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SAFETY/HEALTH

FACE COVERINGS

○ Will teachers be provided with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Different styles and types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for both staff and students. At this time, the state has not defined a specific face covering. Acceptable face coverings put out by PDE include masks (homemade, medical, and commercial), neck gaiters, face shields, etc. The district currently has 100,000 disposable masks available and a face shield purchased for every employee – UPDATED 7/23/20

○ Will face coverings be required for staff and students?

Yes, the current order from the Department of Health states that all people need to wear a face covering when they are in school. Students and staff will be required to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth while in the school. Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes. – UPDATED 8/24/20

○ What about face coverings for unprepared students?

Different styles and types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for both staff and students. At this time, the state has not defined a specific face covering. Acceptable face coverings put out by PDE include masks (homemade, medical, and commercial), neck gaiters, face shields, etc. Students will be encouraged to use their own face covering that they are most comfortable with, but there will be extras if the student does not have one with them. The district currently has 100,000 disposable masks available and a face shield purchased for every student in grades K-12– UPDATED 8/14/20

○ If my child has asthma, do they have to wear a mask?

The Department of Health has provided provisions for those that have medical conditions that prevent the wearing of face coverings. Parents will need to inform the district of the existence of a medical condition in order for a student to not wear a face covering at school or on district transportation. – UPDATED 8/14/20
If a student tests positive and then returns to school after recovering, are they able to return without a face covering since they would presumably have immunity?

No – the order from the Department of Health does not provide a provision for those that have already tested positive for COVID-19 to not wear a face covering.  – UPDATED 7/29/20

Can teachers who have breathing issues use face shields in place of masks? Will face shields be an acceptable face covering for students and staff?

Yes, the Secretary of Health has provided a broad definition of face covering that include face shields. The face covering of choice must completely cover the nose and mouth. The District has purchased face shields for all students and teachers.  – UPDATED 8/24/20

Does a face shield have to be used in combination with a face mask?

No. The definition of a face covering by the Secretary of Health states that a face shield is sufficient.  – UPDATED 7/23/20

If a student is not wearing a face covering then will the teacher help that student from a 6-foot distance, as otherwise the teacher will be put at risk?

This depends on the situation. If a student isn’t wearing a face covering, there is likely to be a medical reason. Alternative strategies, perhaps using a desk barrier, can be utilized. – 7/21/20

Does my child have to wear a face covering on the bus?

Yes, face coverings will be required of all students that ride district transportation. Guidance is stating that due to the confinement of buses there is a higher risk of transmission if precautions are not taken.  – UPDATED 7/23/20

Do students have to wear a face covering during recess?

Building principals are working on creating schedules for recess for elementary students to provide spaces for each class to have recess. Face coverings will be required by the current order by the Dept. of Health when students are unable to maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing, not engaged in a physical activity, or when wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition. – UPDATED 8/24/20
**BUILDINGS AND SPACE**

- How will social distancing work in classrooms with more than 10-15 students?
  
  The District will expect everyone to provide physical distance to the extent feasible. Face coverings will still be required even when physical distancing is able to be provided per the most recent order from the Department of Health. Building administrators are in the process of reassigning larger classes to larger building spaces to the extent feasible. Extra materials non-essential to the functioning of the classroom will be removed to provide additional space. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

- When will teachers be able to get into classrooms to remove these items?
  
  If large items need removed, please contact building administration so that they can work with custodial staff to remove these items. Building swipe cards have been turned on for buildings. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

- What happens in buildings with no AC and no windows to open to accommodate those students and faculty members who are trying to breathe through a face covering? Will fans and/or AC units be installed in all classrooms?
  
  None of our buildings have air conditioning in classrooms other than computer labs. The office spaces are air conditioned, as those employees work through the hottest months every day. All buildings have ventilation systems, and they will be retooled to provide better ventilation. Fans may be used to help exhaust air out of windows. Fans should not be used to move potentially contaminated air across multiple students. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

- Should classroom doors be open or closed?
  
  Classroom doors should remain closed and locked. **UPDATED 8/24/20**

- Can doors be removed from stairwells to minimize touching from multiple students?
  
  Doors in stairwells can be opened but cannot be removed. Fire codes must still be adhered to within buildings. Building administrators have worked to re-route traffic flow in buildings to minimize cross traffic to the extent possible. – **UPDATED 8/14/20**
What happens to fire drills, evacuation drills, and active shooter drills?

PDE is still in the process of reviewing direction for districts. Drills are going to have to be run differently than they have in the past, but we have been told we still need to do them. New procedures have been developed for drills by the district to reduce the number of students completing drills at one time. **UPDATED 8/24/20**

Will there be temperature checks upon entry?

Staff and substitutes will continue to self-screen every day using a no touch thermometer or a kiosk. All visitors must also perform a self-screen and wear a face covering while in the buildings. Our medical experts, as well as a formal study conducted by PDE indicate that this is not a wise use of time or resources as fever is not a reliable indicator for children. The District asks that parents do a temperature check of their child (ren) before sending them on the bus or to school for the day. The District is buying a temperature taking kiosk for each school to assist with employees, visitors, and for the nurse to use at his / her recommendation. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

What will be the transition for classes?

Principals have developed new traffic patterns for individual buildings. Signage has been added to buildings to aid with flow of traffic in hallways. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

Will all classes be under 25 people? Is lunch only going to be 25 people?

No. Building administrators are working on balancing schedules to make classes under 25 to the extent possible. The current order of no more than 25 people inside does not apply to schools. Administrators are working on plans to space students 6 feet apart for breakfast and lunch. Students will be able to remove their face coverings to eat and drink during these times. – **UPDATED 8/4/20**

How will the main office work for students and visitors?

Students will still use the main office to sign in and sign out when arriving/leaving the building at non-arrival and dismissal times. Offices are being redesigned for flow and preventative safety measures being installed (i.e. Plexiglas). The District’s Health and Safety plan has called for building principals to designate essential and non-essential visitors to reduce traffic of visitors within the building. All visitors will be required to perform a self-screen before entering and wear a face covering while in the school building. Those wishing to be building volunteers for the 2020-2021 school year should still fill out volunteer forms for if/when regulations open back up. – **UPDATED 8/14/20**
How do lockers work?

High School students will continue to use lockers and will be encouraged to only keep essentials in their locker. Personal possessions should be taken home daily. —UPDATED 8/14/20

Are students allowed to carry backpacks throughout the day?

Students in grades K-12 may continue to bring backpacks each day. Students are not currently permitted to carry backpacks throughout the school. —UPDATED 7/29/20

Are students going to be able to bring a water bottle to school with them?

Yes — modifications to water fountains are being made so that they are not used throughout the day. Water bottle refill stations will be installed for students and they will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles. —UPDATED 8/14/20

Will there be additional teacher/staff lounges available so that adults can also be distanced while eating?

Evaluation of building space is being done by principals with the support of central office staff. Additional space is likely going to be used for classroom flexibility. Each building has its own unique space needs, so this will be left to each building principal. —7/21/20

CLEANING

Who will be responsible for cleaning shared materials and supplies like computers?

Students in grades K-4 should not be cleaning anything. Students in grades 5-12 may assist in general cleaning and sanitizing but may not be disinfecting. Formal procedures are being developed. Additional custodial positions have been approved. —UPDATED 8/4/20

Will we be provided with the necessary cleaning products?

Yes, all classrooms will be equipped with necessary cleaning products. —7/21/20
We are not allowed to use things like Lysol; we are only supposed to use the district approved cleaner. (Which doesn’t seem to be on the list of cleaners that kills COVID-19) Will we be able to use every precaution in our classroom to clean surfaces including necessary cleaning agents?

The District will be using cleaners that follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19. At a recent training, with the Department of Health and an infectious disease doctor, we learned that COVID-19 is actually fairly easy to kill with a wide variety of cleaners. – 7/21/20

RESTROOMS

- Virus particles are circulated from toilet flushing. School toilets do not have lids. Who will clean the bathrooms - including the ones in classrooms - after every use?
  
  Custodians will clean restrooms, but definitely not after every use. Hand washing is an appropriate strategy. – 7/21/20

- Will bathrooms have monitors to ensure only X amount of children enter at a time?
  
  No. Students are going to have to learn new restroom procedures. – 7/21/20

- What will the protocol be a classroom with no sink and the requirement to monitor bathroom numbers in situations where many students share a single bathroom?
  
  Unless there are emergencies the number of students in a restroom should be minimized to three or fewer students at a time. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and students should be allowed to go wash their hands upon request. – 7/21/20

- Will someone be sanitizing staff restrooms in between uses or will the staff members be required to do so?
  
  No one will be sanitizing restrooms between uses. Washing hands is an appropriate strategy. – 7/21/20

CLOSE CONTACT

- What safety measures will be put in place for non-teaching staff such as school counselors?
  
  Specific and unique needs should be shared with your building administrator. If specific barriers are needed due to proximity, we need to know before you plan to report to school. – 7/21/20
What if a teacher or assistant needs to use Crisis prevention intervention (CPI) with a student?

Staff and students should have face coverings on when within 6 feet of each other. Masks and face shields will be available for staff. The District has implemented Ukeru, which is a hands-free response technique, and this will be utilized when possible – 7/21/20

What about teachers, staff, or students in behavioral rooms?

Staff and students should have face coverings on when within 6 feet of each other. Masks and face shields will be available for staff. The District has implemented Ukeru, which is a hands-free response technique, and this will be utilized when possible. – 7/21/20

Who is building the barriers between the students if there is not enough room to space them 6 feet apart?

We are not required to build barriers for this situation. When 6 feet is not feasible, face coverings are required. Contracted construction workers are building various types of barriers for specific areas within schools due to proximity concerns. 7/21/20

NURSES & HEALTH

What will happen with students who are sent to the nurse with fevers or other COVID-19 symptoms? Will there be dual offices for nurses, one to handle COVID-19 symptoms and another to handle first aid and other health issues?

All nurse’s offices are in the process of being retooled to separate COVID-19 symptomatic students from others. Nurses will also be triaging some situations at the classroom. Isolation spaces are identified and will be prepared for use. – 7/21/20

Will students be able to go to the nurse during the class period?

Access to the nurse’s office is going to be very different. All staff will be trained on the new procedures on August 28th, and teachers will assist the students in learning the new procedures. – UPDATED 8/24/20
If a student has a fever, will they be sent home?

The District will use screening procedures for sending students home as they always have in regards to fever. If the student is exhibiting specific signs associated with COVID-19 there will be a separate nursing annex for students to stay until they can be picked up by a parent. – UPDATED 7/29/20

What specific symptoms would cause a student to be sent home as a suspected COVID-19 case?

Students or staff members exhibiting a combination of one or more “Category A” symptoms and two or more “Category B” symptoms would be sent home as a possible COVID-19 case. The Category symptoms are as follows:

**Category A Symptoms – moderate and/or severe symptoms**
- Bluish lips or face
- Difficulty breathing
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- New confusion
- Shortness of breath (persistent pain or pressure in the chest)
- New loss of taste or smell

**Category B:**
- Chills
- Cough
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rash
- Shortness of breath
- Sore Throat

If a child is sent home with specific symptoms associated with COVID-19, will their siblings also be required to go home?

No, only students or staff members exhibiting a combination of one or more Category A symptoms and two or more Category B symptoms will be sent home from school. – UPDATED 8/14/20
POTENTIAL POSITIVES, QUARANTINE, AND TESTING

- If a staff member or student comes down with a fever will they be required to get tested for COVID-19 and provide the school with documentation of the results?

  No – per Department of Health. Everyone is going to continue to have all kinds of other illnesses with similar symptoms as COVID-19. We have no authority to require a COVID-19 test. – 7/21/20

- Will the District be testing its own staff and students?

  There are no plans to test staff or students for COVID-19. – 7/21/20

- Do families need to sign waivers of disclosure if they've been exposed, tested, results?

  If a student tests positive, we can hope a parent would let us know, but they are not required to do so. Once anyone tests positive, the Department of Health is in charge of notification and will contact the District to assist with contact tracing. The District is permitted to let individuals know they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, but we are NOT permitted to share who has tested positive. – 7/21/20

- If a student in our class tests positive, will we be told?

  Yes. Current HIPPA regulations do not allow the name of any individual to be identified in regards to a health condition. - 7/21/20

- If a student tests positive, what does that mean for the rest of the people in the class?

  The Department of Health will be making the decision as to who has been in “close contact”, and it is situational. We have learned, through training, the Department of Health decision making in this area is continually changing. It will be our responsibility to describe the type(s) of contact a person has had, then the Department of Health will determine who will have to be contacted and quarantine. – 7/21/20

- If I have multiple children and one has to quarantine, do all of my children need to quarantine?

  It depends – the Department of Health will be responsible for making all decisions regarding who needs to quarantine. – UPDATED 7/29/20
If one student tests positive, is it possible that it would cause an entire school to be shut down?

Positive cases will have to be handled on a case by case basis. The Department of Health will make decisions based upon the contact the child has had. New guidance provides a chart with recommendations for school closing, depending upon both the transmission within the community and the number of positive cases among staff and students.


Does my student have to quarantine after returning from a family educational trip?

Quarantining is currently recommended when returning from a list of states on the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health website. Any decisions on quarantining will be made by the Dept. of Health. This would have to be a consideration made by the family based on their travel decisions. – UPDATED 7/23/20

TRANSPORTATION

What changes will be made to buses for the upcoming school year?

Buses will still run with a reduced capacity for the upcoming school year. There will be a maximum of two students per bus seat. In addition procedures for boarding and dismissal are being revised. Family members will be seated together and the bus will fill from back to front to minimize the number of people walking by each other. – UPDATED 7/23/20

If a bus driver tests positive for COVID-19, will the entire bus route be required to quarantine?

The Department of Health will make all decisions on whether a student needs to quarantine after defining the type of contact between individuals and someone whom tests positive. – UPDATED 7/29/20

If I’m going to transport my own child, do I need to let the district know?

Yes, the District will need to know of all changes in transportation. On the Educational Options Survey there is a portion related to transportation. – UPDATED 7/29/20
If my child is only going to take the bus for after school care, how do I fill out the transportation survey?

Parents should fill out the survey indicating that they will need a bus to their afterschool childcare. – UPDATED 7/29/20

Does my child have to wear a face covering on the bus?

Yes, face coverings will be required of all students that ride district transportation. Guidance is stating that due to the confinement of buses there is a higher risk of transmission if precautions are not taken. – UPDATED 7/23/20

What if a child refuses to wear a face covering on the bus?

Students will not be permitted to use District transportation without wearing a face covering. Those with individual restrictions due to medical conditions or disabilities should contact their individual case manager or building principal. – UPDATED 8/4/20

Will masks be available on the bus for students that forget their face covering?

Yes, buses will have disposable masks available for students that forget or do not bring their own face covering so that they can ride District transportation. – UPDATED 8/4/20

Do I have other options for transportation?

Parents are able to drop-off and pick-up students at any of the buildings. Buildings will be open earlier this year to accommodate an increase in parent transportation. Students that are licensed to drive may also choose to drive to school – students must fill out a registration for their vehicle at their home school. – UPDATED 8/24/20

How much does it cost for a student to park at school?

The District has waved the parking fee for this school year. Students do still need to register their vehicle with their home school and get a parking permit. – UPDATED 7/23/20
If I choose to drop my child off at school, at what time can they get into the building?

Buildings will be open to students starting at 7:00 am this school year to help parents that may need to drop their child off earlier. Additional time may be needed for dropping off students due to increased traffic in each attendance area. – UPDATED 8/24/20

Can a student with a driver’s license drive to the Career Center?

At this time, the district is permitting students to drive to the WCCC. Procedures are currently being written. Students will be required to register their vehicle at their home school and obtain a parking sticker. There will be a dedicated parking lot area for Career Center students to use. – UPDATED 8/3/30

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT

INSTRUCTION

What happens with classes/grade levels that require close contact and collaboration for content and social-emotional development?

All teachers and students will utilize social distancing within the classroom setting. Face coverings will be mandatory when working with students in close proximity, and in addition, Plexiglas has been installed in areas where close contact is necessary. – 8/4/20

What if a teacher travels between different classrooms and has no control over the classroom setting from room to room?

Cleaning supplies will be provided for every classroom. Teachers will be responsible for and receive training on following cleaning procedures. - 7/21/20

Will there be an option for parents to continue remote learning (following the school academics)?

Yes. Parents will have the option of enrolling students in virtual learning. The WCSD will have three learning options available for students – Option 1: In-person instruction. Option 2: Enrollment in the WCSD Virtual Academy, a learning at your own pace option. This option allows for greater flexibility in regards to time of completion of classes. Option 3: Distance learning on a more regimented schedule. More information on the different options are available on the WCSD website. – 7/21/20
If teachers are in class instructing students all day, who is responsible for online instruction for the students whose parents choose to keep them home?

If parents choose to keep students at home and enroll full time in the WCSD Virtual Academy, WCSD Virtual Academy teachers will be designated for these students. K-5 students have the option of having a dedicated teacher for daily, live lessons for students to attend virtually. Teachers in grades 6-12 will teach in-person students as well as those attending virtually via Option 3 by using Microsoft Teams. – 7/21/20

Do Virtual Academy classes count towards a student’s GPA calculation and class rank?

Yes WCSD Virtual Academy courses count toward both GPA and class rank. – UPDATED 8/4/20

My child (ren) did not get a chance to schedule classes for the 2020-2021 school year. How should I go about getting a schedule?

Parents should first complete the Educational Options survey located on the WCSD webpage (wcsdpa.org). If they are planning on Option 1 or Option 3, they need to contact their child’s building to create a schedule for their student. If they are choosing full time virtual with the WCSD Virtual Academy, parents need to fill out a WCSD Virtual Academy application (available on the WCSD webpage) and contact the WCSD Virtual Academy (814-723-6900) to create a Virtual schedule. – UPDATED 8/4/20

What happens when parents choose to home school their child (ren) and then enroll after the district’s deadline?

The District has absolutely no control over this. We are required by law to enroll the child. Students will be able to enroll in the WCSD at any time in in-person or in virtual education. – 7/21/20

We have class sets of textbooks for a lot of our courses, how is the sharing/cleaning of shared resources being handled? (Desks, books, pencil sharpeners, art supplies etc.)

In some cases, the district is providing additional supplies and materials to alleviate the need to share, but that is not practical in all cases. Proper hygiene and washing hands will help when students need to share materials. – 8/4/20
o Will supplies be provided for students?

The District provides basic supplies for all students. Learning kits are being prepared for all students in grades K-5 and 6-12 for students to have supplies to use. – UPDATED 8/4/20

o Will elementary buildings continue to be departmentalized? How will this work?

Yes elementary buildings will continue to be departmentalized. Teachers will switch classrooms to minimize the number of people in the hallways. If there are technology needs to make this work and to avoid high touch items being shared (keyboard, mouse, etc.) please contact your building administration with specific needs. – UPDATED 7/23/20

o How should science labs be handled?

Sanitization wipes are available. Gloves are available for students to use while handling glassware and proper cleaning of all glassware should be a regular part of practice. Work with your curriculum coordinator to find alternative labs that may not require goggles if you do not have a UV google cabinet. Students may work in small groups but should be wearing face coverings when not able to maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing. – UPDATED 7/29/20

o How will grading work (especially if some students remain at home)? Online assessments vs in-person assessments are entirely different.

There will be no changes to grading. – 7/21/20

o Will grading be done like it was last spring if we choose Option 3 or if we go home?

No the traditional grading system will be used. – UPDATED 8/4/20

o Can a single teacher work with high school students?

No. Specific certifications are required to teach content area subjects in grades 6-12. Student scheduling is individualized at the 6-12 level making it not possible for students to stay in one classroom and have teachers just switch rooms each period. – UPDATED 7/29/20
Is it possible that for the duration of the pandemic state testing is suspended and the monies school districts allot for testing be diverted to funding district readiness?

We have no indication that testing will be suspended. We have already been informed of the Keystone dates. A fall testing window will be open for students that did not have an opportunity to test last spring to test earlier. The normal winter and spring testing windows will still be available and used. – UPDATED 8/24/20

When it comes to younger students, our curriculum is play-based and hands-on. How will play-based learning work? (Blocks, games, manipulatives, puzzles, kitchen, puppets, play-doh, cars, etc.).

There will be alternative learning options taking place. Sanitizing wipes will be available for high touch items. Social distancing of 6 feet will take place to the extent possible. 7/21/20

Can I put out a supplies list for students?

The district has purposefully gone away from providing a supplies list for parents. The district has ordered necessary supplies for students. – UPDATED 8/14/20

Will individual teachers be allowed to require students wear face coverings in their classroom?

District wide procedures will be developed for the requirement of students and staff. The current Department of Health order requires that all students and staff wear face coverings at all times. Students and staff with medical exemptions will need to let the District know of the exemption. Many alternatives to face masks are available. – UPDATED 8/24/20

If students pretend to cough or sneeze on each other or a staff member, how should this be handled at a disciplinary level?

Administration has drafted procedure to handle this as a “Miscellaneous Inappropriate Behavior” under the school discipline policy. Instances should be documented on a Behavior Incident Form. – UPDATED 8/14/20

Will students still be able to work with a tutor in small groups?

Yes, small groups for tutoring will still be fine in either in-person or distance learning. Appropriate protective precautions (face coverings, barriers, etc.) will be used depending on the situation. – UPDATED 7/29/20
- My child is in a Dual Enrollment (University of Pittsburgh-Bradford) course that is being taught by his/her high school teacher, how will COVID-19 have an impact on his/her course?

  College in High School (CHS) Dual Enrollment classes ARE available for the 2020-2021 school year – UPDATED 8/14/20 11:30

- Will there be the traditional classroom parties at the elementary levels?

  It is too early to determine what things are going to look like at Christmas, Valentine’s Day, etc. This is something we will continue to revisit as specific events get closer. – UPDATED 8/4/20

- Will students still be going on field trips this year?

  At this time, the district is not approving field trips for the 20-21 school year. As the year progresses, we will continue to evaluate the feasibility. – UPDATED 8/4/20

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**ART, MUSIC, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- What about Art teachers - how do we share supplies?

  You need to talk to your curriculum coordinator. We know additional supplies may be needed. Items that can be disinfected (such as scissors, rulers, etc.) will need to be cleaned after each use. In some cases, it is simply not practical to buy additional supplies. Students will need to wash their hands before and after use. – 8/4/20

- How are they going to implement social distancing with specials?

  Specials teachers will go to individual classrooms in K-5. PE teachers will use alternate settings such as outside or walking. Specials teachers in grades 6-12 will run their normal classes while adhering to social distancing guidelines and/or using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Procedures are being developed for band and chorus. – 7/21/20

- How will physical education classes happen?

  PE teachers should work with their curriculum coordinator and building principals on alternative class settings and alternate activities while following social distance guidelines. – UPDATED 8/24/20
Are students allowed to help clean physical education equipment?

Students may share equipment per the Athletic Health and Safety Plan, with high touch objects such as soccer balls or footballs wiped down periodically throughout. Students in grades K-4 cannot assist in cleaning. – **UPDATED 8/4/20**

Students are being encouraged to wear their gym clothes all day and that comes with hygiene issues. In addition, PE classes are some of the largest in the school and are usually made up of multiple grade levels. If students can’t share equipment what will the class expectations be?

PE teachers should work with their curriculum coordinator and building principals on alternative class settings and alternate activities while following social distance guidelines. **UPDATED 8/24/20**

Do students have to wear a face covering during gym class?

PE teachers should work with their curriculum coordinator and building principals on creating alternative activities for students this year. Face coverings will be required by the current order by the Dept. of Health when students are unable to maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

If class is held outdoors what happens in bad weather?

PE teachers should work with their curriculum coordinator and building principals. **UPDATED 8/24/20**

My child (ren) has done physical education through activity in the past. They have already scheduled for this year and did not take a physical education class. What happens if there are no activities that can be substituted this year?

Consideration is being given to multiple options. There are options in the WCSD Virtual Academy that can be used in Options 1, 2, or 3 for students to get their Physical Education credit. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

How will library books be handled and distributed?

Librarians will distribute books at the classroom level and books will be signed out with the handheld scanner. – **UPDATED 7/23/20**
How will music and choir classes work? Will we be following guidelines provided by groups like EdTA (International Thespian Organization) for activities like theater and band?

The Warren County School District will be following the NFHS, NAfME, and the NAMM Foundation recommendations and guidelines for handling musical instruments during the COVID-19 school shutdown period. Procedures continue to be developed for choir. No clear guidance has yet been provided on singing and choir – the District will continue to air on the side of caution in regards to singing. – UPDATED 8/24/20

Are elementary aged kids allowed to sing?

Guidance continues to change on singing with or without face coverings. The Department of Health has been working to assist our decision making, but the topic has not been widely researched. The district will take a conservative approach until it becomes clear. – UPDATED 8/4/20

SPECIAL EDUCATION

What if a child needs direct contact due to a special need and is unable to wear face covering?

Parents of students with special needs should be in contact with their home school to ensure the child’s needs are being met. Staff will be provided with a variety of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for working with students. – UPDATED 8/4/20

My child has an IEP – how will their needs be addressed?

Special Education teachers and support services will continue to be available and provided to students in all three options. Please contact Special Education Supervisors and Case Managers to discuss individual student needs. – UPDATED 7/29/20

What will be the protocol for special educators?

Special educators will continue to work with students to implement the IEP while following safety procedures when physical distancing is in effect to the extent possible. - 7/21/20
**SCHOOL RELATED SERVICES**

- How will we address the mental health needs of our students in a safe and effective manner?

  School counselors, behavioral specialists, school social workers, speech therapists, and outside agencies will still be utilized to provide services to students and are considered “Essential Visitors” to buildings. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be required and provided. The list of services available may change based on the state “color” designation. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

- Will all specialists/support staff still push-in? Will they push-in to multiple classrooms?

  This will be determined by your administrators. We will continue to meet IEP needs of students. – **7/21/20**

- Will there still be the 21st Century After-School Program this year?

  Yes, while it may look different, the District is still planning on providing the 21st Century After-School Program for the 2020-2021 school year. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

- Will districts provide classrooms with amplification systems for hearing impaired students to hear their masked teachers?

  We provide amplification systems to any teacher who needs one, and we will continue to do so. – **7/21/20**

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**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

- Will there still be sports?

  Yes – the District is following PIAA guidelines for the implementation of sports. This may change as orders from the Department of Health change. As of 8/21/20, the PIAA has determined that participation in sports will be left up to local districts to make decisions based on their current school and community transmission rates. The District’s Athletic Health and Safety Plan is available on the WCSD webpage. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**
Will there be fans at games?

This will depend upon the current order from the state Department of Health. PIAA announced on 7/29/20 that there will be **no** spectators allowed for **fall** sporting events. The Athletic Health and Safety Plan on the WCSD webpage outlines restrictions based on green and yellow phases.

– **UPDATED 7/29/20**

How will events like Back to School Night, Meet the Teacher, first year orientations, and parent-teacher conferences be handled?

Building administrators will be working on procedures for beginning of the year events. First year student (new to building) in person orientations will be considered in small groups – other Meet the Teacher and Building Tours will be developed virtually. Individual schools should be contacted for their beginning of the year orientations and tours. **UPDATED 8/24/20**

Will there be allowed to be dances and Homecoming/Prom activities?

This will depend on the current phase based on the Department of Health directives. Determinations will have to be made as we get closer to the dates of the events. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

If a student chooses Option 2 or Option 3, are they still able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, a student participating in the WCSD Virtual Academy (Option 2) or distance learning (Option 3) are able to participate in extracurricular activities at their home school. Specifics about the District’s Athletic Health and Safety Plan can be found on the WCSD webpage. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

BUILDINGS AND SPACE

What will happen with classrooms that we set up with tables and have flex seating like bouncy balls?

When at all possible, the students should stay in their seat / desk, and the teacher should move between classrooms. The District is looking at alternate seating options. Desks will be sanitized in between classes and hand sanitizer will be available. - **7/21/20**
What will happen with lunch?

Building principals are working with cafeteria staff to create plans for different phases based on the Department of Health order. Options include spacing students out to the greatest extent possible and finding multiple alternative locations for students to eat breakfast and lunch. Each building will be unique in the plans created. Procedures are being created to minimize high-touch areas. Students will continue to have the option of packing or buying lunch from the school. The current 25 person indoor order does not apply to lunch. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

Will there be allowed to be outside volunteers this year?

This will depend on what the current Department of Health orders are at the time. District administrators have developed Essential and Non-Essential volunteer lists to provide guidance during different phases. Those wishing to volunteer should still fill out Volunteer applications to be Board approved. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

With orders saying no gatherings over 25 indoors, what does that mean for schools and class sizes?

The current order does not apply to school buildings. Building principals are working with schedules to manage class sizes. Large classes are being reassigned to larger, more open areas as possible within the building (auditorium, large group instruction areas, cafeterias, etc.). – **UPDATED 7/23/20**

**ATTENDANCE**

Will the state attendance laws be changed so students/families aren't compelled to come to school sick?

There is no indication that state laws regarding truancy will be changed. District attendance procedures will focus on unexcused absences for students. Excuses will still be required for students with absences and should be turned in within three (3) school days. An excuse template will be available on the district and individual school webpages. - **UPDATED 8/14/20**

How will educational trips be handled for students?

District procedures are being examined to determine how to handle educational trips that families may take. – **UPDATED 7/23/20**
OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL IN THE WCSD 2020-2021

AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- What options are available for my child in the WCSD for education for the 2020-2021 school year?

  The District will be providing three options for students for the upcoming school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Option 1 is traditional “brick and mortar”, in-person education within the schools, using appropriate precautions and using Personal Protective Equipment when appropriate. Option 2 is enrollment in the WCSD Virtual Academy, an “asynchronous” (learn at your own pace) learning environment. These courses are backed by WCSD teachers working with virtual academy students. Option 3 provides a combination option where students will be able to learn from a distance, using online platforms, with WCSD teachers in a “synchronous” (scheduled) learning environment with live lessons from 7:55 – 3:15. With Option 3 students would follow their traditional school schedule. – UPDATED 7/23/20

- What is the start date for school this year?

  The first Professional Development Day for Teachers is August 27th. Teachers will also participate in Professional Development on August 28th, and there is a Teacher Work Day on August 31st. The first day for students in every Option (1, 2, and 3) is Tuesday, September 1st, 2020. – UPDATED 8/4/20

- Will all of the available options ensure that my child meets their graduation requirements?

  Yes – UPDATED 7/29/20

- If I choose Option 1 and schools are forced to close, what happens then?

  Students would have the option of either enrolling in the WCSD Virtual Academy full-time or transitioning into Option 3. Students moving to Option 3 would continue to have their same classroom teacher. Classes would continue to operate from 7:55 – 3:15 following the normal master schedule. – UPDATED 7/23/20

- Will remediation and enrichment continue to be available in both Option 2 and Option 3?

  Yes – Reading Specialists and Gifted teachers will continue to provide support for students in Option 3. Remediation and Enrichment options are available within the WCSD Virtual Academy. – UPDATED 7/29/20
Will elementary students be expected to be online every day from 8:00 – 3:15?

This depends on the option chosen if a parent does not choose Option 1. In Option 2, student time online is flexible. They do need to meet a minimum time requirement in the system, but it is not restricted to the normal scheduled day. A student can do all of their hours consecutively, or break up the day and do their instruction in chunks of time, as long as they are meeting the number of required hours. If a parent/student chooses Option 3, the expectation is that they will follow the normally scheduled classes that they would if they were attending in person. Teachers will also be checking in with students multiple times per day through small group follow-up lessons. – UPDATED 7/23/20

If a student or a member of their family is considered “high risk”, what would be the best option for us to choose?

All questions regarding health care and risk should be discussed with your personal doctor. The District will be making staffing decisions in the very near future, so we encourage you to reach out to the HR department very soon to work through your options. – UPDATED 8/4/20

OPTION 2 – WCSD VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Are there live lessons for Option 2?

At the elementary level there are live lessons and a WCSD teacher available for live lessons and questions. At the middle and high school level (6-12) teachers are available through email and by appointment for questions. There is at least one live lesson per unit at the 6-12 level. – UPDATED 7/29/20

How much time does my child have to spend online each day in Option 2?

Students must login at least five days a week and progress through the course work assigned for the week (Monday-Friday). Specific time requirements are as follows:

Elementary Students: K-2: 3 hours online, 2 hours and 15 minutes logged offline
3: 4 hours online, 1 hour and 15 minutes logged offline
4-5: 5 hours online, 15 minutes logged offline

Middle School and High School students: 5 hours and 45 minutes total per day

Failure to adhere to this will impact school attendance and initiate district attendance procedures and policy. – UPDATED 8/24/20
Do we have to fill out an application to do the WCSD Virtual Academy?

Yes – there is an application for the WCSD Virtual Academy that needs to be completed. The application is available online on the WCSD webpage, at the WCSD Central Office, and at the individual buildings. If an application is not completed, students will not be enrolled in WCSD Virtual Academy courses. – UPDATED 8/24/20

Is my child able to get all of the classes that they would be able to take in the school in the WCSD Virtual Academy?

No. While the curriculum is aligned to the same WCSD curriculum used in classrooms, specific course offerings and electives from the physical school building may not be available within the WCSD Virtual Academy. However, the WCSD Virtual Academy offers a wide variety of electives that are not offered within the school building. For this reason, many students in the school buildings opt to use the WCSD Virtual Academy as a supplement when they use in-person educational options. – UPDATED 8/4/20

Would the teacher lessons from Option 3 be recorded and used for “asynchronous” Option 2 learning?

No – those choosing the Option 2 “asynchronous” option would be using the WCSD Virtual Academy. Recorded in-person lessons from the home school classroom are not included in the WCSD Virtual Academy program. – UPDATED 7/29/20

OPTION 3 – WCSD DISTANCE LEARNING

What online platforms will be used for Option 3?

Students in grades K-5 will use the WCSD Virtual Academy as the primary platform for Option 3. These lessons will be supplemented with live follow-up lessons from the student’s normal classroom teacher through Zoom. Students in grades 6-12 will use a combination of the WCSD Virtual Academy and Microsoft Teams. Core content classes and electives, as well as World Language courses, will use Microsoft Teams. Specials classes (Health and Physical Education, STEM, Art, Music, Tech Ed, Library, FCS, Computer) will use the WCSD Virtual Academy. – UPDATED 7/23/20
Will offline packets be available for Option 3 like they were last spring?

At this time, the District is not preparing offline paper packets.  – UPDATED 7/29/20

For Option 3, will teachers be live-streaming their classrooms?

At the elementary level, if school is in session, a separate WCSD teacher will be assigned to students that choose Option 3 and teaching live-streamed lessons to distance learning students. The elementary classroom with students present in-person will not be live-streamed. At the middle and high school level (6-12), core class content will be live-streamed. Teachers will share screens of content with online distance learning students and they will be able to hear questions and lecture content. Lessons will be recorded and available for one week for students that have absences.  – UPDATED 8/24/20

Will my child be able to see their peers if they choose Option 3?

Not necessarily. Teachers will choose what to share on their screens to be accessible to students participating in Option 3 and how to complete any group work and activities. Students that choose Option 3 will still have access to all class content, be able to listen to their teacher lecture, and hear and ask questions.  – UPDATED 8/4/20

What if my child misses a teacher “live lesson” with his/her teacher?

The Warren County School District teachers will record live lessons and provide the students the opportunity to review that lesson at a later time. Students will be required to provide excuses for missing live lessons, just as they would a regular absence in a brick and mortar setting.  – UPDATED 8/24/20

If I’m considering Option 3 for my child (ren) do I have to start the year that way?

No, you are able to switch to Option 2 or Option 3 at any point during the school year.  – UPDATED 7/29/20

What happens if my child has a doctor’s appointment and they are doing Option 3?

Excuses are required if students miss a live lesson, miss a half day of school work, or are absent due to illness or appointment. Excuses must be emailed to the home school within three school days or mailed to the home school with five school days or the absence will be considered unlawful or unexcused. All Pennsylvania truancy laws will be followed.  – UPDATED 7/29/20
CAREER CENTER AND ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- What about the Warren County Career Center? Will it be running this year?
  Yes, the WCSD will continue to offer the Career Center as an option for students. Typically, these are large spaces in which students will be able to spread out. Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will also be in place at the Career Center. – UPDATED 7/23/20

- Will students from all of the county schools continue to go to the Career Center at the same time?
  Yes, the hands on nature of the learning that occurs at the WCCC and the time spent in the WCCC classrooms is necessary for the integrity of the program. 8/4/20

- Can students go to the Warren County Career Center and choose an online option?
  Yes, students have been doing this and can continue to choose this as their option utilizing either Option 2 or Option 3. The online option would be applicable to their non-Career Center courses. The Career Center courses are not currently offered as online options – UPDATED 8/24/20

- What happens if schools close again – would my child be able to do their Career Center course online to complete their program?
  The Career Center teachers are currently building their programs virtually so that students would be able to complete the courses virtually, if necessary. The district is advocating for these students to be able to attend during a closure, but we will have to wait to see if it is approved if we have to close. – UPDATED 8/4/20

- Can Career Center classes be done through Option 3?
  No, the hands on nature of the learning that occurs at the WCCC and the time spent in the WCCC classrooms is necessary for the integrity of the program. Students may, however, participate in their other classes as either Option 2 or Option 3 and still attend the Career Center in person. – UPDATED 8/14/20
o Are St. Bonaventure Dual Enrollment classes still an option for this year?
   Yes. – UPDATED 7/29/20

o My child is in a Dual Enrollment (University of Pittsburgh-Bradford) course that is being taught by his/her high school teacher, how will COVID-19 have an impact on his/her course?

   College in High School (CHS) Dual Enrollment classes ARE available for the 2020-2021 school year – UPDATED 8/14/20 11:30

o My child has taken Virtual classes in the past as a supplement to in-person learning. Can they still do this if I choose Option 1?

   Yes, your child may still be able to take a Virtual Academy course and work on it as his/her own pace as you normally would in any given school year. – UPDATED 7/29/20

o My child has taken Virtual classes in the past as a supplement to in-person learning. Can they still do this if I choose Option 3?

   Yes, your child may still be able to take a Virtual Academy course and work on it as his/her own pace as you normally would in any given school year. – UPDATED 7/29/20

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**SWITCHING BETWEEN OPTIONS**

o Can I switch between Option 2 and Option 3?

   Yes but it may not be a seamless transition. The District is in the process of aligning courses in the WCSD Virtual Academy with in-person courses. The same standards will be taught in platforms but the content and the sequence may differ. – UPDATED 7/23/20

o If my child (ren) is/are going to switch between any of the options, how much notice needs to be given?

   Student schedules will need to be created/altered and courses uploaded if students switch between the multiple options. Typically three (3) school days’ notice should be given if switching between options. If a student decides to attend the WCSD Virtual Academy, an application specific to the WCSD Virtual Academy must be filled out. This application is available on the district webpage. – UPDATED 8/24/20
- If a student is forced to quarantine, will they be able to use Option 2 or Option 3 while in quarantine?

  Yes, students will be able to switch to one of the other options to prevent missing educational time. – UPDATED 7/29/20.

- If things go “back to normal” what will the transition look like?

  Students will be able to switch between the various options throughout the 2020-2021 school year. – UPDATED 7/29/20

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**TECHNOLOGY AND DEVICES**

- What if we do not have a computer or laptop at home for my child to complete online work?

  The Warren County School District is working with families to assist with those families that do not have a computer or laptop at home. The parent will be responsible to inform the district of family needs. Please contact your building principal of any technology needs such as a computer or laptop. It is important that parents have completed the Student Technology Needs Survey on the district and building webpages. – UPDATED 7/29/20

- What if I have multiple children that need a laptop at the same time? Can I get more than one device?

  Parents should make sure to take the Student Technology Needs Survey so that there is an accurate picture of how many devices each family may need. – UPDATED 7/29/20

- What happens if my family borrows a district laptop or other device and it gets damaged?

  A parent acknowledgement form is designed and explains the procedures and costs if a district laptop or other device gets damaged or broken. – UPDATED 7/29/20
1. **What if we go to online learning and we do not have Internet service at our home?**

   The Warren County School District is working with families to assist with those families that do not have Internet service at home. The district bought ‘hot spots’ for families to utilize. The ‘hot spots’ need AT&T cellular service in order to work. The District is in the process of acquiring Verizon hotspots as well. If you are experiencing difficulties with Internet service, please be sure you have completed the WCSD technology survey and contacted your child’s building principal. – **UPDATED 8/24/20**

2. **What if we go to online learning and can’t get cellular service at my home?**

   The Warren County School District is working on various areas in the community that will have ‘hot spots’ for families to utilize such as a local church. A list of these ‘hot spots’ will be provided to those in need. If this option is not feasible, please contact your child’s building principal on specific needs. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

3. **How much bandwidth is required for live-streaming? Will hotspots be available if I have multiple children needing to stream?**

   High-speed internet connections should be sufficient for live-streaming lessons or participating in the WCSD Virtual Academy. If hotspots are needed for additional demand, please make sure to fill out the Student Technology Needs Survey so the District has an accurate view of the needs of families. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

4. **What if my child forgets his/her username and password when logging into the online learning platform?**

   Please contact your child’s home building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

5. **What if we are having internet trouble on a particular school day?**

   Students or parents should report any internet or online virtual program issues by calling the WCSD Virtual Academy (Option 2) or the home school (Option 3) between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the day you are experiencing difficulties. – **UPDATED 8/14/20**
o Will teachers be provided cameras and microphones for the classroom for Option 3? What about extra monitors?

Yes, webcams and microphones will be provided for teachers to be able to instruct through Option 3. Additional technology needs should be directed to building principals. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

o Do students need a printer if they are doing virtual learning?

Printers are not needed for materials if students are doing either of the virtual options. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

o Will technology be available for teachers to use if remote learning becomes a necessity?

Individual needs for employees (computers, hot spots, headsets, etc.) should be addressed to building principals. – **UPDATED 7/23/20**

o Can Option 2 or Option 3 be done on any type of device (iPad, Kindle Fire Tablet, Chromebook, laptop, etc.)?

The WCSD Virtual Academy and Microsoft Teams can run on Windows or Apple Devices. The WCSD Virtual Academy is not currently supported for Kindle Fire Tablets and is recommended for usage on Chromebooks, Windows operating systems, or the Chrome app on iPads. – **UPDATED 7/29/20**

o My child has never participated in virtual education before and neither have I. How will we know how to operate the WCSD Virtual Academy or Microsoft Teams?

“How-to” guides have been developed for parents and students. At the beginning of the school year, students who choose Option 1 will be directed on how to use the assigned platform from their classroom teacher during the first week in case the need arises for schools to close. – **UPDATED 7/23/20**