

## Vaccinations

### **Are students and staff required to have a COVID-19 vaccination?**

Students are not required to be vaccinated. Staff, per Executive Order 253 will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021, or present weekly Covid Test results to the district.

### **Are staff and students required to share their vaccination status?**

Students are not required to share vaccination status unless contact tracing is necessary. Staff will need to provide vaccination status by October 18, 2021, or present weekly Covid Test to the District.

## Communication with the Local Health Department

### **What procedures are in place for notifying the Gloucester County Department of Health of COVID-19 illnesses?**

- Ill individuals that test **negative** will be referred to their healthcare provider, who may consider additional COVID-19 testing.
- The School Nurse/Administration/ or designee will notify the GCDOH when students or staff are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure, they see an increase in the number of persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, and/or when an individual notifies the School Nurse of a positive test for COVID-19.
- The School Nurse or administrator will provide the following information when consulting with the GCDOH:
  - Contact information for the ill persons;
  - The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building;
  - Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;
  - Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school;
  - Vaccination status, if known;
  - Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

## Masks

### **Does my child have to wear a mask to school?**

Yes, **all individuals** are required to wear a mask while inside any of the Washington Township School District facilities, regardless of vaccination status until further notice per Executive Order 251.

Click here to read [Executive Order 251](#).

### **Are there any exceptions to the mask mandate?**

Yes, the exceptions are as follows:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or,
- When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Per Executive Order #253, request for mask exemptions must be medically approved. Parents seeking a medical mask exemption must acquire the mask exemption form from their child's school principal, have the form completed by their physician, and returned to the school for review.

## **Physical Distancing & Cohorting Protocols**

### **Will children be physically distant?**

All schools will make efforts to maintain a physical distance of 3 feet in classroom settings, where possible. Additionally, we will provide plexiglass in therapy areas and office settings and post signage throughout our buildings as visual reminders.

Our elementary schools will also have plexiglass affixed to teacher and student desks, serve meals in the classroom, utilize stations on the playground, limit the use of shared materials (when possible), and have departmentalized teachers travel from class to class.

## **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Protocols**

### **What hygiene protocols will be implemented?**

**Reminders, signage, and teaching will include:**

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask;
- Discard used hand towels and tissues in trash cans;
- Handwashing or sanitizing upon arrival to school, after using bathroom facilities, and prior to and after eating;
- Proper handwashing technique; and
- Proper use of hand sanitizer.

Elementary students will be provided with time to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

## Provision of Meals

### What strategies will be utilized to mitigate the risk of spread during meals?

The District will implement layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in cafeterias or other group dining areas.

- The lunch periods may be staggered, as needed, to assist with social distancing.
- Most items will be individually wrapped or prepackaged, where applicable, in all schools. This will help keep students moving when picking up their lunch.
- In Elementary Schools, lunches will be pre-ordered using a web-based form and delivered to classrooms by food service personnel and/or cafeteria aides. Breakfast will be served on carts, similar to a “grab and go” style.
- In the Middle Schools, lunches will be served and eaten in the cafeterias and scheduled in split lunches. Students may also eat in outdoor locations. Students will be socially distanced, as necessary. Breakfast will be served on carts, similar to a “grab and go” style.
- At the High School, breakfast will be served in the cafeterias at the 9/10 and 11/12. Lunches will be served in 8 locations throughout the building. Students will also eat at locations outside the building.

## Transportation Protocols

### What safety protocols will be implemented on school buses?

WTPS buses are considered school property for the purpose of determining the need for prevention strategies. The following protocols apply to all District vehicles:

- **Masks must be worn by all drivers, staff, and students while on buses, regardless of vaccination status per CDC's Federal Order.**
- School Bus Drivers will complete bus seating charts prior to the start of the year. Bus seating charts will be dated and revisions will be shared with Principal/Designee and School Nurses.
- If occupancy allows, the District will attempt to maximize physical distance between students.
- Open windows to increase airflow, if needed.
- Siblings will be seated together, where possible.
- Cleaning will be completed twice daily.
- Buses are equipped with additional masks.
- Hand sanitizer is available on all school buses.

## Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

### What cleaning protocols will be implemented in school buildings?

- School staff will follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection using approved District cleaning protocols. Custodians will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, faucets, handles, etc.
- Staff will be reminded to sanitize keyboards and maintain a clean individual working environment.
- When a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, the building administrator and Operations Supervisor must be notified.
- A closure sticker will be placed on the door of the area(s) occupied by an infected individual. The area will be closed up to 24 hours if there is no significant impact to the orderly operation of the school.
- If closing the area will impact the orderly operation of the school and that area cannot be closed for 24 hours, custodial staff will disinfect the area after the person has exited that space.
- Proper disinfection protocols will be completed by custodial staff.
- Custodial, Maintenance, and Grounds Staff will wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting. Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is included in "Right to Know" training.
- The District uses EPA-approved cleaning products for COVID-19.

## **How will airflow be monitored?**

- Staff are permitted to open windows, if necessary.
- HVAC is carefully monitored by the Operations Manager and HVAC maintenance staff. Adjustments are made when necessary.
- If there is a failure of the HVAC system, windows may be opened, and fans will be provided in areas that do not have exterior windows. Staff/students will be moved to another location, if necessary.
- HVAC filters are changed according to the manufacturer specifications.

## **Screening, Attendance, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff**

### **Who is responsible for screening students for illness?**

Parents/caregivers will be encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. **Students who are sick should not attend school.**

Parents/caregivers and students will report illness and reasons for absences to:

- **Elementary:** School Nurse
- **Middle School/High School:** Attendance Secretary

### **Will students who are excluded due to quarantine receive instruction?**

Yes, students who are excluded **by the School Nurse**, or students with a positive COVID-19 test will be assigned to remote instruction until they are able to return to school. Attendance in remote instruction is mandatory. A student will be recorded as absent if they fail to attend remote instruction or are too ill to participate.

- **Elementary:** Quarantined/Positive COVID-19: Students will receive remote instruction provided by a substitute teacher and/or the classroom teacher.
- **Middle School/High School:** Quarantined/Positive COVID-19 students will receive instructions from the teacher(s) to participate in instruction via remote access to the classroom(s).

## **Are staff required to monitor for signs of illness?**

Yes, staff will self-monitor daily prior to reporting to work. Sick staff should follow the regular staff attendance policy.

## **What protocols are implemented if a student or staff member is symptomatic in school?**

- Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated from others until they can be sent home.
- Students who are sick and not already wearing a mask should be provided a mask to wear unless the student has a contraindication to doing so.
- If a mask is not tolerated by the ill student/staff member, other staff should be masked and follow physical distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet away.
- The School Nurse will ask the student (or parent/guardian) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact.
- Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider.
- Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms will be asked to undergo COVID-19 testing.
- If community transmission is low, ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List.
- No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.
- If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure they should be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.
- Ill individuals who test positive should report results to the School Nurse promptly so that contact tracing can begin.
- Ill individuals who test negative should be referred to a healthcare provider.

## **Contact Tracing**

### **What is "Contact Tracing"?**

**Contact Tracing** is the process used to identify those who come in contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. Contact Tracing goes hand-in-hand with testing.

### **What is a "Close Contact"?**

Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuation of home isolation.

## **If my child is wearing a mask, are they still a close contact?**

The NJDOH has recently updated their guidelines on close contacts to include an exemption for students in grades Pre-K to 12 that states if a Covid positive student who is wearing a mask, any other student within 3 to 6 feet for more than 15 cumulative minutes who are also wearing a mask, will not be considered close contacts and will not need to quarantine. Only the Covid positive student will need to quarantine in this circumstance. \*Please Note – Students do not wear a mask while eating. If the cumulative time masks are not worn is more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period, and students are less than 6 feet apart, students will be quarantined per the NJDOH Exclusion Criteria.

## **How is Contact Tracing conducted?**

Contact Tracing within WTPS is completed by staff, typically the School Nurse or Administrator, who have completed contact tracing training.

- The School Nurse or Administrator identifies school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school.
- The School Nurse or Administrator will notify parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.
- Close Contacts are provided with information and support to understand their risk and the close contact staff or student will be asked to follow up with their physician.
- If a staff or student is determined to be a close contact of an infected individual and they are vaccinated and showing no symptoms, they will not be quarantined.
- School-based close contacts should be identified and excluded from school for 10 days (regional risk green/yellow) or 14 days (regional risk orange).
- Excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission Levels:
  - High (orange) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded for 14 days.
  - Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days).
  - Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts in all levels of community transmission.

## **COVID-19 Testing**

### **Does WTPS conduct COVID-19 testing?**

Washington Township School District does **not** conduct COVID-19 testing in any of our District facilities or schools. For more information regarding COVID-19 testing or testing sites, please see the following:

**NEW JERSEY COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION**  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COVID-19 TESTING SITES**  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

## Travel

### **Are there any restrictions or protocols for staff and students who travel?**

**As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect.**

The CDC, however, has recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. Travelers leaving New Jersey should check with the travel destination and transportation carrier (i.e., airline, cruise ship, etc.) to see if there are additional health and safety protocols or requirements, such as proof of a negative COVID-19 test within days of departure.

Click [here](#) for travel information.

### **Further Questions?**

For clarification or further questions, **please contact your child's building principal.**