



# Para Los Niños Charter School and After School Staff Town Hall Frequently Asked Questions

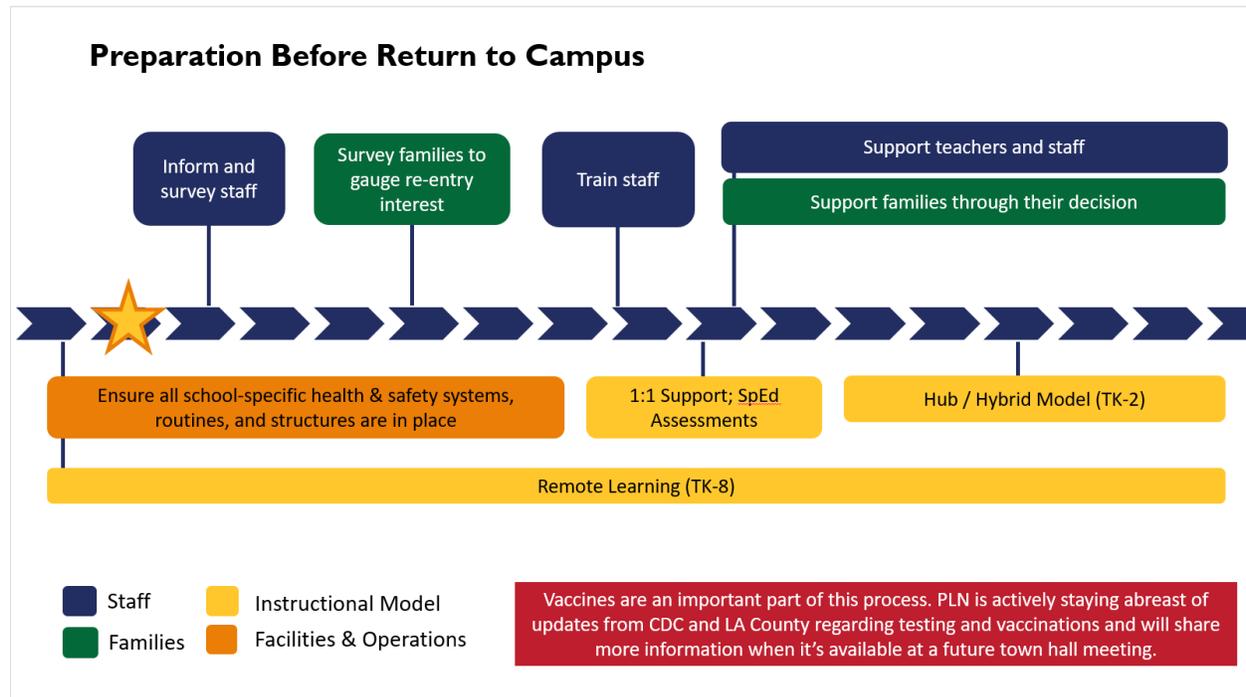
February 25, 2021

We have compiled questions and information related to planning for potential Para Los Niños Charter Schools and After School Re-Opening and Re-Entry. As we have said in the past, public health information is constantly evolving and changing and these answers represent what we know at this moment. Para Los Niños will update teachers and staff regularly with any changes.

## Re-opening/Re-entry Approach & Timeline

- When and how will PLN Charter Schools begin providing in-person support and instruction? As the graphic below shows, this is a process that starts with education and information-gathering for the PLN team, followed by providing information to the families of our students. After this, we will work to provide training opportunities for all staff, beginning with those preparing to work on campus for any period of time.

Our approach will be a gradual build-up of services and support, and if the situation allows, we would work to begin in-person instruction (starting with the youngest PLN students).



## I-on-I Assessments and Small Group Support

We are working with the HR department to prepare for members of our special education team to provide in-person evaluations, assessments, and/or services by appointment and in a safe manner for select students who have IEPs.

We anticipate this beginning in the next several weeks.



## Support Hubs

As described in previous meetings, the support HUB model is intended to provide additional in-person support and services for small cohorts of some of our most vulnerable students. These students would still participate in the remote model, but do so from our campuses for several hours each day. This will allow a consistent environment with reliable internet access, additional staff support and opportunity to offer additional services.

*We anticipate these will start (in a limited fashion) in the next several weeks.*

## In-person Direct Instruction

These would be self-contained small cohorts of students, learning directly from teachers on campus. (The remainder of the students would continue with the remote learning model). These groups would be assembled after assessing staff availability and student/family interest.

We will be following LA County Department of Public Health guidance and limits on cohort size (see below) and would begin with students in our youngest grades. Based on county guidance and our own experience, we will explore the opportunity to expand these to other grades, if possible.

*We anticipate that this will begin in April.*

## Questions re Re-Opening / Re-Entry

- Will we have a hybrid model?  
*Because we expect that there will be some families who choose to continue with remote instruction, even if campuses are open, we are planning to implement concurrent models – in-person and remote.*  
  
*We also know that our campuses are not big enough to accommodate all students, if they all chose to return to campus, while maintaining the necessary distance and safety protocols. Because of that uncertainty, we expect to explore a hybrid model (staggered campus access with remote instruction) once more is clear.*
- Will PLN be having summer school/programming?  
*We are in the process of designing summer programming – some of which might be able to happen in-person – and school leadership teams will continue to update staff about these plans.*
- What are the plans for the 2021/2022 School Year?  
*At this point, we are preparing to open next school year with many possible models in mind – fully in-person, fully remote, hybrid, etc. Teachers and staff will be key in this process as we build on what we have learned to date.*
- Will students have the opportunity to opt out of returning in person? How many families choosing this option will be honored?  
*Any family that chooses to continue with distance learning will be able to do so.*
- Will staff have the opportunity to opt out of returning to in-person instruction?  
*While PLN is confident that the safety protocols currently in place will minimize risk, we will work with staff that have circumstances (existing medical conditions, family care considerations, etc.) that might impact their return to the campus at this point.*



*There are no plans at this time to mandate return to campuses. We expect that there will be significant numbers of students choosing to remain in a fully remote model so anticipate the need for staff to deliver/support instruction in that format for the time being.*

- *What if I would rather wait until I am vaccinated before returning to on-campus work? We will be asking staff if they are ready to return to on-campus work. At this point, the on-campus, in-person work is very limited and our ramp-up of this will be gradual. Even if/when we get to a point where we are providing in-person instruction for multiple groups of students, a portion, perhaps significant, of our students will remain in a fully or mostly remote learning environment for the remainder of this school year. Because of this, we expect to need teachers and staff to support those remote environments rather than support on-campus.*

*Much is still to be determined, key among this is the extent to which PLN families are ready to opt-in to whatever in-person instruction or support we are able to offer. Once we understand this, we will be better able to address these questions.*

*At the same time, since we do not expect to be offering in-person instruction until some time in April, there will be opportunity for staff to be vaccinated before then, if sufficient vaccine doses are made available to educators.*

- *How specifically will class sizes be reduced for every class period/subject? Cohort will contain no more than 14 students and two supervising adults.*

### **COVID Testing & Vaccines**

- *How often will on-site staff be tested for COVID-19? Weekly or until a new CDPH directive is given*
- *Will all students be required to be tested before accessing a PLN site? As of today (2/25/21), neither the California or Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health is requiring student testing. However, should that change, we will abide by the guidance. We are also working with LAUSD to determine site requirements related to testing.*
- *Will vaccination be required for all staff? At this point, there is no mandate for vaccination.*
- *If I am interested in getting vaccinated, what do I need and how do I sign up? On Wednesday, February 24th, all employees received an employment verification letter via Paycom. This is one of three items that can be used to schedule an appointment. You can also use your PLN badge or a pay stub. To schedule an appointment, please visit <https://myturn.ca.gov/> for more information or visit the following links to schedule an appointment:*

*Rite Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>*

*Vons: <https://www.vons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>*

*Pavilions: <https://www.pavilions.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>*

*Ralphs: <https://www.ralphs.com/rx/guest/get-vaccinated>*

*CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>*



Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp>

- What if my vaccination appointment conflicts with my work schedule?  
*Connect with your supervisor to request time off to be vaccinated.*
- Will students need to be vaccinated when the vaccine for their age is approved?  
*We will make this determination based on public health guidance and regulations.*

### Safety Protocols

- Are people on campus going to be able to wash their hands more frequently than pre-pandemic?  
*Yes. Staff, students and any essential visitor must wash their hands as soon as possible when on site. Thereafter, hand washing is required before and after any activity or meal.*
- What will happen if teachers or students need to wash their hands at what would be deemed an inopportune time (during class)?  
*Classrooms have sinks that can be used throughout the day or if no sink is available, additional staff will be available to relieve staff if needed. If hand washing is necessary- there is no inopportune time in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, PLN campuses (and all offices/facilities) have ample supplies of hand sanitizer throughout them.*
- Will parents/family members be allowed to access PLN buildings?  
*Not like before. All visits will be made by appointment only if in-person meeting is deemed necessary. Parent and family members will be redirected to zoom with the teacher/administrator if they have any questions or concerns first. If a parent feels a classroom visit is necessary, all visiting guidelines will apply along with all COVID-19 policies/procedures currently in place.*
- Will students be mandated to wear a mask at all times?  
*Per CDPH and local DPH, yes. Students are only allowed to remove their masks during meals or naps. All children under the age of 2 are exempt from mask wearing due to the potential of suffocation. PLN is providing cloth/reusable masks to all students and staff and will have a ready supply of disposable masks as needed.*
- If someone only feels safe returning with a hazmat suit on what would be your reaction? How will we handle situations like that?  
*There will be situations where they will have to be handled personally by the administrator and the parents. If safety concerns arise from parents, hence the hazmat suit; recommendations for continued distance learning will be given.*
- Given that the California strain is spreading very rapidly, how will LADPH respond, specifically, through their recommendations for LA school reopenings?  
*LADPH and the State Department of Public Health are closely monitoring the data related to infection rates and strain spread to make recommendations for school openings in the County and the State. The established color-coded tier system dictates reopenings in general.*
- There are reports that coronavirus might be a seasonal virus that hits hardest in winter. If this is the case, how will guidelines reflect this? How will they support flexibility of operating schools in the winter?



*The current guidelines do not include operating plans for the winter, however the plan is grounded in the ability to be flexible, should the LADPH require us to return to fully remote learning. Given what we have learned over the last year, we are confident that we will be able to change course pretty quickly.*

- *If you are vaccinated will you still need to quarantine when you come back if you traveled? The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is still requiring a self-quarantine for 10 days for those coming in from other states and countries or if you traveled outside the country and now are returning to LA County.*

### **Site & Technology Support**

- *How will the additional number of devices impact the school's network?  
In early phases of returning to campus, with limited numbers of students on campus, the impact to the school networks will be minimal. As we have larger numbers of students returning to campus, we will work both with our internal and external network supports to ensure that additional devices added to the network do not negatively impact student learning.*
- *What modifications have been made to the facilities to address COVID-related safety concerns (ventilation, cleaning, barriers, etc.)?  
The PLN Facilities team has installed plexiglass, adjusted and augmented the cleaning regimen, added new signage and addressed air circulation on all PLN sites. This included ongoing HVAC preventative maintenance on all PLN units and the installation of higher-grade air filters. LAUSD has addressed air circulation and filters on all district-managed sites.*

### **On Campus Situations**

- *If a student is feeling ill for any reason whatsoever (even if they are just trying to get out of class), what will the procedure be to make sure they are not potentially spreading COVID?  
All students will be screened every morning before entering the school. If a student starts to show COVID related symptoms; all isolation procedures will be taken until it is determined that the student is well or 'faking it' by calling parents and asking further questions. If it is determined that the student needs to be seen by a doctor, parents will be asked to pick up the student immediately.*
- *What will be the procedure when someone is perceived to have COVID and people start accusing or treating them as if they have it or even bullying them?  
This would be handled as per usual within the guidelines that are provided in the Employee Handbook.*
- *How will recess and break times take place if students are supposed to remain cohorted?  
Per CDPH and local DPH a third supervising adult may relieve a teacher from their cohort during recess and break times. Cohort must remain together at all times. The third supervising adult may supervise up to two different cohorts in one day and must remain the supervising adult for the duration of the week or month if possible to minimize exposure among other cohorts.*
- *What will the procedure be for students that act irresponsibly, ignore or flaunt safety protocols and make others uncomfortable about potential infection/illness?  
Students will immediately be sent to administrators to address the situation with the student and parents.*