

# Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2021

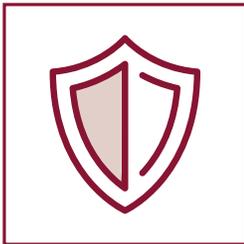
## COVID-19 Protocols

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

*A Publication of the National Center for Education Statistics at IES*

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to pose significant challenges for state agencies, districts, and schools, while also affecting us all personally. PIRLS representatives' top priority is to protect the health and safety of students and school staff.

Our COVID-19 mitigation protocol has been developed using CDC guidelines with the input of health professionals. These protocols are intended to be flexible to adapt to the changing landscape presented by COVID-19. PIRLS representatives will work with districts and schools to ensure that their COVID-19 protocols are also followed.



### Provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PIRLS will provide PIRLS representatives with PPE:



Disposable  
Masks



Face Shields



Disposable  
Gloves



Hand Sanitizer



Sanitizing Wipes  
& Spray

To the extent federal, state, or local agencies recommend the use of additional PPE, PIRLS will ensure that PIRLS representatives are provided with the same.



### Sanitizing and PPE Protocols

Multiple times during the assessment day, PIRLS representatives will follow protocols to:



sanitize testing  
equipment and  
equipment cases



replace gloves and  
masks between  
assessment sessions

All used PPE will be discarded in PIRLS-supplied trash bags and removed from the school by PIRLS representatives.



## PIRLS Representatives' COVID-19 Protocol Training

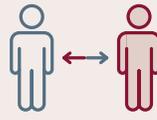
All PIRLS representatives will be trained on COVID-19 protocols, including the following:



Donning and removal of PPE



Proper disposal of used PPE



Social distancing requirements



Sanitizing equipment and equipment cases



Other school protocols



## Health Monitoring and Testing Protocols

Health monitoring and testing protocols will include the following:



PIRLS representatives will be tested for COVID-19 before assessments beginning in October 2021 and regularly throughout the assessment period assuming commercial availability nationwide.

PIRLS representatives will be expected to perform a COVID-19 Daily Checklist of their health and symptoms before reporting for work at a school. Any PIRLS representatives who do not successfully pass the daily health assessment will not report to school that day, and will be required to either:

- 1 Test negative for COVID-19 in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- 2 Be free of COVID-19 symptoms for a 14-day period before conducting any assessments in school.
- 3 Provide written documentation from their healthcare provider releasing their return to work.

Before entering school buildings, PIRLS representatives will take their temperature using a non-contact thermometer, and acknowledge that they are symptom-free.



## School Protocols

PIRLS representatives will follow any and all school-specific required COVID-19 protocols, which may include but not limited to the following:

- 1 Temperature checks and other symptom assessments by the school upon arrival at the school
- 2 Additional school-required PPE
- 3 Social distancing guidelines of staff and students
- 4 Additional sanitizing requirements

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543), and to collect students' education records from educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). All of the information you provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). In the United States, PIRLS is conducted by NCES, part of the U.S. Department of Education, and the data are being collected by Westat. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0645.