

Wayne County Schools

School Re-entry Plan in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Fall 2021

Why are Re-entry Plans necessary?

The return of students and staff to schools for a traditional school schedule will result in larger numbers of people gathering which poses a risk for Covid-19 transmission. Recent health data suggests that children generally experience mild symptoms with COVID-19 and do not contribute substantially to the spread of the virus. Vaccination clinics were held for Wayne County students and employees on multiple occasions during the 2021 school year. The COVID-19 vaccines are not yet available for students under age 12 and vaccination rates in the county are below state averages. It is vital that we pursue protocols and procedures that provide the safest environment possible while returning to as normal of operating procedures as possible.

Is the Re-entry Plan final?

It is impossible to predict the conditions resulting from COVID-19 as the 2022 school year progresses. Increased transmission in the community or at the school level may require establishing additional safety protocol.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The guidance in this document is subject to change. New directives from Governor Jim Justice and public health officials can impact the guidelines set forth in this document. The Wayne County Board of Education will be prepared to alter their learning plans to comply with any new directives and to best safeguard student health and learning needs.

School Schedules during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Students will report to school five days a week and follow the district's academic calendar.
- Bus schedules and student arrival times will be delayed by 15 minutes to allow students to report to individual classrooms upon arrival.
- Students in grades PK-5 are to remain in one room and teachers should travel to students. Student groups should remain consistent.
- Students in grades 6-8 will be scheduled in cohort groups that attend class together. To minimize hallway traffic, teachers should travel to students. Bell schedules should be varied to minimize hall traffic.
- PE classes/Band classes/ etc. should be held outside or in larger socially distanced areas when possible.
- Grades 9-12 are to group students in core content areas to minimize student contact. Block Scheduling or alternating day schedules can be utilized to minimize student contact.

OR

- Parents/guardians who prefer a virtual learning environment as opposed to in-person instruction can select the Wayne County Virtual School for at-home instruction. Students in grades 3 – 12 are eligible for virtual school.

Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

- Social Distance Floor/Seat Markings are to be placed in all waiting areas and meeting areas.
 - Social Distance Markings (3 ft.) will be utilized for cafeteria lines, water source lines, restrooms, hallways, etc.
 - Social Distance Markings for seats in the classroom (minimum of 3 ft.) will be established.
 - Monitor arrival and dismissal of students to discourage congregating and ensure students report directly to classrooms or designated areas.
 - Nonessential visitors will be limited. Essential services provided by traveling teachers and district support staff including the student teacher program will continue following protocol established by this document.
 - Sneeze guards will be placed in the lobbies of all schools.
 - Masks will be provided to all students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Mask Requirements :
 1. Masks are recommended for students and staff members that are not vaccinated.
 2. The District will implement mask requirements if COVID-19 spread is identified at a specific school site.
 3. The District will implement mask requirements if community COVID-19 transmission results in the county being identified as Orange or Red on the WVDHHR COVID-19 metrics map. The mask requirement will remain in effect until the county is Gold or better for three consecutive days. If mask requirements are necessary, all students/staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.
 4. Masks are required on school buses for drivers/students per CDC order.
1. Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Medical Documentation from a physician must be provided excusing the student from the mask requirement. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield.
 2. Disposable masks will be provided for all visitors and staff/students that do not have a cloth mask.
 - Desks will be arranged in classrooms at a 3 ft. distance where possible
 - Classroom enrollment numbers will be monitored to ensure that the number of students in attendance is appropriate for the classroom space available.
 - Assemblies, field trips, etc. should not occur unless 3 ft. social distancing guidelines can be implemented.
 - Shared item usage for pens/writing utensils is not to occur.
 - Students are not to report to school if they have one of the following symptoms: New onset cough or shortness of breath or two of the following: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

- Students are not to report to school if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to any person diagnosed with COVID-19. ("COVID-19 Should I Come To School?" Document Attached)

Cleaning & Hygiene

- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the school day or between uses as much as possible. Examples may include (but not limited to) desks and chairs, doorknobs, countertops, bathroom surfaces, copiers/scanners/fax machines, computer equipment, or tablets, physical education equipment, locker rooms (benches, showers, and toileting areas), shared break room appliances, hand rails and light switches.
- Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games etc.) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between uses.
- The custodial staff will be provided proper PPE (personal protective equipment) for all required cleaning.
- All cleaning products will be EPA approved.
- Each school will make hand sanitizer available at entrances for use by any person entering the building.
- Classrooms will be supplied with hand sanitizer for staff and students.
- Frequently touched surfaces and equipment within the classroom will be cleaned and/or disinfected by staff in the classroom. Students are not permitted to disinfect areas.
- In addition to regular daily restroom cleaning, all restrooms will be disinfected throughout the day by the custodial staff.
- Disinfectant sprayers are being provided to all schools and buses.

Monitoring for Symptoms

- Temperature checks will occur on a daily basis as students arrive at school. No-contact Thermometers will be provided to each classroom.
- Students and/or Parents will complete the symptom screen checklist during the students' first instructional day of the week. (Symptom Screen Checklist for Classrooms attached) ●Staff will complete temperature check and screening questions on a daily basis. (Symptom Screen Checklist attached)
- All school visitors who will leave the lobbies of the school are to be screened. (Symptom Screen Checklist attached)
Each school will have a designated person to serve as the COVID-19 contact to receive updates and guidance on handling suspected cases of COVID-19.

Covid-19 symptoms include:

- New onset cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater)
- Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Sore Throat

- Fatigue
- Congestion
- Loss of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea

If a child has any of the first two listed symptoms or two or more of the remaining symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and the family member should call the child's health care provider.

If a student has had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or if a health department or health care provider has been in contact with the student and advised them to quarantine, the child must stay home.

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until the following criteria are met:

1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
2. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
3. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

If a child has had a negative COVID-19 test or a physician's statement allowing the student to return to school, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.

- Schools will designate a specific space in the building for symptomatic individuals. Students who utilize the space must be monitored at all times by an employee. Masks for students and monitoring staff member are required. The room must be disinfected when the symptomatic student leaves the school.
- Schools will maintain a list of student's school and the student's projected date of return.
- The District will consult with the Health Department if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. The decision to close a classroom or school will be determined in consultation with the Health Department.

Health & Wellness

- All students and staff will undergo training in safety protocols and procedures in the opening week of school to ensure understanding of the safety measures in place. Training will include the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and when students should remain at home. Training will include handwashing, safe bus loading/unloading procedures, proper utilization of masks, utilization of common areas, traffic flow within building, etc.

- Staff lounges or congregation of staff during meal times, etc. are to be avoided. Staff should maintain 3 ft. social distancing when meeting or should meet virtually.
- Handwashing stations will be installed at all entrances. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms.
- Schools should schedule times of day to hand wash or utilize hand sanitizer in the classroom.
- Assign lockers by cohort groups if lockers are necessary.
- Eliminate locker usage altogether or at a minimum eliminate shared locker use.
- Windows in facility should be opened whenever feasible.
- Utilize outdoor space for classroom activities when possible.
- Seating charts for classrooms and buses are required.
- The District will maintain a reporting mechanism on the District's website for students, parents, or staff members to report non-compliance with safety procedures or protocol.
- Pre-K should focus on hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, and spending time outdoors.
- Playgrounds — allow access to students in same cohort and limit the size of groups.
- Leave classroom doors open to prevent use of door handles.
- Nurse's stations in facilities will be provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
- Cups will be provided at all water fountains.

Virtual Options

- Wayne County schools will offer a virtual schedule for students in grades 3 – 12.
- Parents may register students via the district's website beginning August 1st.
- All students in this program will receive instruction from Wayne County Teachers.
- Instruction will be delivered via the Schoology platform with video conferencing provided by Microsoft teams.
- Virtual school students must have access to broadband services daily and will be required to attend live instructional sessions on a daily basis.
- Students will have the option to withdraw from virtual school and attend the student's assigned home school at the end of the semester.

Transportation

- Parents are encouraged to utilize alternate means of transportation if available.
- Drivers will obtain parent confirmation indicating that students will not be sent to the bus stop if showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or having been exposed to COVID-19.
- Seating charts/plan & Mask Requirements
 1. Each driver will create a seating chart that will be utilized for the school year.
 2. One student will be seated in every other row when possible. Two students will be placed in a seat when all available seats are filled. Three students in a seat can only occur if the students are from the same family or if the students share the same bus stop.
 3. All students are required to wear masks while on the school bus as required by the CDC.
 4. All drivers will wear masks while loading and unloading students at a minimum. Aides/assistants are required to wear masks and/or face shields while riding the bus.

5. Drivers will provide schools with seating charts to allow end of the day line ups to coordinate with seating plan.

Sanitary/Safety Supplies

1. Hand sanitizer will be available for students entering the bus
2. Disinfecting wipes or disinfecting spray/foggers will be provided to drivers. The bus is to be disinfected after each use.
3. Sanitary gloves will be provided to the driver.

- Safe loading and unloading procedures

- a. Students will be required to load from the back to the front to maintain social distancing as recommended by the United States Education Department (Exception: students in Prek-1st grade would be seated towards the front of the bus unless accompanied by an older sibling)
- b. Students remain seated until dismissed by seat from front to back to ensure social distancing

- Disinfecting

1. Drivers will disinfect buses before each run
2. Doors/windows remain open between trips (weather permitting)

- Students with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 cannot be transported on a school bus with other students.

Food Service

- Cafeteria tables and seats will be wiped down between each meal service.
- Social distancing markings will be placed at 3 ft. intervals in serving lines and disposal lines.
- Single-use items will be discarded.
- Self-service food stations will be eliminated.
- Milk will be handed to students from the coolers by an adult/volunteer.
- Condiments will be passed out to students or placed on trays.
- Family style meal services will be eliminated.
- Share tables/salad bars will be eliminated until further notice
- Disposable cups will not be reused. Students will get a clean cup with every fill up.
- Handwashing stations will be available in every cafeteria.
- Additional lunch periods or meals in the classroom will be considered to limit size of groups.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating.
- Outdoor space will be utilized when feasible.
- Finger scanners will not be utilized until further notice.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Students with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, blood disorders, seizure disorders, and cystic fibrosis are more vulnerable than most students and are considered to be in the high-risk population. According to Harvard Medical School (2020) it is not entirely clear why these students are more vulnerable, but reasons include:

- A weakened immune system which may not be able to fight the virus as well
- An exaggerated response from the immune system causing inflammation and tissue damage which may in turn cause additional complications.
- Present organ damage related to the chronic illness may be exacerbated by COVID-19 and may possibly put additional stress on the organ.
- Medications taken to treat chronic illness may increase the severity of the infection or may cause the student to be immunocompromised such as biologics and chemotherapy.
- The school health office will need to provide a separate and clean space for the treatment and care of students with chronic health conditions to prevent coming in contact with possible covid19 patients.

Asthma: Covid-19 can affect the respiratory tract, cause an asthma attack, which can lead to pneumonia and serious illness.

- Follow the Asthma Action Plan from the physician
- Avoid asthma triggers
- Know how to use inhaler and continue current medication prescribed from physician

Students with asthma require an area with a sink for handwashing, an area that allows confidentiality and privacy, bottles of water, no touch trash can, approved cleaning wipes. This area will be used for assessment of lung sounds, assessment of pulse oximeter, administration of an inhaler, and ability to treat and recover from an asthma crisis.

****Use of nebulizers in the school setting will not be allowed at this time.**

Social/Emotional Wellness

- Reentry plans
 - Wayne County Schools will promote social/emotional wellness by creating emotionally and physically safe, supportive, and engaging learning environments for our students. This will be achieved through classroom guidance lessons, small groups, individual counseling sessions, along with other additional supports to connect with our students to care for their social/emotional wellness and academic achievement. Rebuilding relationships and reconnecting with our students will be our number one priority.
 - Throughout the school year, Student Support Teams at each school will meet to discuss students' progress, move students within the tier system, and decrease/increase supports as needed.
 - Family involvement is an important piece in this process and they are encouraged to seek assistance from the school their student(s) attend. (**Please see referral process below)
- Supports available to staff and students

- Wayne County Schools has a diverse group of experienced individuals to help support students and staff with their social/emotional wellness. The county offers access to school counselors, mental health counselors, social workers and school psychologists to provide on-site supports.
- The rebuilding of relationships with our students and staff will be an important initial step in reclaiming the sense of normalcy within our schools.
- Prepare Training - Prepare training is ideal for schools committed to improving and strengthening their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response. The focus for this training is crisis prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. (This will be a training for the Student Support Personnel with information distributed back to individual schools.)
- Journey of Hope – This curriculum is to guide our Student Support Personnel in helping our students cope with and normalize their emotions. Many students continue to experience the many diverse emotions surrounding the events of COVID-19. “Journey of Hope” will provide students with positive coping strategies to deal with those emotions.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid - Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents (ages 12-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care. (All staff members will have the opportunity to participate in this training).
- Self-Care -Administrators, Teachers and Staff will be given the opportunity to reflect and process their own emotions and experiences in a safe and supportive environment. It is **essential** to take care of yourself by processing through your own social/emotional wellness before providing support for your students.
- How will this shape my interaction/relationship with my students?
- How will my classroom look during the 2022 school year?
- Have I dealt with my own social/emotional wellness prior to taking on the responsibility of leading my students? (Compassion Fatigue)

Professional Quality of Life Scale - COMPASSION SATISFACTION AND COMPASSION FATIGUE (PROQOL) VERSION 5 (2009)

https://www.proqol.org/uploads/ProQOL_5_English_Self-Score_3-2012.pdf - When you support people you have direct contact with their lives. As you may have found, your compassion for those you help can affect you in positive and negative ways. This assessment is a quick way to measure compassion satisfaction vs burnout.

Identify Referral/Self Referral Process

Social, emotional and behavioral health problems create significant barriers within the educational setting and there is clear evidence linking mental health with academic success. In an effort to streamline the process to help identify at-risk students, a referral system was implemented during the 2019-2020 school year. The continuation of this system is vital to the success of identifying students and providing the needed interventions and/or counseling services for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. Please follow the steps below when referring a student for counseling services.

Student (Self) Referral Process

The students are the number one priority in each Wayne County School. Each school has unique ways for students to seek assistance in dealing with their emotions/feelings. Students should seek help from their classroom teachers and/or the school counselor(s). It is the philosophy of Student Support Personnel to always have an “open door” policy for students in need. Every effort will be made to support students in need.

Stakeholder Referral Process

- 1) Documentation is important when referring a student who may be in need of social/emotional support. Please complete the **Counseling Referral Form** and return to the School Counselor (contact person) at each school.
 - a. Any stakeholder (Administrator, Teacher, Staff, Family Member, etc.) can complete the form. (**Confidentiality must be followed to the highest standard when making referrals.)
 - b. All initial referrals will be filed for tracking and data collection purposes.
- 2) Contact Person (School Counselor)
 - a. The School Counselor at each school will receive the initial referral form. This establishes a chain of custody for the referral form.
 - b. The School Counselor will act as the “triage” person to assess each referral. S/he will evaluate and will then involve the appropriate student support staff (mental health counselor, social worker, school psychologist, etc.) if needed.
 - c. If the situations falls within the parameters of the School Counselor, no further action is needed.
- 3) Student Support Personnel
 - a. After the initial referral, the student can continue to see the person without going through the referral process again. (Ex. If the connection is made with the Mental Health Counselor, another referral through the school counselor is not necessary.)

**It is important to follow these guidelines to prevent overlapping referrals and to maximize the time of the Student Support Personnel.

- **Educate students on handling anxieties associated with Covid-19 (See supports available)**
Student Support Personnel will focus on supporting students and providing strategies to cope with the stresses and anxiety with all aspects associated with Covid-19.
- **Plan to contact students who do not return at the opening of year**
 - Wayne County Schools has a team of eight school based social workers who will make meaningful contact with any student that does not return to school.
 - The first line of communication will be by phone
 - If student(s) and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) do not respond by phone a home visit will be made
 - Social workers will then offer services of support based on each individual case for re-entry to school