

Warrensburg CSD 2021-22 COVID Response Plan

On February 27, 2022, NYS Governor Hochul announced the lifting of the mask mandate in schools, effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022. The district remains committed to taking a cautious approach to this so that we remain able to keep schools open, and students and staff are safe and healthy. We will follow the guidance that has been provided and make adjustments accordingly as we move forward.

This plan shall be fluid and flexible allowing for optional mask use while keeping other mitigation protocols the same. This plan will be updated when changes are made in the district.

Mission

The chief priorities for the 2021-22 school year continue to be to:

- Students will be in school for in person learning 100% of the time
- Safely maintain in-person learning for all students
- Maintain the offering of co-curriculars, extracurricular activities, and athletics for students

Unless a mandatory quarantine is issued by Warren County Public Health Services, there will be no remote learning option for students. In consultation with the Warrensburg CSD school physicians, Hudson Headwaters Health Network, a number of health and safety protocols will be implemented beginning September 8, 2021, the first day of school for grades PreK-12.

Please note: this plan is a fluid document subject to change based on Warren County's COVID-19 community rate. Community rates are measured by the CDC's four-category system of low, moderate, substantial, and high. As of today, March 2, 2022, the rate of transmission in Warren County is LOW. The District will post this link on the district webpage.

Other Health/Safety Protocols and Policies

Masks:

- Masks are optional for students and staff in both indoor and outdoor settings and on school transportation. They are also optional for all co-curricular activities.
- It is expected that everyone will be respectful of individual's personal choices regarding mask wearing
- Masks must be worn if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 when returning on Days 6-10.

Attendance

- All students are expected to attend school in-class every day
- Quarantined students will be provided with assignments via Google Classroom.

Social/Physical Distancing:

- Small groups and interactive learning opportunities are permissible
- Whenever feasible, the district will try to maintain social distancing in spaces that allow

Transportation

- Windows/vents open to the extent possible
- There will be assigned seating on all buses
- Only students who live beyond the walking limits will be allowed on the buses
- Buses will be disinfected/sanitized daily

Cafeteria

- During warm weather, opportunities for outdoor eating will be provided whenever possible
- Proper hand hygiene will be used and encouraged
- Daily cleaning/sanitizing will be done

Athletics:

- Pursuant to NYSPHSAA, Section II and Adirondack League regulations

Use of school facilities

- No indoor use of school facilities by outside groups during county designation of high community rates
- Outdoor use of facilities by outside groups will be permitted
- Use of any school facilities by outdoor groups will be subject to regular district policy and requirements

Parent/Volunteers visitation

- Parents/Volunteers will be allowed into the school buildings by appointment
- Masks are optional

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies**Daily Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures and Protocols**

The district will continue regular cleaning and disinfection daily or more frequently, as needed, along with frequent cleaning and disinfection of shared objects and surfaces as well as high transit areas, such as restrooms and common areas.

- Bathrooms: touchless sinks, toilets (flushometers) soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Water fountains capped and replaced with water filling stations. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home.
- Filtration/Ventilation: ensure maximum outside air is utilized in all HVAC equipment by monitoring the EMS system for outside damper positions when appropriate.
- Classrooms will be disinfected daily
- Primary products used: EPA approved disinfectants, disinfecting mist/fogger, disinfecting sprays & surface wipes
- Use of hand sanitizer and the practice of good hygiene will be taught/encouraged
- All staff will have access to PPE

Testing Protocols

In an effort to mitigate potential cases of COVID-19, Warrensburg CSD intends to implement the following protocols for the testing of symptomatic students:

- Students or staff members who are symptomatic will be sent to the nurses office for an evaluation and guidance.
- Nurses may administer COVID testing as part of the evaluation process with parental approval.
- The district can provide rapid home test kits to students and staff members who would like one as long as we have supplies available.
- Students or staff who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to test during this time period.
- Unvaccinated staff are still required to test weekly.
- All testing requirements will be implemented following DOH regulations.

2021-22 Warrensburg CSD Nurses COVID-19 Protocols

Send home a student and perform diagnostic test (with parent approval) when student exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Fever over 100.0
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Loss of smell or taste

Use nursing judgment when a student has only one symptom; the COVID-19 symptom list is extensive and includes many systems in our bodies.

- Does the student have more than one symptom?
- How severe is the symptom?
- Is anyone at home sick?
- What are the exposure factors (both known and unknown)
- Did the student recently travel? Do they have houseguests? Is anyone at home sick?
Were they at a birthday party over the weekend? Do they know anyone who has recently tested positive? Where do the parents work? Etc.
- Gather background information; headaches often go away with a bottle of water and rest.
What did the student eat for lunch? Did they take medication on an empty stomach before school therefore causing a stomach ache?
- Call the teacher and/or counselor and see if there is something else going on