQuita Barry
Guideline Research Coordinator	Rob Anderson
Legal Advice Coordination	Gretchen Kelly
Facilities Manager	Bud Wicks

Communication

- ◆ The school Health and Safety plan is posted on our PLEA-Agency website. It is also available in hard copy by request.
- ◆ Regular Updates will be provided by the Safety Team.
- ◆ Guideline and Recommendation signs are posted throughout the building.

ON-GOING SANITIZING

- ◆ Point Person - Chrissy Hunter
- ◆ Point Person - Tara Beato:
Cleaning and Sanitizing supply acquisition, storing and distribution
- ◆ Point Person - Bud Wicks (Facilities Manager)

All areas of PLEA will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis using only CDC approved cleaning supplies (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>).

SYMPTOMS IMPACTING CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

- ◆ Point Person – LaQuita Berry

All personnel are trained to recognize the following:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills/repeated shaking
- Body Aches
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students and employees should be excluded from the school if they test positive for COVID-19, the Flu, STREP, or any virus where the above symptoms manifest themselves.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the following:

Untested or Tested Positive - Symptomatic

Persons experiencing symptoms may return if the following two conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved.

REQUIRE SICK CHILDREN AND STAFF TO STAY HOME.

- PLEA will communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.
- PLEA will also communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms.
- Sick children and staff will be kept separate from well children and staff until they can be sent home.
- Sick staff members should not return to work until they have met the [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

SCREEN CHILDREN UPON ARRIVAL (if possible)

Persons who have a fever of 100.4⁰ (38.0⁰C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility. Parents will be encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. All personnel and children will be screened upon arrival, if possible.

Parents and employees have been informed with regards to symptoms of COVID-19 and any other illness. Everyone has been encouraged to self-screen before coming to school or boarding transportation.

SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

◆ Point Person – Aaron Libman

- PLEA has committed to continually evaluate our classrooms, common areas and activities to make sure that we make every effort to keep our staff and children safe at all times. Understanding that the recommended guidelines for keeping everyone a certain distance apart may be extremely difficult, we consider our plan to be ever evolving, improving and accommodating to meet both our staff and student needs. Our current arrangement currently follows CDC guidelines for social distancing in schools when possible. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>).
- Whenever possible, all personnel and students will continue to keep their distance. However, everyone understands that, in our environment, it is not often possible, not practical, and many times contrary to our teaching and therapeutic techniques.
- If possible, classes will make every effort to include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should attempt to remain with the same group each day.
- PLEA will only hold special events and gatherings when guidelines set forth in this document can be followed.
- As much as possible, PLEA will limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
- A schedule will be created for each classroom to have gym/recreation time at separate times. Gym and equipment will be sanitized between classes.
- Staff will do their best to permit only one student to go to the restroom at a time.
- Any movement outside of the classroom will be done when hallways are clear. Staff will do their best to space children at least 3ft apart, understanding that this is a “when possible” scenario.
- PLEA will limit the number of people in a classroom to 13, including teachers.

MEDICAL INQUIRIES

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students that would otherwise be allowed. PLEA commits to being as non-invasive as possible. The following inquiries may or may not take place, and PLEA will do it's best to be consistent with all staff and students.

- If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, or an employee calls in sick, the school may ask what symptoms the student is exhibiting.
- As previously note, if a person is obviously ill, PLEA may make additional inquiries following screening guidelines and may exclude the person from school.

Employees: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) privacy rules **still apply** and restrict employers from sharing personal health information of an employee. However, PLEA, as approved by one of the Directors, may inform employees that possible exposure has occurred in the workplace without disclosing any identifying information about the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. PLEA asks for all staff and families to treat medical situations with respect and confidentiality, as always.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – NON-STUDENTS

As of March 19th, 2021, the CDC currently recommends social distancing as the best way to prevent the spread any virus. Social distancing means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. The CDC describes social distancing as staying at least 3 feet from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Because social distancing is not always possible, the CDC, as of April 24, 2020, also recommends cloth face coverings, stating that they may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. PLEA has provided face coverings for all staff members and asks that they please wear one (personal face covering or PLEA provided) throughout the building and in classrooms. PLEA also understands that face coverings are not healthy for some individuals with certain medical conditions. PLEA asks that all individuals, who are able, to wear a face covering, and those that cannot, exercise extreme caution with the other safety measures.

FOOD SERVICE/MEALS – LUNCH AND SNACKS

- ◆ Point person – Gretchen Kelly

The lunch and snack time, and food preparation is under evaluation at this time.