



Peru Central School District

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Dr. Thomas Palmer
Superintendent of Schools
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September 29, 2020

Dear Peru School Community,

There is still a lot of confusion as there are mixed messages and items that are discussed are not accurate. We want to provide you with accurate and up-to-date information for the Peru Central School District. Our goal is to provide accurate information in a timely fashion to assist you in your preparation for your family. This is an extremely difficult time and we will do whatever we can to provide you with the information that is accurate and most up to date as we know at the time. Our plans will continue to change as we learn new information and will make sure our school community has that information. Three great sources will be:

- Peru Central School Website: <http://www.perucsd.org/>
- Peru Central School Facebook Page
- Peru Central School District Parent Square: <https://www.parentsquare.com/>

Health Screening

As we are starting the fourth week of the new school year, and we want to express our appreciation for your support and assistance in helping our school return to in-person learning. We know that these are unusual times and extra effort is required by everyone to ensure the safest possible learning environment.

Today, I want to clear up any confusion on the current NYS Department of Health interpretation of the guidance regarding when our students or staff exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.

We have changed our protocols to align with the CDC as we feel it complies with the guidance and the language is cleaner:

- Temperature 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- **New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- **New** onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

I understand there has been a lot of confusion and anger because of the requirements a family has to go through if their child has COVID symptoms and has been instructed they have to follow these protocols stated below.

Schools must follow New York State Department of Health and Local Health Department guidelines for returning to school or work. This returning to learning protocol must include at minimum documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.

IF A COVID TEST IS POSITIVE or healthcare provider diagnoses a student or employee with COVID-19, the student or employee may return to school when:

- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms have first appeared;
- AND at least three days have passed since fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- AND improvement in respiratory symptoms have occurred;
- AND with a Release from Isolation notice from the Clinton or Essex County Health Department.

IF A COVID TEST IS NEGATIVE, a student or employee may return to school if they have:

- Proof of negative COVID-19 test;
- AND documentation of an evaluation by a healthcare provider (healthcare provider note clearing the student or employee to return to school);
- AND once there is no fever for 24 hours (100 or above) without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours (symptom resolution)

Mascot Meeting

The initial meeting to begin the discussion of the new mascot will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the High School Gymnasium. You must pre-register with Sherri Provost if you plan on attending in person. sprovst@perucsd.org There will be only 45 people allowed at the meeting but you can sign in and be a part of the meeting virtually. Our goal is to work through the process of shared decision making and propose a mascot to the Board of Education at the end of the Process.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114829032?pwd=d2tVczhCRE9vN1kwM3pYVTZZOHgrdz09>

Peru Meal Program

All students enrolled at the Peru Central School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **No Charge** to your household each day of the 2020-2021 school year. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in this meal plan program without having to pay a fee or submit an application. **However, we need your consent for your child(ren) to receive these meals for consumption at home. There is a form on our website you can fill out granting permission to receive those meals.**

Your child's Principal's office can answer questions regarding if they are on the list to receive "To Go" or Remote Meals and how this process works. Remote Meal distribution happens on Wednesdays and the delivery schedule can be found on the Peru Cafeteria Webpage

Go Home Early Drill

New York State requires all school districts to hold an annual "Go Home Early" drill to ensure that students and staff know what to do in case an emergency requires school grounds to be cleared and students to be transported **home** or to another location.

The Peru Central School district will be conducting the **“Go Home Early” drill on Thursday, October 1 for all students and staff.** All students and staff have to leave the District’s grounds. Student-athletes will receive additional information from their coaches concerning practice that day.

- Middle and High School Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm and Staff will be able to leave the building at 2:25. Middle and High School student pick up will begin at 2:00pm
- Elementary Students will be dismissed at 3:00 pm and Staff will be able to leave the building at 3:15. PreK parent pick up will begin at 2:40 pm. Elementary student pick up will begin at 2:50 pm.

Thank you,

Thomas Palmer Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools