



WESTPORT
Community Schools

August 2021 Re-entry Plan

Presented by Superintendent Thomas F. Aubin

www.westportschools.org

State Guidance on the Reopening of School

All students will be attending fully in person.

First day of school dates:

- Grades 1-12 on Tuesday, September 7, 2021
- Pre-K and Kindergarten on Tuesday, September 14, 2021
- Pre-School on Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Purpose and Key Principles

In the initial stages of the “back-to-school” planning process, we identified guiding principles that would drive our decision-making and the key features we hope to incorporate in the Westport Community School Re-entry Plan.

At the top of the list of priorities that inform our planning and thinking is health, safety, and the social emotional well being of our school community.

This priority has shaped, and will continue to shape, every aspect of our planning process.

COVID-19 Numbers

SY 2020/21

Total number of COVID cases - 116 (staff: 23 , students: 93)

Total cases broken down by school:

- Macomber - 32
- WES - 44
- WJSHS - 36
- District - 4

***Two known cases of in-school transmission.**

Physical Distancing Measures

- Social Distancing guidelines based on last year's practices will continue to be followed throughout all learning and common areas in all three schools.

Face Masks Protocol

Isolation areas and protocols are established district-wide.

Current DESE guidelines state masks will not be required outdoors for the upcoming school year.

- Following the approval of his mask mandate, all K-12 students, educators and staff will be required to wear a mask while in schools through October 1st to ensure schools fully reopen safely and to provide ample time for more students and educators to get vaccinated.
- After October 1st (subject to DESE and Westport BOH approval), the policy will allow middle and high schools to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated students and staff only if the school meets a certain vaccination rate – at least 80 percent of students and staff in a school building are vaccinated. Unvaccinated students and staff would still be required to wear masks. As the district nears this date further information will be shared.
- Masks ***will be required*** while on school busses.
- The committee will continue to ***review weekly*** health metrics for the community and work closely with the Westport Board of Health to determine if adjustments to our mask policy is required.
- Masks ***will not be required*** outdoors
- Masks ***will not be required*** during snack time and lunch

*Information is current as of 8/24/2021

Daily Symptom Checks

Students and staff should not come to school if experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100° or more)
- Cough (productive)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Testing

- State Testing Model - 3 Programs

1. Symptomatic Testing- will be conducted on individuals who develop symptoms at school. If having *mild symptoms*, and *test negative*, can stay in school. If having more *severe symptoms*, and *test negative*, individual will be sent home for evaluation. (See Protocol C of August 13, 2021 Memorandum).
2. Test and Stay- option for *asymptomatic, unvaccinated* close contacts. Will be tested for at least 5 days. If tests negative and remains asymptomatic, individual is able to stay in school.
3. Routine Safety Checks- swabs will be collected into groups and tested with a PCR test. Follow up on positive groups will be done in school with rapid BinaxNOW tests or tested through a lab individually.

Contact Tracing

- Regardless of Vaccination Status
- Non-vaccinated individuals can “Test and Stay” with BinaxNOW if asymptomatic.
- Vaccinated, asymptomatic *close contacts* are exempt from testing and quarantine.
- Will be done in conjunction with CTC (Contact Tracing Collaborative)
- BOH final authority

Cleaning, Disinfectant and Ventilation

- Thorough cleaning and disinfection of classrooms/small group instruction/offices on a daily basis.
- WCS will continue to supply masks, cleaning supplies, hand soap, and hand sanitizer for classrooms and common areas.
- Each classroom will be supplied with cleaning and sanitation supplies for classroom cleaning purposes.
- Proper cleaning procedures and CDC guidance on approved products and methods will be used.
- High touch desks, counters, door handles, elevators, etc. surfaces such as doorframes/edges, light switches, thermostats, gym equipment, window handles, etc. will be sanitized daily.
- Frequent disinfecting of bathrooms and regular bathroom checks for supplies will be conducted daily by custodians.
- Air Purifier Cleaning: All air purifiers will be cleaned two times per month.

Sanitization Techniques

The Westport Community Schools has purchased *Protexus Electrostatic Sprayers*. Earthsafe Protexus Sprayers disinfect and wrap around surfaces to reach nooks and crannies on all surfaces. We have purchased two varieties, a hand-held version for smaller applications and a larger, backpack model for larger applications. The product is safe to use per OSHA and EPA standards. A MSDS is attached to the chemical container as well as printed out and stored in the custodian room and nurse's office in each school, as well as, the office of the Supervisor of Facilities.

In addition to the electrostatic sprayers, the District also purchases a germicidal detergent which is a cleaner/disinfectant that can be used in classrooms for staff to clean desks/tables on a more frequent basis. This product is also used to clean restrooms and water coolers.

SEL, Guidance, Counseling

- Professional development for staff on social-emotional health for adults and students
- Social-emotional lessons for all elementary classes by school guidance counselor(s)
- Strategies for coping with anxiety, depression, conflict resolution
- Counseling/staff check-ins

Special Education Services

Special education evaluations will be conducted in-person, whereas IEP meetings will initially continue to be conducted virtually, with the consent of parents or guardians.

The district's goal is to return to in-person meetings when possible, with the option of a virtual meeting, if the parent/guardian is in agreement.

English Learner Education (ELE) supports for students with and without disabilities will continue to be provided in-person through our Sheltered English Immersion model.

Disclaimer

We reserve the right to make changes to any aspect of this WCS Reentry Plan, as we consider community feedback, additional guidance from the State, and continue to monitor COVID-19 and Delta Variant trends.

