

Warren County Public Schools
COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan “2021-2022 Leading the Rebound ”
(Infectious Disease Response Plan)
(revised January 2022)

Guiding Principles

- ★ Students benefit from in-person learning and safely returning to in-person instruction is a priority.
- ★ The emphasis on implementing layered prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated.
- ★ The monitoring of community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing and the occurrence of outbreaks should be used to guide the decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies used.

Continuous communication among Warren County Public Schools (WCPS), The Lord Fairfax Health District (LFHD), Warren County Department of Health, Valley Health, Warren County Emergency Services and others in the community have created an environment where mitigation strategies have been successful across settings. Current guidance from state and local partners, input from community stakeholders and successful local strategies are all being used to craft the WCPS COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan “2021-2022 Leading the Rebound”.

I. Local Public Health Conditions

- a. Warren County and the Town of Front Royal have a high level of community transmission.
- b. The health mitigation strategies in the “2021-2022 Leading the Rebound” mitigation plan vary in two main areas: distancing requirements and the use of face coverings. A tiered, or phased, response will be used to address the health and safety needs of our students and staff.

II. Planning to reopen

- a. A COVID-19 team within the school division has been created (Attachment A) with a point person at each school /facility. Our division-level Threat Assessment Team will serve as this team with additional members as identified.
- b. School based COVID Mitigation Teams have been activated to continuously monitor and assess the COVID related measures taken in each building.
- c. Contact information and procedures for reaching the local health department are as follows:

Communication will flow from our schools to the Special Services Department. The Special Services Department will communicate with the Lord Fairfax Health Department on at least a daily basis.

Phone: 540-722-3480

Epidemiologist phone: 540-771-3725

- d. Health and absenteeism monitoring and reporting will be ongoing. School secretaries, or their designated alternate, will report staff and student absenteeism to the Special Services Department. The building Principal will immediately notify the Director of Special Services to report a positive case of COVID-19. During the 2021/2022 school year, the building Principal, supported by the Special Services office, is the point of contact for each school facility. The Special Services Department will relay this information to the LFHD daily. This information will also be shared with both the Superintendent and the COVID-19 Response Team.
- e. Communication with multiple stakeholders is ongoing and will include the following:
 - 1. An orientation and training for all staff specific to new COVID-19 mitigation strategies. This training will be done at the building level and completed by the building principal and/or their designee. School nurses should be part of this orientation/training as it will be completed prior to the students returning to school.
 - 2. An orientation/training for all students reporting for face to face instruction. This will be at the building level and should be age and developmentally appropriate for all learners, focusing on new COVID-19 mitigation strategies.
 - 3. Communication to parents, staff and students with regard to any new policies or information will be conducted initially by the district offices, followed by each building principal.
 - 4. Plans to communicate positive cases and/or an outbreak detected at a school will be determined in collaboration with the LFHD. As a communication

mechanism already exists, which includes a COVID dashboard, sample letters and correspondence, guidance will be given to specific schools with regard to communicating positive cases and actions to be taken. (Attachments B1-B5)

- f. Warren County Public Schools work collaboratively with all stakeholders and already participate in community response efforts.
Some examples that have occurred since March 2020 include transportation support, technology support, feeding programs, childcare for essential personnel and housing Red Cross blood drives. WCPS will continue to be a part of community response efforts.
- g. Student health services are being coordinated by our lead school nurse and Special Services Department. Clinics are stocked and personal protective equipment (PPE) is being acquired on an ongoing basis. The school nurse at each building will coordinate with building administration to ensure a “CARE” room will be designated to support possible cases that are identified in each building. In addition, the nurse and administrative team will spearhead building level training for staff and students.
- h. Medical grade PPE has been acquired for health services staff. N95 masks, shields, gowns and gloves will be provided to our school nurses and assistants who are supporting them.
- i. Typical (non-COVID-19) health services will continue in the already established clinics. Support for COVID-19 will be done in an identified “CARE” room.
- j. Significant resources have been allocated to support the division’s Behavioral Support Initiative. Our current Behavioral Coach will be collaborating with our school social workers and trauma coach to ensure staff and students are supported. In addition, Student Support Coaches have been allocated for each school to further support academic remediation and behavioral needs. This support includes linkage to community-based mental health supports who currently partner with WCPS, as well as, direct support to students and staff. In addition, outpatient counselors will be available in each middle and high school to meet the additional mental health challenges the pandemic has created. Private Insurance, as well as Medicaid can be used to access these supports.

III. The “2021-2022 Leading the Rebound” Program Offerings

As the “2021-2022 Leading the Rebound” permits in-person instruction for all students, WCPS will strive to educate students in this manner as health conditions permit. This fluid approach will allow us to maximize in-person instruction supported by a robust virtual academy and behavioral supports.

Our staff is prepared to deliver high quality instruction through a variety of modalities as health conditions permit. Significant focus will be placed on at-risk groups such as students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, English language learners, etc.

IV. Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

- a. An education / training plan for staff, students, and families will be led at each building by the administrative team and school nurse. As research on COVID-19 constantly emerges, continuous communication is needed. The following topics are a sample of the topics covered in the training programs at each building. These are some of the strategies being used to promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

1. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:

Hand washing techniques will be taught and demonstrated in an age appropriate fashion to all students. Hand sanitizer will be available through the building. Thirty portable hand sanitizer stations have also been acquired to deploy in our buildings. More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>. Respiratory etiquette will also be taught age appropriately. Tissues will be available (as supplies last) and appropriate preventive measures will be reinforced. Printed material will also be posted throughout the building.

2. FACE COVERINGS:

Face coverings are an important part of our mitigation strategies in keeping our students and staff safe against COVID-19. Face covering procedures will be discussed in each phase of our plan to reopen.

Visitors: All visitors (very limited number) will wear face coverings when entering and occupying any school building.

*Face shields will be available, in addition to additional masks, upon request

3. Staying home when sick is a must. Information will be communicated with all stakeholders that if you are feeling sick you should stay home. Perfect attendance and other incentives for attendance will be temporarily suspended until the health crisis is over.
4. Monitoring temperatures will be part of the daily routine. Students and visitors' temperatures will be screened (scanners) upon entering the building. Staff will self monitor by taking their own temperature and self screening prior to coming to work. If the temperature is 100.4° or higher, they will stay home. No contact thermometers are also available. Nurses will train personnel in temperature taking procedures, as well as, what to do if the temperature is above 100.4°.
5. Physical distancing will be encouraged at all times. The Department of Education guidelines will be followed. Student desks will be strategically positioned to maximize distance.
 - a. Additional strategies are being used on buses to ensure appropriate distancing.
 - b. Attached are some samples of print material that should be sent to parents and posted throughout the buildings. (Attachments C1-C9)

V. Health Screening Process

- a. STAFF - All staff will self-assess prior to coming to work, to ensure they are not sick. (Attachment D1)
- b. STUDENTS - Parents will be sent a screening tool to do at home before the child gets on the bus or is taken to school. If students have any symptoms, they are to stay home. This is reinforced with the attendance boards that are focused on the screening process. (Attachment D2)

- c. TEMPERATURES - All student's temperatures will be screened prior to entering the building. If a student's temperature is 100.4° or higher they are sent home.

- 1) STAFF - Staff will take their own temperature before reporting to work.

STUDENTS:

- 2) Bus Riders - Student temperatures are scanned as they enter the bus. All students wear face coverings.
- 3) Parent/drop-off - There is an area designated for student drop off. The student's temperature will be screened as they enter the building. If 100.4° or higher, students will be sent home.
- 4) Walkers - All walkers will go to the designated entrance. Student's temperatures will be screened as they enter the building.
- 5) Drivers - Temperature will be screened as they enter the building.

VI. Maintaining Healthy Environments

- a. Daily self-screenings will be done at home by all staff & students. Scanners are placed at the student entry point to monitor temperatures. In addition, teachers and staff will work with the school nurse to recognize possible symptoms related to COVID-19.
- b. Hygiene Practices
1. The CDC guidelines with regard to cleaning and disinfecting (including frequently touched surfaces) will be followed. Our custodial staff has been trained to meet these guidelines. These strategies address transport vehicles, buses, bathrooms, and all other facilities. Adequate supplies have been acquired and are being stored in an appropriate manner.
 2. Portable hand sanitizer stations have been acquired. Multiple stations are strategically placed throughout each building based on the size of the building.
 3. Sharing supplies will be kept to a minimum. Additional chromebooks have been purchased to insure each student has their own chromebook. At present enough supplies and PPE have been acquired to limit sharing.

4. Our maintenance department has assured the ventilation systems are operating properly and the circulation of outside air is done at the maximum extent possible. This will be continuously monitored.
5. Bottle filling stations have been replacing water fountains in each school. As more filling stations become available the remaining fountains will be replaced. Water fountains are not being used.
6. Physical distancing will be encouraged at all times. Desks will be strategically positioned to maximize distance. Face coverings may be worn by students and staff and are available upon request.

c. Proctored At-home Testing

1. In collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), WCPS will distribute at-home proctored Covid-19 tests as they become available. These “BinaxNOW Covid-19 Ag At-home test kits” must be used with an online proctor and the instructions are provided with each test. Per VDH, only proctored tests may be accepted by the school system. If there is confusion about how to use the test or if internet access is an issue there will be staff available from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Monday through Friday (excluding holidays and snow days) at 465 West 15th Street, Special Services Department to assist you with the process. Please call (540) 635-2725 with any questions.

VII. Tiered or Phased Approach to Health Mitigation Strategies

A variety of metrics will be continuously monitored to provide WCPS with the data necessary to implement strategies to keep students and staff safe. The following metrics, coupled with communication and collaboration with the Lord Fairfax Health District, will be used to guide this process:

- a. Community transmission rate
- b. Data from the WCPS COVID dashboard
- c. Updated guidance from VDH and CDC
- d. VDOE guidelines
- e. Directives from the Governor
- f. Community vaccination rates

g. Individual school data

This information will allow WCPS to implement health mitigation strategies as needed to keep students and staff safe while providing in-person learning. The following “phases” will guide the level of mitigation strategies deployed throughout the division.

Phase I

- ★ All previously mentioned mitigation strategies employed
- ★ Face coverings are strongly encouraged for students, however, it is parent choice
- ★ Face coverings strongly encouraged for all employees
- ★ Face coverings not required outdoors
- ★ Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine protocols in place
- ★ Field trips permitted, face coverings are required on all buses
- ★ routine “COVID cleaning”

Phase II

- ★ All previously mentioned mitigation strategies employed
- ★ Face coverings required for all students and staff when indoors
- ★ Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine protocols in place
- ★ Field trips permitted, face coverings are required on all buses
- ★ Enhanced cleaning measures deployed

Phase III

- ★ All previously mentioned mitigation strategies employed
- ★ Face coverings required for all students and staff indoors and outdoors
- ★ Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine protocols in place
- ★ Increased social distancing
- ★ Possible changing of schedules to enhance separation
- ★ No field trips
- ★ Minimize congregate settings
- ★ Enhanced cleaning
- ★ Adjust meal procedures as needed

VIII. Maintaining Healthy Operations

- a. Protections and supports are available for our most vulnerable staff and students. Individual plans will be developed for each person identified with these needs. Some examples are remote work sites, flexible scheduling, and other strategies that can help protect this segment of the population while supporting them in the least restrictive environment. Building principals and other staff have gathered information of who needs this support and it is done in a confidential manner. All water fountains will be turned off and bottle filling stations will be provided at each facility.
- b. All students considered high risk will be contacted by the “Pathways and Connections” coordinator to determine an appropriate educational plan given their specific health needs. This will be done in collaboration with the student’s health care provider(s). If the student is identified with a 504 or IEP then these recommendations will be made to the team.
- c. WCPS will follow any Governor’s executive orders. Gatherings, field trips, and other activities will follow this guidance.
- d. In collaboration with the Loud Fairfax Health District it has been determined that the following guidelines will be used for isolation and quarantine:

If You Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Isolation)

<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay home for 5 days ● If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school or work ● Upon your return, continue to wear a face covering for five calendar days ● If symptoms are still present and/or you have not been fever free for 24 hours, continue to stay home until you have been fever free for 24 hours
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If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

<p>If you:</p> <p>Have received a booster shot</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Have tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days</p>	<p>You do not need to quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear a face covering for 10 days ● Test on day 5, if possible ● If you develop symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get tested ○ Stay home ○ if your test is positive then move to the isolation stage
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<p>If you:</p> <p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have not received a booster shot</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and have not received a booster shot</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Are unvaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for 5 days. Upon your return, wear a face covering for five calendar days • If you cannot quarantine, approval to return to school or work must be approved through Special Services, and wear a face covering for 10 calendar days • Test on day 5, if possible • If you develop symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get tested ○ Stay home ○ If your test is positive then move to the isolation stage
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These mitigation strategies are fluid in nature (as they have been for the last two years) and will be assessed on a regular basis.

- e. As continuity of operations is critical, schools and departments will be cross training staff in a variety of functions. These cross training efforts include clinic coverage, administrative duties and other areas around the division.
- f. As we plan for off-season conditioning for our sports teams and school bands, a detailed plan has been created and shared with the LFHD.

IX. Employees at Higher Risk

- a. Vulnerable individuals will be protected in a variety of ways. The personnel department is communicating with all staff to ensure there are a variety of strategies to limit exposure for this at-risk population.
 1. Higher risk individuals will contact the personnel department with any questions, as each employee case will be evaluated on an individual basis.

X. If Sickness Should Occur

- a. The school system is prepared for when a staff member or student gets sick. A variety of strategies are being employed. These include:
 1. A separate room has been identified for students and staff who are presenting with symptoms.
 2. Parents will be called to provide transportation home or to the healthcare facility. If parents cannot transport, and it is determined that the student must leave the isolation room, then transportation will be provided.
 3. COVID-19 Emergency Plan - STUDENT
 - (a) The student reports symptoms to the classroom teacher, or the teacher notices the student is not feeling well/observes symptoms.
 - (b) The student will be provided a face covering to don, if not already wearing one.
 - (c) The nurse or clinic attendant will be notified.
 - (d) The clinic personnel will don Full PPE and go retrieve student from the classroom and take the student to the care room.
 - (e) Upon arriving at the care room, the student will wash hands with soap/water or sanitize hands.
 - (f) The student will be placed inside the care room as far from the door as possible while maintaining 6 feet distance from others.
 - (g) The student will be evaluated by clinic staff using COVID-19 Screening Tool.
 - (h) The student will have their temperature taken with a no-touch thermometer.
 - (i) If the student answered “yes” to any symptom check questions, or is positive for any of the symptoms listed, or has a temperature of 100.4° or greater, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student from school.
 - (j) If the student is in distress, 911 will be called.
 - (k) All observations, care provided, and parent/guardian notifications will be documented.
 - (l) If the student answers “no” to all symptom check questions and does not display any of the following: coughing, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, flushing or extreme fatigue or fussiness, and does not have a temperature of 100.4° or greater, the student will be taken to the nurses clinic for a ten minute rest and evaluation period.

- (1) The student will be sent back to the classroom if symptoms improve. If no improvement, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick the student up.
 - (m) When a student is dismissed from the “CARE” room the parent will pull up to the building.
 - (1) The student will be escorted out to the parent/guardian by a WCPS staff member wearing Full PPE.
 - (2) The parent/guardian will sign the student out at the curbside.
 - (3) The escort will radio to the front office attendance staff that the student has been dismissed.
 - (n) If a student is dismissed from the “CARE” room due to COVID-19 symptoms, the “CARE” room will be cleaned per WCPS guidelines and will be open for the next student after sufficient surface dry time is allowed.
4. COVID-19 Emergency Plan – STAFF - The following procedures outline the actions that will be followed when a staff member reports or displays symptoms that require further evaluation for potential COVID-19.
- (a) The staff member will immediately place face covering on as soon as they begin to feel unwell.
 - (b) The staff member proceeds to the “CARE” room and washes hands with soap and water or sanitizes hands.
 - (c) The staff member reports to the “CARE” room and notifies the clinic attendant or nurse of their symptoms. If the staff member is in distress, 911 will be called.
 - (d) The staff member will go home and contact their medical provider for further instructions.
 - (e) If the staff member is unable to safely transport themselves home, the staff member will be placed in the “CARE” room and their emergency contact will be notified to come pick them up.
 - (f) The staff member notifies their building administrator by phone of their need to leave the building due to reported symptoms.

XI. Mitigating the Illness

- a. In consultation with the LFHD, a variety of plans are in place to mitigate this illness. As daily data is reviewed by the school division and health department the school system is prepared to do what it takes to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- b. There is no hard and fast threshold for the employment of these strategies as there are a variety of factors used to interpret the data. Factors such as: What is the ongoing risk? What tools do we have to further mitigate risk? Is closure the best option? These factors will be explored by the LFHD and the school division before reduction/closure practices are employed.

In summary, the school division will work closely with the Lord Fairfax Health Department and other health professionals in order to provide a safe environment for students and staff. The strategies outlined above will be followed to support our students and staff during this uncertain time.

2021- 2022 Division Level/School Point of Contact

Threat Assessment Team

Aaron Mitchell – WCPS Transportation	amitchell@wcps.k12.va.us
Alan Fox - SBO	afox@wcps.k12.va.us
Amy Gubler – WCMS Principal	agubler@wcps.k12.va.us
Austin Tippen – VDH	Austin.tippen@vdh.virginia.gov
Bobby Johnston – SMS Principal	bjohnston@wcps.k12.va.us
Brad Kern – VDH	brad.kern@vdh.virginia.gov
Brian Foley – WC Fire and Rescue	bfoley@warrencountyfire.com
Buck Smith – School Board Office	bsmith@wcps.k12.va.us
Chief Bonzano – WC Fire and Rescue	jbonzano@warrencountyfire.com
Chief Magalis – FR Police Department	kmagalis@warrencountyva.org
Crissa Breeden – Special Services	cbreeden@wcps.k12.va.us
Danelle Sperling – SHS Principal	dsperling@wcps.k12.va.us
Dr. Chris Ballenger – School Board Office	cballenger@wcps.k12.va.us
Greg Livesay – WCPS Maintenance	glivesay@wcps.k12.va.us
Jane Baker – BRTC Principal	jbaker1@wcps.k12.va.us
Jess Vacca – LFK Assistant Principal	jvacca@wcps.k12.va.us
Ken Knesch – WCHS Principal	kknesch@wcps.k12.va.us
Lisa Rudacille – EWM Principal	lrudacille@wcps.k12.va.us
Lisa Seal- Special Services	lseal@wcps.k12.va.us
Lori Layman – ASR Principal	llayman@wcps.k12.va.us
Major Jeff Driskill – WC Sheriff’s Office	jdriskill@warrencountysheriff.org
Mercedes Martinez – VDH	Mercedes.martinez@vdh.virginia.gov
Michael Hirsch – Special Services	mhirsch@wcps.k12.va.us
Michael Smith – BRTC	mesmith@wcps.k12.va.us
Nickole Kinsey – Food Services	nkinsey@wcps.k12.va.us
Nikki Taubenberger – HJB Principal	ntaubenberger@wcps.k12.va.us
Nina Helmick – RJES Principal	nhelmick@wcps.k12.va.us
Randa Vernazza – BF/DM Principal	rvernaza@wcps.k12.va.us
Rick Farrall – WC Fire and Rescue	rfarrall@warrencountyfire.com
Sgt. Burke – WC Sheriff’s Office	cburke@warrencountysheriff.org
Shamika McDonald – LFK Principal	smcdonald@wcps.k12.va.us
Tim Grant – School Board Office	tgrant@wcps.k12.va.us
Tina Carter – Lead Nurse WCPS	to be determined
Vince Gregg – WCHS	vgregg@wcps.k12.va.us