

Weatherford Public Schools

Safe Return Plan

2021-2022

Revised: August 3, 2021

Return to Learn Update

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we continue to face some uncertainty regarding the impact of COVID-19. District policies and practices will remain fluid as we respond to new information and work through any issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the precautions/protocols that were developed during the past year may continue. We ask that all families help to reinforce the importance of following the recommended safety guidelines, which will minimize the potential spread and keep our schools open. This document is a working document which will change as needed based on the current COVID-19 status and recommendations of health professionals and/or the Department of Education. It is not intended to be a complete plan, but an initial outline of strategies and protocols based on the current community health threat to our students and staff.

Everyone should prepare for the possibility of disruptions during the 2021-2022 school year due to the continued pandemic and addition of the Delta Variant. We are doing the best we can to establish protocols and stability for students, staff, and families. However, this public health crisis is unprecedented and circumstances and advice from health professions continue to develop. Because keeping the community healthy depends on self-assessment, we are asking that if your student is experiencing symptoms they stay home to limit possible exposure.

WPS Learning Options (2021-2022 School Year)

Parents will be given an option to choose one of two learning environments for each of their children. Should you have questions, please contact your child's principal. Phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the WPS website.

- *Option 1: In-Person Learning (Grades Pk-12)*
- *Option 2: Virtual Learning (Grades K – 12)*

Interruptions at School/Continuity of Academic Services

In the event of a large outbreak of COVID-19, WPS may decide to activate distance learning for all students who select "In-Person Learning." In the event of a disruption, WPS will have measures in place to ensure continuity of student learning. Students with Special Needs Individualized Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans, and English Language Academic Plans will be followed with the assistance of site principals. District-related service providers, such as speech and OT/PT, will be in contact with students and parents to arrange for continued services within the constraints of the public health crisis. IEP and 504 meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone

or video conference. All IEP/504 team members are required to participate. For information about IEP and 504 plans, contact Melissa Jarvis at mjarvis@wpsok.org. For information about English Language Services, you may contact Jeanie Minton at jminton@wpsok.org

Continuity of Non-Academic Services

If distance learning is activated due to COVID-19, WPS will have the capability to provide free drive-thru/pick up meal services for all students.

Social, Emotional, Mental Health Services

- All school sites will maintain full-time counselors.
- WPS is the recipient of the Project AWARE Grant. This grant has been implemented to increase mental health awareness and accessibility to mental health treatment.
- AWARE Counselors: Stephanie Perkins-sperkins@wpsok.org or Kelly Lackey-klackey@wpsok.org

Health Monitoring of Students

It is important that all families partner with the district in monitoring the health of students and families. Students with a fever or other prominent COVID-19 symptoms (dry cough, shortness of breath, congestion, runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, body aches, chills, etc.) should not be sent to school until they are fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours. Families are expected to monitor the health of their children. Parents or guardians will need to notify the school if their child is symptomatic or has had possible exposure to COVID-19. If anyone in your household has had a possible exposure to COVID-19 and is being tested, please quarantine your student until test results are received.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to update COVID-19 guidelines including quarantine recommendations. WPS will utilize the latest guidelines provided by the CDC as well as guidance from state and local health department officials when making decisions regarding cases of and/or exposures to COVID-19.

Vaccinations

To promote health and wellness in our school and community, WPS will work closely with community partners (e.g., local pharmacies, Custer County Health Department, Indian Health Services, SWOSU) to facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible students, faculty, and staff.

Facial Coverings

SB 658 prohibits the school board of a public school district or technology center school district from implementing a mask mandate unless they have consulted with the local county or city-county health department within the jurisdiction where the board is located and when that jurisdiction is under a current state of emergency declared by the Governor.

Facial coverings are an option for students, staff, and guests to wear, but are not required. Masks will not be required unless there is an increased risk of community spread meeting the requirements listed above. Weatherford Schools will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19, and our policy may change under advisement of health officials.

Although masks will not be required, CDC guidelines provide scientific reasons why wearing masks can help limit the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. [Studies and evidence](#) on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths).

Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.

- *Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.*
- *Cloth face coverings can be made from household items. (CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>).*

Physical Distancing

When possible, physical distancing recommendations will be followed during the 2021-2022 school year. Creating pods within school sites will be utilized as needed to limit exposure. An A/B schedule could be put in place if needed. Parents will be notified to make arrangements for any change in schedules.

Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

The following actions will be taken by WPS to reduce the chance of COVID spread:

- Communication to students and staff promoting behaviors that reduce spread, such as frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette, will continue.
- Each classroom will be provided an adequate supply of hand sanitizer, spray disinfectant, and towels. When available, disinfectant wipes will also be provided.
- Adequate provision of hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes in common areas.
- The district will continue to disinfect all spaces as often as possible.

Transportation

Due to lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we are not able to decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses when possible; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses. Parents are encouraged to transport students to school if possible.

To protect drivers and students while riding the bus we will

- Increase ventilation on buses by lowering windows when weather allows
- Encourage students to wear masks
- Encourage bus drivers wear masks when necessary
- Clean and disinfect buses daily

Transportation rules can be found in the WPS student handbooks.

Visitors

Campus visitors will be limited to essential business and educational partnerships within the district during the 2021-2022 school year in an effort to help limit exposure to both students and staff. All campus visitors must check in at the office for clearance

into the buildings. Visitors will be required to follow the procedures below when entering buildings.

- Highly recommend the wearing of masks when moving beyond the office. This is required for all outside vendors and highly recommended for members of educational partnerships visiting the campus.
- Must wash/sanitize hands when entering the buildings

Must complete a self-assessment checklist if moving beyond the office. The level of community outbreak will determine who is allowed in the buildings during a normal school day and will continue to be monitored and adjusted throughout the school year.

Athletics, Fine Arts & Other Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are an important part of student learning and growth. WPS will provide as normal of routine as possible for our students.

Procedures for athletics and extracurricular activities will be followed in conjunction with recommendations from OSSAA and our local health professionals. Information about practices and precautions will be posted through each activity's sponsor or department.

Contact Tracing

Parents will be notified via email or phone if it is confirmed their student has been in contact at school with someone who tests positive with COVID-19.

Quarantine Policy

WPS will encourage everyone to follow the CDC and the Custer County Health Department guidelines for quarantining. A full list of guidance can be found on the CDC website.

When to quarantine:

Anyone who has had close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with COVID-19.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does **NOT** need to stay home.

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Or

- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- Has recovered **and**
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Length of quarantine(s):

WPS encourages everyone to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Custer County Health Department if you need to quarantine. Quarantine can be shortened from 14 days based on the following.

- After day 10 without testing and no symptoms
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

Continuation of school work

Parents and students will work with site administrators and teachers to develop a plan of study during times of quarantine.

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions

Weatherford has an extremely supportive community with a focus on what is best for our children. Our success in responding to the 2021-2022 school year during COVID-19 conditions will require continued community support, everyone working together, and strong communication.

For any questions, comments, or suggestions related to the “Safe Return Plan” or if interested in serving on the committee, please contact the district office at (580)772-3327. You may also email Superintendent of Schools Jill Henderson at jhenderson@wpsok.org or the Assistant Superintendent Steven Callen at scallen@wpsok.org.

ARP-ESSER III Plan for Use of Funds
Weatherford Public Schools

Weatherford Public Schools has been in meaningful consultation with stakeholders through in-person collaboration and a web survey to develop a plan for the use of ARP- ESSER III funds. The following plan resulted from information gleaned during these times of consultation.

Weatherford Public School will use ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with CDC guidance on reopening schools to safely open school and conduct in-person learning. Weatherford Public Schools were open during the entire 2020-2021 school year and learned many management strategies to lean upon for the 2021-2022 school year. The school will use our local and state health agencies as resources when making the best purchase decisions from ESSER III monies to help prevent our school being shut down during a pandemic situation

Weatherford Public Schools will reserve 20% of our ESSER III funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time. Weatherford Public Schools has met with students, teachers, community stakeholders and representatives of various groups to gain ideas on how to best spend our funds to close the instructional gap of our students. The ideas that came from our collaboration to use our \$493,724.36 include updated textbooks with technology components, providing a credit recovery program for high school students. A virtual learning option. After school and summer tutoring. Curriculum training and support for teachers. Summer camps using evidence-based interventions. Camps will possibly include, but not be limited to, ACT Prep, a STEM/Engineering camp, science camp, writer's workshop camp, reading camps that would include book clubs and an artist in residence camp. The ideas will continue to grow and improve during the use of our ESSER III funds availability.

Weatherford Public Schools will spend its remaining ARP ESSER III funds consistent with the uses authorized in section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act. Our remaining amount, after reserving 20% for academic loss, is \$1,974,897.41. Weatherford Public Schools will diligently follow all spending guidelines put forth by the State Department of Education. Ideas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Instruction
- Salaries
- Attendance and Social Work Services
- Guidance Services
- Psychological Services
- Homelessness

Curriculum
Staff Training/Professional Development
Library Media Services
Student Assessment
Legal Services related to Covid-19
Technology
Community Relation Services
Recruitment and Placement Services
Administrative Technology Services
Operation of Buildings
Care and Upkeep of Grounds
Care and Upkeep of Equipment
Security
Safety
Transportation Needs
Vehicle Servicing and Maintenance
Child Nutrition

Weatherford Public Schools will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to those implemented under section 2001(e)(1) will respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including students from low-income families, students of color, and English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care and migratory students. Weatherford Public Schools will provide motivating speakers to staff and students, provide leadership opportunities for high school age students and summer enrichment programs to meet the diverse needs of specialized groups. More ideas will be put in place as extended collaboration is held with stakeholders of Weatherford Public Schools.