



**WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Washington Township School District
COVID-19 Plans
2021 – 2022**

The following document provides district COVID-19 safety protocols that will be implemented for the 2021 – 2022 school year. The protocols identified in this document are subject to change based on guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, Executive Order of the Governor, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and/or the Warren County Department of Health. Changes to district safety protocols are designed to provide a safe environment for students and staff members while maintaining the efficient operation of schools. The New Jersey Department of Education & New Jersey Department of Health, “The Road Forward – Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021 – 2022 School Year” was utilized as a resource for the development of the district plan.

Critical Areas of Operation:

1. General Health and Safety Guidelines

- All students will attend school full day, in-school. Students will not have the option for remote only instruction.
- Please be alert to signs of illness in your children and keep sick students home.
- The wearing of face masks during the school day is required at this time when in the school buildings (*exception: medically documented health condition that prevents such a covering).
 - Students will not be required to wear masks while outside.
 - Students will be provided mask breaks during the school day.
 - Students will not wear masks while eating.
- All staff, students and visitors entering school buildings will be required to complete a health screening before entering.
 - Students and staff members will complete the health screening questionnaire on-line before the school day. (OnCourse Connect)
 - Visitors to the building must complete a paper health screening document before entering the building.
- Signage will be posted in buildings to remind staff, students and visitors of physical distancing and personal hygiene procedures.
- Although COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and accessible, not all school-aged children are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Schools will have a mixed population of fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals at any given time.
 - For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines visit:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>
 - COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students or staff members to attend school. Students are required to meet all other vaccination requirements as designated by the New Jersey Department of Health in order to attend school.
 - Student and/or staff members’ COVID-19 vaccination status will not be shared with the public.

2. Classroom and Other Instructional Places

- Homeroom student numbers are being monitored to limit class sizes, as much as practicable. In general, classes range in size from 16 – 20 students per homeroom.
- At this time, mask wearing is required in the building. Please note that changes to this procedure may occur at any time. Compliance with district health guidelines is required at all times.
- Plastic desk shields will be provided for student desks, cafeteria tables and instructional spaces to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- The district has reorganized classrooms and instructional spaces to provide physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Student desks will be separated as far apart as possible in classrooms.

- All classrooms / instructional spaces will have hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray and cleaning wipes available. Additionally, classrooms will have disposable masks, and gloves available for student/staff use.
- Shared spaces / supplies will be disinfected before use by other students

3. Transportation

- The district will work cooperatively with bus contractors to adhere to state and federal guidelines for student transportation.
- Masks must be worn by all passengers on buses, regardless of vaccination status per CDC's Federal Order (*exception: medically documented health condition that prevents such a covering). School buses are considered public transportation and therefore passengers must follow federal requirements for masking.
- As occupancy allows, students will be socially distanced on buses. When possible, students will be grouped together as families.
- Windows on the bus will be open as much as practicable.
- Buses will be sanitized between Warren Hills and Washington Township routes.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized at the conclusion of each day.

4. Student Flow, Entry, Exit and Common Areas

- Please be alert to signs of illness in your children and keep sick students home.
- Physical distancing will be maintained as much as practicable when in hallways. Physical distancing markings will be posted on walls and floors.
- Families must complete a health screening questionnaire for students each day. The online (OnCourse Connect) health screening must be completed prior to the student entering the school each day.
- At this time, temperature screenings will not be completed prior to students, staff and / or visitors enter the building. Please note, temperature screenings may be re-instituted as recommended and/or necessary as determined by the district.
- Hand sanitizer and face masks will be made available for all staff, students and /or visitors as they enter the building.
- Dismissal procedures and times will be posted for each school building.

5. Screening, PPE and Response to Students / Staff Presenting COVID-19 Symptoms

- All individuals entering the building will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire. The online form will be made available through OnCourse Connect. Families will complete the health screening questionnaire before sending students to school. Staff members will complete the health screening questionnaire prior to entering the building.
- When in the school buildings and buses, the wearing of face masks is required at this time (*exception: medically documented health condition that prevents such a covering).
- At this time, temperature screenings will not be completed prior to students, staff and / or visitors enter the building. Please note, temperature screenings may be re-instituted as recommended and/or necessary as determined by the district.
- All staff, students and visitors to the buildings will have access to hand sanitizer and face masks.
- Students presenting COVID-19 symptoms will report to the health office. Health offices are equipped with OdorOx air processing systems. Health office personnel are provided with appropriate PPE (N95 masks, gowns, gloves, face shields).
- Students presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will be required to wear a mask while being evaluated by the school nurse.

- Exclusion from school criteria:



Section 1: Symptoms

Any of the symptoms below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

Column A

Column B

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever (measured or subjective)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigors (shivers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulty Breathing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Myalgia (muscle aches)	<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of smell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache	<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of taste
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea or Vomiting		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion or runny nose		

Students who are sick (e.g. fever, vomiting, diarrhea) should **not** attend school in-person. If **TWO OR MORE of the fields in Column A are checked off** OR **AT LEAST ONE field in column B is checked off**, please keep your child will be sent home and provided additional instructions.

Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Please verify if in the last 14 days:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Your child has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period) with a person with COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Someone in your household is diagnosed with or being tested for COVID-19

If **ANY of the fields in Section 2 are checked off**, your child may be excluded from school.

Exclusion criteria for persons with COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms and persons identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19¹

	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
COVID-19 positive (viral test), symptomatic or asymptomatic	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Identify and exclude school-based contacts for 10 days (in absence of testing) from last exposure and report to local health department.	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Identify and exclude school-based contacts for 10 days (in absence of testing) from last exposure and report to local health department.	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Identify and exclude school-based contacts for 14 days from last exposure and report to local health department.	Recommend fully remote learning
COVID-19 - compatible symptoms but not tested for COVID-19	If no potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, individual can follow NJDOH School Exclusion List If person has potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria	
COVID-19 - compatible symptoms and negative COVID-19 test (viral test) ²	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	
Close contact of staff or student with COVID-19 ³	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded for 10 days (in absence of testing) from date of last contact	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded for 10 days (in absence of testing) from date of last contact	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded for 14 days from date of last contact	

Not Fully Vaccinated

- In all risk levels, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and who are household members of a student/staff member with COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meet [COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria](#) should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the household member will need to quarantine, unless that household member meets all of the criteria for vaccinated individuals.
- Symptomatic individuals with high likelihood of COVID-19 (for example, who are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case) who test negative by rapid antigen test should undergo confirmatory testing with a molecular test (for example RT-PCR).

Fully Vaccinated

- Fully vaccinated persons who have close contact with someone with COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:
 - Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a 1-dose vaccine **AND**)
 - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

6. Facilities & Cleaning Practices

- Electrostatic cleaning machines will be used to disinfect the building. Sanitizing will take place throughout the school day. Touch points will be routinely sanitized using the electrostatic sanitizing machine.
- Restrooms will be sanitized in the morning and mid-day, at minimum. Additional cleaning will be completed as required. All restrooms will be deep cleaned and sanitized each evening.
- Students will wash/use hand sanitizer at the end of recess, prior to lunch, end of lunch and after gym class.
- Water fountains will continue to be shut down. Water bottle filling stations will be available during the school day.

7. Meals

- Students will have access to free breakfast & lunch each day during the 2021-22 school year.
- Breakfast will be offered to students each day. Students will be directed to pick up a “grab and go” breakfast option and will eat breakfast in their classroom.
- Students will have lunch in the cafeteria. Monthly lunch menus are available online at <https://washtwpsd.org/lunch-menu/>
- Lunch periods have been spaced out, to the extent possible, to allow for additional cleaning time between lunch groups.
- Students will be spaced out, to the extent possible, with fewer students at each table. Students will be seated with students from their homeroom.
- Plastic dividers will be used to assist with mitigation.
- On an early dismissal day, students will have lunches delivered to their homeroom to take home with them.
- While student breakfasts and lunches are provided free of charge for the 2021-22 school year, students would need to purchase snacks, if they would like them. To reduce the handling of money, snacks can be paid for at: <https://www.payschoolscentral.com>

8. Physical Education

- Physical education classes will take place outside, as much as practicable. Students should dress appropriately for physical education class. (Students will be outside on most days for gym and / or recess!)
- When the weather does not allow for outside activities, teachers will design lessons around available spaces inside. (Please note, students will have limited access to the gymnasiums as longer set up and cleaning times are needed for lunch periods.)

9. Childcare, Extra-Curricular Activities, Field Trips and Use of Facilities by Outside Organizations

- Before Care & After Care programs are available for students in kindergarten – 6th grade for the 2021-22 school year.
 - To sign up your student for Before Care and/or After Care programs visit:
<https://www.washtwpsd.org/before-after-school-care/>
 - Before & After Care programs will begin on the first day of school – SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.
- The district is planning to host extra-curricular activities for students during the 2021-22 school year. Notices regarding extra-curricular activities will be provided as programs become available. In order to get the school year started in an orderly manner, extra-curricular activities will not begin prior to October 1, 2021.
- Student Field Trips are currently being reviewed for the 2021-22 school year. Provided COVID-19 restrictions allow for student field trips, they will be scheduled for the Spring.
- At this time, Washington Township School District buildings will allow very limited use by outside organizations. The district does not have the capacity to manage outside organizations and maintain appropriate cleaning protocols. Outside organizations may utilize Washington Township School Districts fields, provided they complete appropriate use of facilities documentation.

10. Frequently Asked Questions

- **When does school start?**
 - The first day of school is September 1, 2021
 - [2021 – 2022 District School Calendar](#)
- **What time does school start & end?**
 - Bus stops, bus pick-up and drop-off times will be provided in the school mailing.
 - Brass Castle:
 1. Student Arrival: 8:30am – 8:45am. Students are counted as tardy after 8:50am.
 2. Student Dismissal begins at: 3:10pm.
 - Port Colden:
 1. Student Arrival: 8:45am – 9:00am. Students are counted as tardy after 9:05am.
 2. Student Dismissal begins at: 3:25pm
- **Does my student have to wear a mask while at school?**
 - As of this date, the wearing of masks is required. Masking requirements are subject to change at any time. Masking requirements may change based on guidance from New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, Executive Order of the Governor, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and/or the Warren County Department of Health. Changes to district safety protocols are designed to provide a safe environment for students and staff members while maintaining the efficient operation of the schools.
- **Does my student have to be vaccinated to attend school?**
 - Students do not need the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school.
 - All students are required to meet all other vaccination requirements as designated by the New Jersey Department of Health in order to attend school.
 - Student vaccination status cannot be shared with the public.
- **Are school staff members required to be vaccinated?**
 - Staff members are encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19, but not required.
 - Staff vaccination status cannot be shared with the public.
- **If my student tests positive for COVID-19, how long will they be excluded from school?**
 - Student will be excluded from school for 10 days (Yellow) or 14 days (Orange or Red). The school nurse will provide the student with a return to school date.

- ***If my student has COVID-19 symptoms (see COVID-19 symptoms exclusion chart), how long will they be excluded from school?***
 - Student will be excluded from school for 10 days (Yellow) or 14 days (Orange or Red) if they do not receive a negative COVID-19 test. The school nurse will provide the student with a return to school date.
 - The student will be excluded for 24 hours if the student provides proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test result. Student should be free of any COVID-19 symptoms for 24 hours.
- ***If my student is identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, how long will they be excluded from school?***
 - Close contacts of a COVID- 19 case should be excluded for 10 days (in absence of testing) from date of last contact. If the student receives a negative COVID-19 test, they may return to school after 7 days (COVID-19 test must be completed 5-7 days after possible exposure).
 - If a student is fully vaccinated, the student does not need to quarantine and may attend school. Proof of vaccine must be provided to the school nurse.
 - If a student has previously had COVID-19, they do not need to quarantine. The confirmed COVID-19 status must be within 90 days of the close contact exposure and documentation will be required.
- ***If a student and / or a staff member in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19 will the entire class be quarantined?***
 - No. If a student and/or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 only identified close contacts of the student and/or staff member will be quarantined.
 - Close contact - Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 - Close contacts will be identified by the school nurse & administration.
 - Close contacts of a COVID- 19 case should be excluded for 10 days (in absence of testing) from date of last contact. If the student receives a negative COVID-19 test, they may return to school after 7 days (COVID-19 test must be completed 5-7 days after possible exposure).
 - If a student is fully vaccinated, the student does not need to quarantine and may attend school. Proof of vaccine must be provided to the school nurse.
 - If a student has previously had COVID-19, they do not need to quarantine. The confirmed COVID-19 case must be within 90 days of the close contact exposure.
- ***How will my child receive instruction while quarantined / excluded from school?***
 - Students that are excluded from school due to COVID-19 will be able to live-stream into their classroom to follow instruction from the teacher (special area classes may not have access). Teachers will provide class assignments through Microsoft Teams.
- ***Will the school have remote school days during snow or other weather related closings?***
 - At this time, the district is not allowed to utilize remote learning days for snow / weather closings. Remote learning days for the entire district would only be allowed if there is a State of Emergency lasting at least three days.
- ***Will the school offer Before / After Care?***
 - Yes. Please visit <https://www.washtwpsd.org/before-after-school-care/> for more information.