

COVID-19 Protocols SY 2021-2022

The Webster Public School District is committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. *The protocols outlined below are subject to change based on guidance and data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Public Health (DPH) and, the Local Board of Health (LBOH), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).*

COVID-19 Exposure Plan

The following outlines the plan that will be followed by the school nurses in coordination with building and district administration for possible or known exposure to COVID-19.

Isolation:

A confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 case

- 10 days of isolation from onset of symptoms, can return on day 11 (as long as symptoms have improved).

Quarantine:

A close contact is defined as an individual who was within 6 feet of a positive individual for a cumulative total of 15 minutes within a 24 hour period

- For in school exposure
 - Those under 3 feet of the positive individual will have to quarantine
 - Those who are within 3-6 feet of the positive individual will be notified of possible exposure, but will not have to quarantine
- For community exposure - those within 6 feet of the positive individual will have to quarantine
- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, they should stay home from school and be tested.

Testing during quarantine:

- No test - 10 days of quarantine are required. Can return on day 11 if asymptomatic.
- Negative test on day 5, 6 or 7 - can return on day 8 if asymptomatic. **
- Positive test at any point during quarantine - see above Isolation timeline.
- **Documentation of the negative test with name, date test was done, and test result is required to be turned into the School Nurse in order to return to school earlier than day 11 of quarantine.

Under Investigation:

- Those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not report to school if symptoms are present prior to the school day, and should contact their School Nurse to discuss next steps.
- If symptoms develop during the school day, the individual should report to the School Nurse for assessment.
- Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who are symptomatic will require testing for COVID-19 at the direction of the School Nurse.
- If students/staff are dismissed from school with illness, the classroom will be sprayed with disinfectant known to be effective against COVID-19 as a precaution by the custodians as requested by the School Nurse.

Education during quarantine/isolation/investigation:

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and/or student to communicate with the WPS teachers to get make-up work during the quarantine period, as remote learning is not approved as time on learning by DESE for the 2021-2022 school year.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Masks:

According to public health experts, wearing a face covering/mask that covers the nose and the mouth and secures under the chin is the best mitigation strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In alignment with recommendations from public health experts, all staff and students in the Webster Public Schools will have to wear face coverings while indoors regardless of vaccination status (see Face Covering Policy for full details & exceptions).

Outdoor Activities:

Masks are not required when outdoors. No masks need to be worn during outdoor activities due to the low transmission rate of COVID-19 in outdoor settings. Mask breaks should be outdoors whenever possible.

Breakfast/Lunch:

WPS will attempt to have 3 feet distance between students when masks are off while students are eating. Students will be facing forward and all seats will face the same direction.

Classroom:

No social distancing requirements will be in place between student desks. Teachers will assign seats and maintain seating charts to assist with contact tracing.

Transportation:

Masks are required to be worn by all students when riding the bus. Windows will be down 2" to improve ventilation, so parents/guardians/students should dress accordingly during times of inclement weather.

Additional Cleaning:

School nurses will coordinate with custodial staff for additional cleaning as needed when individuals are under investigation, quarantine or isolation.