



December 18, 2020

PCS Families,

Before we begin the holiday break, we wanted to reach out with a few updates and reminders about COVID-19 and our return to school in January.

### **COVID-19 Reporting During Winter Break**

Students and staff members who have a positive COVID diagnosis or are required to quarantine due to close contact should complete the COVID-19 Reporting Form, which can be accessed through [this link](#) or on the [home page of the Pelham City Schools district website](#). This form should be used from December 19 - January 5 instead of contacting a school principal, teacher, or school nurse over the Winter Break.

### **COVID Data Dashboard**

The COVID Data Dashboard that is updated weekly on Fridays and posted on the Pelham City Schools district website will be updated this afternoon on December 18. It will not be updated on December 25 and January 1. Weekly updates will resume on January 8.

We will continue to monitor our data closely, and we remain committed to making health and safety procedures and guidelines our priority as we move into the second semester of the school year.

### **Alabama Department of Public Health Update on Quarantine Timeframes**

On December 11, the ADPH updated guidance on quarantine timeframes for close contacts without symptoms. If 14 days of quarantine is not practical, 10 days is acceptable in order to improve compliance if certain conditions are met. [Please review the new guidance and conditions.](#)

### **Protect Yourself & Others from the Spread of COVID-19**

Everyone plays a part in helping mitigate the spread of illness in our community. You can do your part by -

- Washing/sanitizing hands frequently
- Wearing a mask around others
- Avoiding large gatherings
- Staying home when you are not feeling well
- Adhering to isolation and quarantine guidelines, and

- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces

Additionally, Governor Ivey has continued the state mask/face covering ordinance in the State of Alabama until January 22, 2021. Please make sure your student has their mask with them when they return to school in January. Masks are required every day at school.

### **Return to School on January 6**

The second semester will begin on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. To view the 2020-2021 school year calendar, [click here](#).

- **Elementary school students** who selected traditional learning will attend school in person Monday through Friday each week. Students who selected remote learning will resume learning at home. The first day traditional students will attend school in January is Wednesday, January 6.
- **Middle school and high school students** who selected traditional or blended learning will attend school in person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. Traditional or blended students will not attend school on Wednesday, but they are expected to do coursework remotely. Students who selected remote learning will resume learning at home. Traditional or blended students WILL NOT attend school on Wednesday, January 6, but they are expected to check Google Classroom for course updates, and any remote learning assignments for that day. Traditional and blended students will attend school in person beginning Thursday, January 7.

As we bring our first semester to a close, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your patience and flexibility as we all learned and adapted to providing instruction and support for our students during a pandemic. Although we experienced many challenges, the resilience and determination demonstrated by our students, teachers, staff, and parents has been inspiring, and we look forward to our return to school in January.

I hope all of you have a healthy and restful holiday season.

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Scott Coefield  
Superintendent  
Pelham City Schools