

Appendix A

Appendix A


Critical Area of Operation #1 - General Health and Safety Guidelines

Appendix A includes the locally developed protocols addressing or exceeding the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan

As Washington Township Public Schools plan to open for the 2020-2021 school year, the CDC has offered several guidelines and considerations for ways in which schools can help protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff.

“COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets that are released from people when they talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices such as handwashing, staying home when sick, and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles for school districts to implement.” (CDC, Considerations for Schools, May 19, 2020)

- a. Medically fragile students and students with complex disabilities
 - ✓ Classrooms and therapy areas have been equipped with PPE, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, gowns, shields, masks and gloves.
 - ✓ Classrooms are equipped with sinks/hand washing stations.
 - ✓ The daytime custodial staff will increase typical daily cleaning protocols in these areas.
 - ✓ Disinfecting cabinets and wands will be used in these areas as necessary.
- b. Communication/Protecting and Supporting Staff/Students
 - ✓ School Nurses will communicate with the Gloucester County Department of Health regularly and monitor local updates regarding spread of COVID within Washington Township and neighboring communities.
 - ✓ School Nurses will remain in direct communication with the Gloucester County Department of Health with questions and to seek guidance for presumptive and confirmed cases and when seeking advice regarding individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions.


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- ✓ School Nurses will remain in close communication with the Building Principal and the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education/Student Services.
 - ✓ Information related to COVID-19 will be shared with staff via the District's online training platform.
 - ✓ The Human Resources Department will provide information regarding available options for leaves of absence/telework and general safety related to communicable diseases, specifically COVID-19.
- c. Promoting Behaviors That Reduce Spread

Hand Hygiene

- ✓ Students, teachers, staff, and administrators must practice handwashing for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, all persons must use hand sanitizer with a minimum alcohol base of 60%.
- ✓ Staff members must increase monitoring of students' hand hygiene.
- ✓ Students, teachers, staff, and administrators should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ✓ Students, teachers, staff, and administrators should avoid touching their face covering while in school.


Respiratory Etiquette

- ✓ All students, teachers, and staff members of WTPS must wear a face covering unless they have medical documentation or ADA compliance documents that suggest they cannot wear a face covering while in any district facility and/or utilizing district transportation.
- ✓ WTPS teachers, staff, and administration must teach and reinforce the correct use of face coverings:
 - Face coverings may help prevent the spread of the virus by limiting a person's exposure to droplets that may be transmitted through the air.
 - Wearing a face covering will help protect people around you, including those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and students, teachers, and staff members who frequently come into close contact with other people.
 - Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
 - The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced when cloth face coverings are used along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

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- ✓ Cloth face coverings should NOT be used by:
 - Children younger than 2 years old
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth covering without assistance.
 - ✓ Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into the crook of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands/elbows should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Signage and Messages

- ✓ WTPS will post signs in highly visible locations in every school and office throughout the district reinforcing the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, appropriate social distancing procedures, correct usage of face covering, respiratory etiquette, and correct hand hygiene.
- ✓ School building administrators will make daily announcements reminding students and staff of the importance of wearing a face covering, washing their hands, and maintaining the appropriate social distance.
- ✓ Signs throughout the district will convey consistent health and safety messages according to the guidelines communicated by the CDC and NJDOH.
- ✓ When appropriate, school buildings will utilize scrolling messages, the school/district webpages, social media, and other district approved venues to communicate information regarding COVID-19.
- ✓ Signs and messages will include common language established by the CDC and NJDOH.
- ✓ The common language used in the health and safety protocols and responses are defined below.
 - **Face Coverings** are any well secured paper or cloth that covers the nose and mouth completely.
 - **Close contacts** are individuals who were within 6 feet of a *confirmed* COVID-19 case for a prolonged period-of-time (approximately 10 minutes or more) **or** had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. coughed on).
 - **Casual contacts** are defined as being in the same indoor environment (e.g., classroom, office, gathering) with a symptomatic *confirmed* COVID-19 case.
 - **Contact of a contact** is any child, spouse, or other household members of an asymptomatic contact.
 - **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

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- **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.
 - **Confirmed** Cases are those who have been diagnosed with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 test; ***ONLY***

Staying Home When Appropriate

- ✓ WTPS will educate the students and parents/guardians, teachers, and staff about when they should stay home and when they can return to school.
- ✓ Reasonable accommodations - Students/Staff
 - Students have been provided with the option to participate in a full remote learning program
 - In coordination with the Human Resources Department and Administration the District will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations if needed for staff.