

Warren County R-III School District

2023-24 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



“Home of the Warriors”

Revised September 14, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide information to the Warren County R-III community on how the Warren County R-III School District intends to open schools safely. Local and State Officials are learning more about COVID-19 everyday. This document could likely change as new information becomes available.

SERVING THE WARREN COUNTY R-III COMMUNITY

The Warren County R-III School District is committed to serving our students and educating them in the most effective way possible. During the COVID-19 shutdown we have realized the importance of face to face learning. We also realize that having an educational environment for parents to send their children while they go to work is an extremely important aspect of fully opening up our local economy.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the general school handbook, the below protocol will be followed:

All parents teach healthy habits to children before school begins.

- Educate your child on viruses and the signs of illness
- Teach appropriate hand washing, good hygiene and social distancing
- Teach your child how to appropriately wear a mask and when to use them (if desired)

All teachers reinforce healthy habits to children during school.

- Make time in the day for good handwashing
- Encourage students to maintain social distancing when possible

Respiratory Etiquette

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use

Minimizing Building Access

To minimize the need for people to be in the building other than necessary employees and students, the District is requesting the following:

- Parents are encouraged to call ahead if they have a need to visit the school, outside emergency situations.
- During the regular school day, parents and guests will not be allowed beyond the office without approval from the building administration.

HEALTH PROTOCOL

Handwashing:

- All persons are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer when they come to school, and throughout the school day.
- Encourage all persons to wash hands after blowing noses, coughing or sneezing or when in contact with bodily fluids.

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive.

It is recommended students and employees are tested for COVID-19 if they exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19.

Criteria for exclusion may be provided by the local health department at the time of exclusion based on the most current CDC guidance.

Screening prior to attending schools

Students (with assistance from parents) and employees should **self-screen** prior to coming to school or expect to be screened before entering the school building.

Wearing Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Parents who send their child with a mask should teach them appropriate usage.
- If a mask or other PPE is disruptive to the educational environment the principal may call the parent/guardian.

Continuity of Services

Students needing social, emotional and mental health needs will have access to the district's educational support counselors as needed. Students who are absent will follow the building's make-up work procedure the same as any other absence.

Children with Disabilities

The appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities will be made to meet the requirements of their I.E.P. Accommodations for the health and safety of students with disabilities will also be made as needed.

Return to School After Exclusion for Testing Positive for COVID-19

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment for testing positive for COVID-19, they may return only if they satisfy the recommendations of the current CDC guidelines or approved by their physician.

Siblings or Other Students in the Household

The district recommends testing prior to returning to school if a positive case is in the home. This is not a requirement to return to school.

Separation While in School

Each school must have a room or space separate from the nurse's office where students or employees who may have COVID-19 or another communicable disease will wait to be evaluated or for pickup. Students may be given a mask to wear. Only essential staff and students assigned to the room may enter, all will sign in so that there is a record of the persons who entered the room, and the room will be disinfected after each use. Strict social distancing is required, and staff must wear appropriate PPE.

Medically Fragile Students

The district will work with families to provide the safest possible location to provide special care needs such as tube feeding and nebulizers to minimize exposure to students who might be ill. Nebulizer treatments will only be given in an emergency. They may be given outside whenever

possible to reduce possible exposure to the aerosol that is produced when giving a nebulizer treatment. Students experiencing acute asthma attacks should not be attending school without approval by a healthcare provider, due to symptoms of asthma and COVID-19 overlapping (cough and shortness of breath).

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the School Building

When a positive case has been identified in a school building an email will not be sent to the classroom in which a positive case has occurred. This is consistent with the procedure of other illnesses.

Breakfast/Lunch

Lunch and breakfast will be provided in the cafeteria.

Physical Distancing

When possible physical distancing will be encouraged.

Cleaning

Additional cleaning supplies will be provided to each classroom so tables and desks can be cleaned more often.

Vaccination

The vaccine is not required for children to attend schools.

School Closures

School will shut down if there is not enough staff in attendance to operate the school. In the unlikely event we have to shut school down completely, we have the option to use our AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction) days. We are allowed 5 total AMI days for both weather and COVID shut downs. After we are out of AMI days we are required to make up the days we missed. For example, if the high school has to shut down for 3 days for COVID, then we have 5 AMI weather days, the high school will have to make up the 3 days they were shut down due to COVID.

Plan Available In Other Languages

This plan will be translated to any language using translation software for any family that needs it in another language. For families who employ oral traditions the plan will be told to them.

Revisions

This plan will be reviewed periodically. As recommendations change from the CDC, DHSS, or our local health department, this plan will be adjusted. It will be reviewed at least once in a 6 month period. This plan was presented to the board of education on August 12, 2021 with the opportunity for the public to comment on this plan. This plan was revised at the August 26, 2021 school board meeting. This plan was revised at the September 9, 2021 school board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was revised at the September 23, 2021 school board meeting. This plan was revised at the October 14, 2021 school board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was revised at the November 11, 2021 school board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was revised at the December 9, 2021 school board meeting with opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was approved at the January 13, 2022 board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was approved at the January 27, 2022 board meeting. This plan was approved at the February 10, 2022 board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was approved at the February 24, 2022 meeting. This plan was revised and approved at the March 10, 2022 meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was revised and approved at the September 8, 2022 school board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was approved at the April 13, 2023 school board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. This plan was approved at the September 14, 2023 board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. The plan was approved at the March 14, 2024 board meeting with the opportunity for the public to comment on the plan.

Consultation has been made with students, families, school and district administrators, special education administrators, teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.