



# NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **District Prepares to Welcome Students January 3<sup>rd</sup> Continues to Monitor Impact of COVID-19 on School Communities**

PITTSBURGH PA January 2, 2022 – Today, Pittsburgh Public Schools reiterated its intention to welcome students back for in-person instruction tomorrow, Monday, January 3, 2022, in a [communication](#) shared with staff and families this afternoon. The District will continue its current mitigation strategies of universal masking indoors, physical distancing, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations when staff and students return this week.

“We continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19, its variants, and its impact on our school communities,” said Interim Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D. “The consistent and correct use of masks, social distancing and progress with COVID-19 vaccinations leave us prepared to welcome students and staff back for in-person instruction tomorrow.”

District officials continue to monitor the impact positive cases of COVID-19 are having on individual school communities. The District’s Building Closure Guidelines consider the number of positive cases in a facility within 14 days and/or the impact of staffing shortages. Fortunately, the District’s efforts to address technology challenges have positioned schools to easily transition staff and students to remote teaching and learning to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within a school community.

In addition to sharing its Building Closure Guidelines with staff and families, the District alerted families that announcements of building closures may come swiftly as more positive cases are reported, and staff call-offs roll in. To see the number of positive cases within a 14-day period that it would take to close each District facility, visit [www.pghschools.org/closureguidelines](http://www.pghschools.org/closureguidelines).

### **PPS/UPMC Vaccination Blitz January 8, 2022**

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant highlights the importance of vaccination and boosters to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations and death. On Saturday, January 8, PPS and UPMC will host a COVID-19 vaccination blitz at five locations across the city. First and second doses, as well as booster shots, will be available. Children between the ages of 5-11 can receive the Pfizer pediatric vaccine. Students 12 years of age and older may receive the Pfizer vaccine, and adult family members may receive the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Staff and families may learn more and register at [www.pghschools.org/backandvaxxed](http://www.pghschools.org/backandvaxxed). Transportation is available.

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