

WDCCSD Return to School Recommendations

Health and safety of the students, staff, and families from the Western Dubuque County Community School District (WDCCSD) is of the utmost importance in planning for the 2020-2021 school year. As we make plans for students and staff to return to school in a face-to-face learning format, we recognize it is impossible to eliminate all exposure risks. **We are instituting measures to make the learning environment as safe as possible by implementing a COVID-19-aware, rather than a COVID-19-free approach.** There are several considerations that cut across delivery models, which will be outlined here.

General Health and Safety Recommendations

- Positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to public health officials. Their guidance will determine next steps in safety procedures. The decision or possibility of individual classes, buildings, or the district closing for a short time will be made in conjunction with local health officials.
- Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Iowa Department of Education (IDOE), WDCCSD students and staff will **not** have their temperatures screened upon entering the building. This is the role of parents to ensure their children are not ill before sending them to school.
- Consistent with IDOE reopening guidance, WDCCSD students and staff will **not** be required to wear face coverings. Staff and students may choose to wear a face covering. WDCCSD will teach and reinforce the prevention of stigma associated with the use or non-use of facial coverings to support a respectful, inclusive, and supportive school environment. WDCCSD will protect the confidentiality of students, families, and staff who may or may not wear a face covering due to health concerns.
- The teaching and reinforcement of proper handwashing following CDC guidance will be provided to all students and staff. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and training for employees who have a medium to high-risk of exposure or as determined by their job-related tasks (OSHA Workplace Guidance, CDC) will be provided. WDCCSD will teach and reinforce the prevention of stigma associated with the use of PPE to support a respectful, inclusive, and supportive school environment.
- WDCCSD cannot guarantee that physical distancing can be met in school settings throughout the school day, during school activities, or with transportation. WDCCSD has a plan if a student or staff member becomes sick, which can be found in the [Return to Learn Plan Handbook](#) and in the Nursing Recommendations section below.

- Signs to stop the spread of illness, properly wash hands, proper respiratory etiquette, and promote everyday protective measures will follow the guidance of the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and be posted in WDCCSD.

Additional reopening guidance from the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE) is linked [here](#) and related frequently asked questions [here](#).

Nursing Recommendations

- Families are required to pre-screen children for illness prior to sending to school daily. Students with a measured temperature of 100.4° F or higher should not attend school and remain home until fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Fever is determined by a measured temperature of 100.4° F or higher. School nurses will communicate with families on an individual basis about appropriate plans for students to return to school.
- In each building, when necessary, two areas for health offices will be designated and accomplished by a divider or separate room. Options are dependent upon available space in each building.
- Explore and implement an appointment system for students needing to visit the health office for services not related to physical illness.
- A plan will be established for staff to send sick students to the health office.
- An adult employee will be identified to support the school nurse when monitoring two spaces and providing routine assistance. Medication certification training for this employee is recommended.
- Families will be notified if their child is showing COVID-19 symptoms. Students will need to be picked up as soon as possible.
- A symptomatic person will be required to wear a cloth face covering or a surgical mask while waiting to leave the facility. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who:
 - Has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - Is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - Cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs

Additional information related to health office protocols is linked [here](#).

Building and Grounds Recommendations

- The Building and Grounds department will collaborate with the Health Office to provide the PPE needs for health staff and students or staff who become ill during the school day (adult and pediatric masks, shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, disposable gowns).

- Custodial staff members will assess the most effective manner for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting buildings and grounds. Custodial schedules will be changed accordingly. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectants for SARS-COV 2 will be used.
- In addition to the regularly scheduled cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of all buildings, high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Hand sanitizer pumps will be installed in common areas of all buildings, such as entry ways. This is in addition to the pumps that have already been installed in every classroom of WDCS.

Transportation Recommendations

- District bussing will operate at normal capacity.
- Due to capacity and the number of riders, we recommend riders wear a face covering while riding the bus.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected before, after, and in between routes by drivers.

Procedural Safety Recommendations

- All WDCS staff members will complete this learning resource: [Health and Safety Module](#) for changes in daily procedures.
- Building custodians and nurses will work collaboratively to review PPE and cleaning needs, while requesting additional supplies, as necessary.
- Visitors are limited to essential purposes during the school day to preserve the safest possible learning environment for students and staff. Deliveries will be non-contact and eliminate face-to-face transactions as much as possible.
- Families will be instructed to stay in their vehicles when dropping off and picking up students from school.
- When picking up their child for appointments and other purposes, families will be instructed to call the office, rather than coming inside. The building secretary will then sign the child out for the day.
- If a student or staff member is showing or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever of 100.4° F or higher, cough, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, dry cough, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, or headache), they will need to be isolated from other students and staff.
- Mass gatherings of students and staff will be avoided such as assemblies, field days, birthday lunches, field trips, etc.
- Each building in WDCS will determine traffic flow patterns in hallways and classrooms to decrease the number of students in any given location at one time.

- Space among students in classrooms during in-person instruction will be maximized as much as possible. Outdoor learning environments will be utilized when available and appropriate. Teachers will keep record of seating charts for contact tracing purposes.
- Recess routines and use of play structures will follow public health guidance.
- Sharing of high touch materials such as art supplies, physical education equipment, classroom community supplies, etc. will be minimized. When materials are shared, they will need to be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected.
- Time will be intentionally built in during the day for students and staff to engage in frequent handwashing. When soap and water is not available, students and staff members will use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Absence policies and practices will be reviewed to enable students and staff to stay home when they are sick.

Nutrition Recommendations

- Employees assigned to work in kitchens will practice strict sanitation guidelines set by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Human Services (DHS), CDC, and IDPH.
- Several methods to promote safe distancing during meal service include plexiglass barriers, visual floor directions, and individual PPE where necessary.
- Keypads for individual student identification entry will be removed and an alternative hands-free method will be used.
- The needs of students with food allergies and other nutritional needs will continue to be met.
- Alternate meal locations to promote safe distancing are being considered by each building. These alternate locations could include split cafeteria, classrooms, communal areas, and designated outdoor areas.
- A strict no sharing policy will continue to be enforced.
- Self-service condiments and other items in the cafeteria will be eliminated.