

Return to School Planning Guide

Webster Groves School District | October 2020



Healthy
Environments

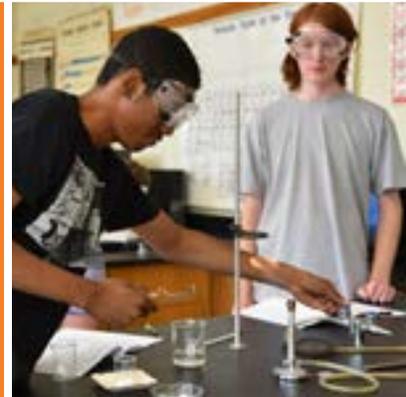
Healthy
Staff



Healthy
Students



Healthy
Learning



Guiding Principles of WGSD Reopening Plan and Implementation

- The physical and mental health and safety of students and staff (and community and region) remain our number one priority.
- Our students will receive high-quality academic programming.
- Ensure equity and access to learning for all students.
- In our planning and through implementation, we must regularly assess our current reality and remain flexible and agile based on what is learned and evolving public health conditions.



We have prepared for this year's challenges and look forward to a great 2020-21 school year.

If you have any questions, please call 314-918-4006.

Table of Contents

3 Introduction

4 Healthy Environments

- 4 Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation
- 4 Buildings and Grounds
- 6 Transportation
- 7 Response to Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

8 Healthy Staff

- 8 Physical Health and Safety
- 9 Mental Health and Wellness
- 9 Professional Development
- 10 Attendance and Leave

11 Healthy Students

- 11 Physical Health and Safety
- 12 Mental Health and Well-Being
- 12 Scheduling Options
- 12 Athletics, Field Trips, and Extracurricular Activities

13 Healthy Learning

- 13 Learning Communities
- 13 Rigorous Learning
- 13 Learning Environment
- 13 Learning for All

14 Educational Programming Model

15 Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

In accord with guidance from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, the Webster Groves School District will move kindergarten through second grade students in the Responsive Learning Plan to in-person classes Oct. 14. The district is tentatively planning to bring back older students gradually, so long as health indicators and other factors allow it to do so safely. We're looking forward to welcoming students back into our buildings and are prepared to continue to meet this school year's challenges.

In preparation for the district's reopening in August, administrators here have met throughout the summer, surveyed parents, consulted with teachers and participated in regional discussions with other districts and health agencies to plan how schools could ensure safety for students, staff and families; provide the best possible learning environment in our buildings and offer solid academics for all.

Our desire is to have school with students physically present in the buildings this year. The importance of in-person learning cannot be overstated, nor can the negative effects and inequities stemming from school closures. Safety, of course, remains our first priority. The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a strong statement that children need to go back to school for several important reasons directly related to general well being, as well as the fact

that they are "less likely to become infected and to spread infection."

While our aim is to open our school buildings, we made our plan flexible, so that it could be adapted for movement between full-time in-person learning, full-time virtual learning or a combination of both, based on factors such as a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school or increasing spread of the virus in the school district community.

We've aligned our plan and priorities with guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control, state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health to provide a framework for returning safely and successfully in August.

This plan includes information on:

- Focus areas of healthy school environments, students, staff and learning
- Frequently Asked Questions

Schools are fundamental for a host of factors, including academics, child and adolescent development, physical activity, social and emotional skills, nutrition and more. Educators, pediatricians and public policy representatives agree. We have prepared for this year's challenges and look forward to a great 2020-21 school year.

Our desire is to have school with students physically present in the buildings this year. The importance of in-person learning cannot be overstated, nor can the negative effects and inequities stemming from school closures. Safety, of course, remains our first priority.



Healthy Environments

Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

We will routinely clean and disinfect shared spaces and high-touch surfaces.

- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect door handles, handrails and other high touch surface areas throughout the day and cafeteria tables and chairs before and after meals and snacks.
- Teachers and office staff will help clean and disinfect any shared technology and high touch surfaces such as phones and copiers during the day.
- We will clean and disinfect restrooms with increased frequency.
- We will follow established protocols for cleaning and disinfection of shared spaces and surfaces, to be performed by custodial staff each evening.
- We will minimize soft furnishings, floor coverings and surface clutter in order to facilitate proper disinfection.
- We will use disinfectant products that are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for effective use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

We will implement protocols for building operations to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19.

- We will minimize the sharing of equipment, technology, and learning materials.
- We will establish precaution rooms to care for symptomatic students until they are picked up.
- We will require all pre-K through 12th grade students who feel ill to wear a face covering while in the clinic/precaution room to minimize the spread of respiratory droplets leading to surface contamination.
- We will improve indoor air quality by circulating 10-20 percent outdoor air through the air ventilation system.
- We will ventilate the building two hours before and two hours after occupancy.
- We will open windows when outside temperature and humidity allow.



Buildings and Grounds

We will promote health and safety practices; minimize contact between building occupants and limit sharing of equipment and surfaces.

Regarding hallways, we will:

- Establish traffic patterns using signage and floor markings to designate one-way traffic, when possible.
- Require use of personal water bottles or closed containers to prevent direct drinking from water fountains. Students and staff are encouraged to bring one from home.
- Use signage to promote handwashing and appropriate social distancing as recommended by public health officials.

Regarding classrooms and learning spaces, we will:

- Limit the number of occupants and promote physical distancing in accord with reopening guidelines.
- Position workspaces (e.g., desks, tables) and seating in compliance with recommendations by public health officials.
- Ensure classrooms have hand sanitizer and/or sinks with soap and water.
- Require washing or sanitizing of hands upon entry and exit.
- Prop open doors during entrance and exit times and close doors at all other times.
- Repurpose non-traditional learning spaces (e.g., auditoriums, cafeterias, outdoor spaces)

and spaces traditionally reserved for “specials” (e.g., art, physical education, library, music), as needed and wherever feasible, to serve the learning needs of students in an environment that enables appropriate social distancing.

Regarding cafeterias, we will:

- Repurpose cafeterias as needed.
- Arrange for students to consume meals (breakfast and lunch) in their classrooms, if possible and practical at each grade level.
- Stagger meal schedules, as needed, to limit the number of occupants at any given time.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations.
- Require washing or sanitizing of hands upon entry and exit.
- Consider food allergies when designating eating locations.

Regarding main offices, we will:

- Prop open entrance doors
- Require staff, students and visitors to use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit.
- Position work stations in compliance with recommendations by public health officials.
- Use clear plastic shields in front of reception desks.
- Use signage to promote handwashing and not touching main desks.
- Limit transaction time between office staff and students, other staff, and visitors.

Regarding restrooms, we will:

- Require washing or sanitizing of hands upon exit.
- Use signage to promote proper handwashing.
- Limit the number of occupants at any given time based on the size of the bathroom.
- Mark the floor to accommodate waiting space that observes appropriate social distancing.

Regarding building entrances and exits, we will:

- Have staff at entries at the beginning of the day and at dismissal to ensure proper distancing, sanitizing and navigating of the school.
- Designate and clearly label doors as entrances or exits, as appropriate.
- Prop open doors during arrival and dismissal times and close doors at all other times.
- Use multiple points of entry and exit to lessen the number of people entering and exiting at the same time when appropriate.
- Require sanitizing of hands upon entry and exit.

Regarding playgrounds:

- Playground equipment is open for school and public use.
 - > Playground space will be used with structured cohort groups of children.



- > Hands must be sanitized upon entry and exit of the building.
- > Outdoor toys and materials shared within the cohort will be sanitized after each usage.
- > Number of children on playground will be limited and monitored based on the size of the space used.
- > Playground equipment will be disinfected daily when school is in session.

Regarding visitors, we will:

- Restrict non-essential visitors and volunteers from entering our buildings.
- Have office staff assist with the protocols for dropping off mail and other deliveries.
- Require visitors to schedule a meeting and take a self-assessment prior to entering the school. Visitors must comply with established building safety and health protocols.
- Not allow community use of district facilities.

We will proactively communicate with stakeholders, including students, parents and guardians, employees and community members, regarding building safety.

We will utilize age-appropriate signage and labels as follows:

- Over sinks to encourage proper handwashing;
- Throughout hallways, in offices, communal areas and in clinics to require wearing face coverings for all students, all district employees and any visitors to the school;
- On water fountains to prohibit drinking from them;
- On floors to indicate traffic patterns;
- On doors to clearly indicate entrances and exits;
- Outside of buildings to provide procedural reminders and
- In learning spaces to promote practices recommended by public health officials, such as social distancing, handwashing and wearing face coverings.

- We will communicate the following to students, parents and guardians, employees and community members as needed.
 - > Supply lists for students;
 - > Expectations for face covering use and
 - > Procedures and expectations for building occupants.

Transportation

We will ensure our school buses provide a safe transportation option for all users.

- We will ensure that buses are routinely disinfected.
- We will communicate and coordinate with our partnering transportation providers regarding safety guidelines.
- All bus riders will be required to wear a face covering when on the bus.
- We will equip all buses with disinfectant wipes or spray.
- We will assign students to seats that will maximize the distance between students to accommodate social distancing as much as possible. Seating charts will be maintained and shared with designated personnel.
- We will permit students who live in the same household to sit together in a single seat.
- We will seat students back-to-front when boarding and dismiss students front-to-back when disembarking to minimize the need for students to pass one another on the bus.
- We will provide transportation only to the students registered for each bus route.
- We will partner with families to encourage social distancing guidelines are observed at bus stops.
- We will enforce all established WGSD guidelines for safe transportation jointly with public health guidelines.
- We will communicate expectations of students and families to promote safe transportation.

We will work to identify and meet the transportation needs of all students.

- We will work closely with families to identify their transportation needs and intentions by semester.
- We will partner with Special School District to ensure that we meet the needs of students with disabilities and the expectations of their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- We will make every effort to abide by public health guidelines as we strive to accommodate any specialized transportation needs.

We will proactively communicate school district guidelines for safe transportation with schools and families in a variety of ways.

- We will ensure families have access to district guidelines for safe transportation, including new health and safety protocols.

- We will share any changes to the guidelines for safe transportation as public health and safety restrictions shift.

Response to Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

We will coordinate with local health officials to determine a course of action.

- We will communicate dismissal decisions and possible COVID-19 exposure with staff, parents and students in a way that protects the affected person's right to privacy and the close contacts' need to be informed.
- We will implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students at all times.



We will implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students at all times.

Healthy Staff

Physical Health and Safety

We will ensure measures are in place to help keep employees as safe as possible.

- We will, on a daily basis, require each employee to perform a self-assessment before entering the school/workplace to affirm that they are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and have not, to their knowledge, been exposed to the virus.
- We will encourage practices in the workplace that promote social distancing whenever feasible, such as the use of teleconferences, teleworking, staggered shifts and schedules and minimizing the sharing of workspaces, phones, equipment, etc.
- We will instruct employees on important health and safety measures and use signage to provide reminders on proper handwashing and hand sanitizing technique, how to use face coverings and the importance of social distancing.
- We will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and provide cleaning materials for staff to use between student interactions and in their work areas.
- We will cooperate with local health officials on infection control and contact tracing efforts.

We will require employees to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and require use according to public health guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

- We will require employees to wear face coverings when they are in rooms with other employees and/or students.
- We will follow public health guidelines on PPE use and training for applicable employee groups.

We will minimize risk to employees who interact with students.

- We will limit the number of individuals in rooms, vehicles, and other spaces to enable appropriate social distancing.
- We will manage high-traffic areas by using alternate entrances and exits, as well as barriers where necessary.
- We will, in accordance with public health guidelines, create precaution rooms that are utilized by the nurse or designee where we can isolate students and staff who are suspected or known to be ill.



- We will minimize exposure to potentially ill individuals by restricting access to clinics and precaution rooms to nursing personnel and designees.

Mental Health and Wellness

We will make mental health resources available to staff.

- We will utilize the state Department of Mental Health website to provide employees with vetted information and resources pertaining to mental health and well-being.
- We will use existing employee communication channels to highlight mental health resources.
- We will monitor and promote individual and community mental health in a positive work environment.
- Principals and school teams will participate in trauma-informed training prior to the start of school and during, in support of student and staff wellness.
- We will provide all staff with Webster Groves School District counseling resources.

We will equip principals and key leaders with information needed to direct staff to appropriate mental health services and resources, as follows:

- We will advise principals and key leaders to familiarize themselves with the resources available with our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider and steps required to request mental health support.
- We will develop a protocol for leaders to use when they are concerned about an employee's mental health or well-being.
- We will promote community health through a collaborative process that engages employees in conversations about mental health and provides opportunities for employees to provide feedback, such as a survey and a virtual comment box.



- We will foster a positive climate in the workplace that supports well-being by encouraging staff to engage in personal connections throughout the work day, providing time and space for staff connections, and implementing procedures that will enable teachers to step away from the classroom when they need a break.

Professional Development

- We will develop and deliver professional development opportunities, as appropriate, in response to guidance provided by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local public health officials.
- We will target professional development opportunities based on phases of reopening, the needs of students and methods of learning instruction.
- We will educate and train employees, as needed, to reinforce physical health and safety practices and procedures.
- We will provide clear guidance and professional development at the school and building levels regarding health and safety expectations and operational changes.

- We will ensure that all bus drivers receive professional development, in advance of transporting students, to inform them of new protocols and procedures and ensure they understand how to effectively clean and prepare their buses for students and staff.
- We will educate and train employees, as needed, to support the mental health and wellness of students and colleagues.
- We will offer support to all employees that focuses on promoting well-being and recognizing mental health struggles in others.
- We will regularly update and share useful mental health and social and emotional learning (SEL) resources with staff.
- We will prepare teachers to respond to questions from students and facilitate conversations with students about COVID-19 and its impact on our lives and our communities.

Attendance and Leave

We will advise employees of options available to them if they cannot work because they have been medically diagnosed with COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, are in a high-risk category, or lack child care due to the closure or unavailability of school or child care facilities.

- We will inform employees that, through December 31, 2020, they may qualify for leave under the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA).
- We will make sure employees know of the leave policies associated with their jobs.
- We will make sure employees know that they may apply for accommodations that will allow them to work.
- We will provide relevant return to work guidance on a case-by-case basis, based on medical determinations.



Healthy Students

Physical Health and Safety

We will implement processes and measures to help keep students physically safe and healthy.

- We will rely on families as partners in helping us keep students safe by determining and clearly communicating our expectations of families, including the expectation that no family will knowingly send a child to school who is ill or has been exposed to COVID-19.
- We will establish and reinforce a culture of health, safety, and shared responsibility with morning messages reinforcing health and safety, signage about rules and responsibilities and training for staff and students.
- We will educate families on the common symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if they think their child or a family member might be sick.
- Families will be expected to complete a prescreener tool in order identify students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and contact their building administrative assistant if they have symptoms.
- We will develop safety protocols in alignment with public health guidelines to follow during communal times (e.g., arrival and dismissal, class changes, lunch, assemblies, field trips, emergency drills) and in communal areas (e.g., classrooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, libraries, playgrounds, school buses).
- We will develop protocols that follow public health guidance regarding students wearing face coverings. All students will be required to wear face coverings except when eating, drinking or otherwise permitted.
- Students who don't comply with district expectations on face covering will be able to participate in a virtual learning program.
- We will repurpose non-traditional learning spaces (e.g., auditoriums, cafeterias, outdoor spaces) and spaces traditionally reserved for "specials" (e.g., art, physical education, library, music), as needed and wherever feasible, to serve the learning needs of students in an environment that enables appropriate social distancing.
- We will minimize or eliminate movement between classes at the elementary level whenever feasible, requiring teachers rather than students to move from classroom to classroom to provide instruction.
- We will send students home who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- We will develop a pick-up procedure for healthy students who need to leave school early for an appointment or other reason unrelated to COVID-19 that safeguards the health and safety of staff and other students.
- We will develop a pick-up procedure for students who become ill during the school day that safeguards the health and safety of staff and other students.



We will establish and reinforce a culture of health, safety, and shared responsibility with morning messages reinforcing health and safety, signage about rules and responsibilities and training for staff and students.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- We will be mindful of the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions on the mental health of our students and their families.
- We will provide a continuum of school mental health services and supports that address social, emotional and behavioral health and coping mechanisms.
- We will educate staff and parents/guardians on the various ways that anxiety tends to manifest in children, and we will monitor students for those signs.
- We will collaborate with mental health professionals, administrators and teachers to provide mental health support for all students.
- We will schedule regular check-in sessions between school counselors and teachers, support staff, and departments, as needed, to collaborate on our response to the mental health needs of students.
- We will bolster efforts to support the mental health and well-being of students through collaboration with St. Louis County Children's Service Fund agencies.

We will identify and share beneficial community resources to further support the mental health and well-being of our students.

- We will establish a school-based community outreach team, including an administrator, school counselor, school social service worker and teachers to collaborate with mental health specialists and providers in our community.
- We will communicate with families about available internal and external mental health services and supports.

Scheduling Options

- We will develop a plan that offers a virtual learning option (WGSD Virtual Program) for students and families who would prefer learning online.
- We will also develop flexible scheduling options that support multiple learning environments—full in-person learning, full virtual learning, and hybrid learning (a combination of in-person and virtual learning).

- We will consider support options that enable the highest degree of student success in a blended learning environment.
- We will ensure planning efforts prioritize equity.
- We will make every effort to place children in the same family on the same daily schedule.
- We will collaborate with transportation providers to ensure we can meet the transportation needs of every plan we propose.
- We will devise plans that accommodate appropriate physical space for social distancing.

Athletics, Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities

We will prioritize student health and welfare as well as equity in our planning for athletics, field trips, and extracurricular activities.

- Out of state and/or overnight travel is not allowed at this time.
- There will be no international travel during the 2020-21 school year.
- We will make decisions about reopening high school athletics and activities in alignment with guidelines and recommendations provided by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and public health officials, in coordination with directives from the state board of education.
- We will make decisions on school-sponsored extracurricular activities, field trips, and travel opportunities for all grade levels in conjunction with public health guidelines and the scheduling options that are determined in each phase of reopening.



Healthy Learning

in All Formats of Educational Programming

Learning Communities

- We will focus on building relationships between and among teachers and students.
- We will be intentional in our ongoing efforts to reach out and to know our students and create learning partnerships.
- We will complement academic instruction with social-emotional learning.
- We will intentionally build community.
- We will ensure that students safely work together in a variety of configurations and for a variety of purposes.
- We will design opportunities for all students to contribute and to share their learning with others.
- We will ensure learners are able to safely collaborate with each other.

Rigorous Learning

- We will clearly define learning goals.
- We will ensure that learning goals are clear to the students.
- We will communicate with students regularly about their learning
- We will give students specific and timely feedback to guide their learning
- We will use assessments to advance student learning by determining any learning gaps.
- We will use formative assessments during the learning process to determine student understanding.
- We will design instruction for how students learn.
- We will strive to motivate students and incorporate their interests.
- We will meet students where they are in their individual learning.
- We will design learning experiences such that students will access the core concepts and essential skills and use the key knowledge and skills to achieve deeper understanding.

Learning Environment

- We will create routines, procedures, and structures that support safety and learning.
- We will establish procedures that are clear and consistent, yet adaptable.
- We will use learning management systems (Canvas) to assist in designing learning experiences with students in mind.
- We will create guidelines around learning that consider the access and needs of students.
- We will intentionally plan with student access in mind.
- We will ensure that all resources (printed and digital) and learning activities are engaging

Learning for All

- We will embrace a collaborative culture and a focus on student learning.
- We will partner with Special School District to ensure that we meet the learning needs of students with disabilities and the expectations of their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- We will provide individual learning supports (i.e reading intervention, math intervention, gifted education services, students with 504s and English as a Second Language services) for students in all models of instruction.
- We will collaborate within schools and across schools through Collaborative Learning Teams to analyze and enhance instructional practice, improve student learning, and ensure the success of every student.
- We will utilize high-quality resources, tools and materials to improve and promote effective teaching and learning.

Educational Programming Model 2020-21

<p style="text-align: center;">District Responsive Learning Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Throughout the year, the district will determine which of the following formats PreK-12 students will learn from based on a variety of factors such as community transmission of COVID-19, number of cases within the school, change in science (ex: vaccine) and our ability to provide the staffing needed. Formats could vary by grade level.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">WGSD Virtual Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parents/Caregivers select to have their child(ren) participate in full-time online distance learning from home, for a defined period of time (ex:semester).</p>
In-person Learning	Hybrid: In-person + Virtual*	Virtual Learning (consistent with the WGSD Program)*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will participate in full in-person learning within the school building. • Students will follow health and safety protocols which could include face coverings, hand washing/sanitizing routines, and social distancing. • Students will follow a consistent daily schedule that includes instruction in core content areas and modified/adapted electives. • Student learning will be assessed to determine understanding and guide instruction. • Participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to in-person learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will participate in a combination of 2 days of in-person learning within the school building, 2 days of self-directed virtual learning experiences and 1 day of virtual instruction with their teachers. • Students will follow health and safety protocols which could include face coverings, hand washing/sanitizing routines, and social distancing while in the school building. • Students will follow an A/B schedule for in-person learning based on the last name of each family. • Student learning will be assessed to determine understanding and guide instruction. • Participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to a hybrid model of in-person and virtual learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students participate in full virtual learning using an online learning platform. • Students follow a consistent daily schedule that resembles an “in-person” school day • Students will have access to core courses and electives. • Student learning will be assessed to determine understanding and guide instruction. • Students will experience “live” virtual instruction, support during independent tasks, and receive feedback on learning from a teacher. • Participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to virtual learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 students participate in full virtual learning using an online learning platform. • Students follow a consistent daily schedule that resembles an “in-person” school day. • Students will have access to core courses and electives • Student learning will be assessed to determine understanding and guide instruction. • Students will experience “live” virtual instruction, support during independent tasks, and receive feedback on learning from a teacher. • Participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to the WGSD Virtual Program

*We are currently working to determine if we can provide daily, in-person academic and social-emotional support for identified students and families within the District’s Responsive Learning Plan’s hybrid and virtual formats (exs: students receiving IEP services and families in need of supervision for school-age district students).

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the WGSD determine which plan or schedules to use?

Our goal is always to have students in school who are attending according to a traditional schedule when possible. Keeping our school learning environments healthy and safe is our top priority. We recognize that any alternate schedule or school closures have a significant impact on our students, staff and families.

However, the decision to shift to an alternate schedule or close WGSD schools may need to be made to prevent further spread of COVID-19 or in response to high absenteeism among students and/or staff. The superintendent will make closure decisions in consultation with the Superintendent's Leadership Team, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and other school districts in our region.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student and/or staff absenteeism
- Spread of COVID-19 in the community
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in one or more schools

Decisions also will be made based on guidance from the CDC and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

How will you ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting of schools and classrooms?

Schools will follow safety and disinfection guidelines developed by the CDC and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health for buses, classrooms, workspaces, outdoor spaces and playgrounds. At school, we will be cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces multiple times throughout the day. High-touch areas throughout the school building include tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, toilets, faucets and sinks.

We will adjust custodial staffing schedules as needed to allow for more custodial support during the day to clean and disinfect, while also supporting deeper cleaning at night.

This FAQ will be updated during the school year online, where you can also submit additional questions <https://www.webster.k12.mo.us/returntoschool>



What happens if a student or staff member who has attended school is diagnosed with COVID-19?

Parents and staff will be notified immediately if they have had close contact with anyone who is diagnosed with COVID-19. We will follow the guidance of public health authorities in making decisions to close classrooms or schools, or to quarantine specific groups of students or staff. http://wupaarc.wustl.edu/Portals/WU-PAARC/PDFs/covid-19/pdf_school_nurse_algorithm_921.pdf?ver=2020-09-21-161104-113

Will students or staff who have been in contact need to quarantine? Will the school/classroom close?

We will be in close consultation with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health to make decisions about the need for individuals or groups of people to be quarantined or tested for COVID-19, depending on the exposure. http://wupaarc.wustl.edu/Portals/WU-PAARC/PDFs/covid-19/updated_school_protocol_identify_cases8.23.png?ver=2020-08-24-135312-433

Our response and subsequent immediate action steps will be dependent on the situation. For example, the Health Department might recommend a school closure for 2-5 days for cleaning, or they might recommend

quarantine for 14 days for a small group of people who had close contact with an infected person. Close contact is defined by health officials as an individual who has been within six feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes of time (cumulative) without wearing a face covering.

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

We will work with the County Health Department and err on the side of caution to decide when students/staff may need to quarantine and/or a classroom or school should be closed.

Please read the current guidance for schools from the St. Louis County Department of Health (below):

When a Case is Identified

If an individual within a school building is tested positive for COVID-19, schools must work with their local health department but could expect some of these parameters to be put in place:

- *Identify who the individual was in contact with, within a 6-foot space, for at least 15 minutes. If specific contacts cannot be identified, quarantine everyone who was in the same room, bus or other areas.*
- *The St. Louis County Health Department currently suggests that if over 5 percent of the student body in a building or district test positive any day, 4 percent test positive over 2 days in a row or 3 percent test positive for 3 days in a row, then that building or district closes for 10 days (percentages may change when more scientific data becomes available).*
- *In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the*

staff or students, a school may close for 1-2 days for cleaning and disinfection of that building or exposed area if unable to clean during the nighttime closing.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 when can they return to school or work?

If someone is a known close contact to someone with COVID-19, or if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, medical clearance would be required prior to returning to school or work. Quarantines can last 14 days or more, depending on the individual circumstances, and we will depend on current public health guidelines in each situation.

What health screenings are in place for students and staff?

Staff are required to complete a daily health screening prior to coming to work.

Parents are asked to screen their child(ren) before they leave for school. We ask that parents check them for fever, a sense of having a fever, chills, a cough, sore throat, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or new muscle aches. Not all children who have COVID-19 will have a fever, so parents should check their children closely for any of the other symptoms. A student should not report to school if he or she is exhibiting symptoms that are not attributed to a preexisting health condition and/or has been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Anyone, staff or student, with a fever of 100.4° F or higher or any COVID-19 symptoms, should call their health care provider and not come to school. Parents should notify their building's administrative assistant if their student exhibits symptoms.

We will not take students' temperatures when they arrive at school. Taking temperatures at school would be challenging to complete in a safe and timely manner, given the number of students and supervision that would need to be in place. The most effective, evidence-based strategies to prevent the spread of illness are hand washing, wearing masks and social distancing.

What is considered "exposure?"

According to the CDC: "Based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and what

is known about other coronaviruses, spread is thought to occur mostly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts.”

Close contact can occur while: 1) being within approximately 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time, without a mask. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case. 2) having direct contact with infectious secretions from a person with COVID-19. Infectious secretions may include sputum, serum, blood, and respiratory droplets.”

How much notice will be given if the WGSD moves to a different schedule (ie blended to all virtual?)

These determinations will be made based upon guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department and other local factors. We will provide as much notice as possible while ensuring that safety is the first priority. This may require an emergency shift in schedules. For example, a quick shift to a district closure if required or in the event of local stay-at-home orders could be necessary to protect the safety of our students and staff.

What if I change my mind about having my child attend online learning? Can that child attend in-person classes? What if I change my mind and want my child to switch to online learning from in-person classes?

Due to the fact that we designed our staffing and programming model around families electing to participate in the WGSD Virtual Program, students must remain in the WGSD Virtual Program for a defined period of time, once they start (ex: a semester).

How will breakfast and lunch be conducted?

Schools will identify spaces for students to eat while maintaining social distancing. Some students may eat in locations that are not in the

cafeteria. Additionally, lunch schedules will be staggered to permit more space between students as they eat. Each school will communicate specific details.

Will meals be provided to students if they are using a virtual learning plan at home?

We are working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish meal service logistics for students when they are using a virtual learning plan at home. We will continue to share more information.

Will course offerings be impacted?

While the WGSD will offer the necessary courses to meet graduation requirements, WGHS course choice offerings may be impacted at some level.

Will Adventure Club or other childcare be available? What safety precautions will be used?

Our plan currently is to try and provide after-school care for as many families in need whose students are at school as possible. The safety precautions and strategies we employ during the school day will be in place in Adventure Club.

My child has an underlying health condition. Can my child attend school?

If concern exists, families should consult with a physician prior to having their child attend school.

Will new health and safety requirements related to COVID-19 impact electives and specials/resource course offerings for the 2020-2021 school year (electives such as chorus and band, which produce respiratory droplets, etc.)?

We will ensure that all of our course offerings follow applicable health and safety guidelines.

How do I talk to my young children about COVID-19?

You can find several articles about this topic online. Below are a few.

<https://childrensmd.org/browse-by-topic/parenting/talking-to-children-about-covid-19/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/02292020_NASP_NASN_COVID-19_parent_handout.pdf

Will elementary children have recess?

Yes. Outdoor physical activity is very important for students. We will be encouraging students to engage in physical activity that allows for physical distancing while playing outside.

Will students need to wear masks while outside?

Students are required to wear a mask outdoors, unless properly socially distanced and authorized by an adult.

Will there be any school events in the evening or on weekends?

Large gatherings may be restructured, rescheduled or canceled as needed in order to maintain social distancing guidelines and reduce the risk of exposure.

Will WGSD allow visitors and volunteers at school this year?

Nonessential visitors and volunteers will have restricted access to our buildings this year. WGSD will closely follow public health advice and communicate any decisions made that affect visitors and volunteers. Plans may vary during the school year, depending on the level of community spread illness. Visitors will be required to wear a mask and to complete a health screening questionnaire.

Parents/guardians who come to school to drop off or pick up a student will not enter the school building. Each school will communicate the specific procedure for this process.

Who will decide if my child is going to attend school virtually?

Families may elect to participate in the WGSD Virtual Program prior to the start of the year. Prior to and after the start of the year, the district may choose to place all students in a virtual program.

What does "virtual learning" mean?

For the purpose of this plan, "virtual learning" means instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations all of the time. Methods could include on-line instruction on a learning management system (Canvas), phone calls, emails, video conferencing and/or other means of communication. If enrolled in the WGSD Virtual Program, your student will engage in all learning in this manner, with coursework overseen and provided by certified WGSD staff.

How will virtual learning be different between this past spring and this coming fall?

In this model, students will follow a consistent daily schedule. Virtual learning will take place within a learning management system known as Canvas. The virtual learning opportunities that are offered will include a combination of "live" virtual learning instruction from the teacher and support during independent tasks. In addition, teachers will provide meaningful feedback to students designed to move their learning forward. Full participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to the WGSD Virtual Program.

Will my student in the WGSD Virtual Learning Program receive instruction from a teacher at our assigned building?

If you select virtual, your student will receive instruction from a district teacher dedicated to virtual learning, not necessarily a teacher associated with your attendance area school.

Will I be notified if my child does not participate as expected in virtual school meetings and assignments?

Yes. Communication in an online course is incredibly important and teachers will reach out if a student is not participating. If a student continues to not participate the counselor, principal, or assistant principal will be reaching out as well.

How will grading be handled for each learning format and learning schedule?

Grading will work as it did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grading and expectations will be the same regardless of the learning option families choose and will stay consistent even if we have to move between plans.

Is the curriculum the same for the Responsive Learning Plan and the Virtual Learning Program?

Yes. Curriculum goals, outcomes for students, grading and student expectations will remain the same, regardless of which option families choose or which plan WGSD implements.

Will attendance be taken in the WGSD Virtual Program?

Yes.

Can students who have an IEP or 504 enroll in the WGSD Virtual Program ?

Yes. When parents choose the virtual learning option for their child, school teams will meet to review the student's IEP to determine how to provide services virtually. A plan then will be created to implement the student's services to the maximum extent possible.

How will students with special needs, IEPs and 504s receive support?

Students identified as having a disability under IDEA will be provided with the necessary accommodations and modifications to ensure they can access a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), regardless of the manner in which the education is being delivered. Special education services, including social-emotional supports, included in a student's IEP will be provided to the maximum extent possible. Students identified as having a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will be provided with the necessary accommodations and supports to ensure they have equal opportunity to access and benefit from public education services, regardless of the manner in which the education is being delivered. For many students, the 504 plan can be implemented as written in a virtual environment. Adaptations to the

504 plan accommodations/supports will be done as needed when a 504 team member (teacher, parent, student, etc.) alerts the 504 case manager to concerns with the student's disability symptoms impacting their ability to access and/or benefit from the public education offerings.

I am concerned about the amount of screen time for my child. How will this be addressed?

Because we also are concerned about screen time for students, we will strive to implement measures to limit their screen time. While there is scheduled time dedicated for particular learning, that does not mean students will always be on their device the entire time.

Will my student still be considered enrolled in their current school if they participate in the WGSD Virtual Program?

Yes.

What does "hybrid school" mean for elementary, middle and high school students?

Students will participate in a combination of 2 days of in-person learning within the school building, 2 days of self-directed virtual learning experiences and 1 day of virtual instruction with their teachers. On in-person days students will follow all health and safety protocols which could include face coverings, hand washing/sanitizing routines, and social distancing while in the school building. Students will follow an A/B schedule for in-person learning based on the last name of each family. Participation is necessary for attendance requirements and grading policies will apply to a hybrid model of in-person and virtual learning.

How large will my child's class be?

We will look to make our class sizes as small as possible, and will make sure we're in line with local health guidelines.

Will my children remain in their assigned classes regardless of class sizes, class offerings, etc.?

Class and teacher assignments will be fluid in order to ensure class sizes are as small as possible.

Will my student be provided a face covering?

WGSD encourages families to provide cloth face coverings for their students as they are able but will provide face coverings as needed to ensure that students and staff are able to safely be in buildings.

What if I don't want my student to wear a face covering?

All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings in school buildings. Students who don't use face coverings will be able to participate in a virtual program.

Will my child have access to/ support for technology?

Yes.

What will be done to address the social and emotional needs of students at school and at home?

We understand that students will need emotional and social support to manage the challenges that life brings. We know that students have come to us with diverse experiences and therefore have unique needs. To that end, we are prepared to provide various layers of support in the following ways. We have partnered with Alive and Well Communities in order to gain a deeper understanding of trauma informed care. All staff members will have access to training modules on this topic before and during the school year. School counselors will continue to support all students through the counseling

curriculum by providing classroom lessons. They also are available for one-on-one or small group sessions for students, as they normally are. If you suspect your student is struggling and needs additional help outside of school, our counselors can make referrals to outside agencies and are a good first step in getting additional support for your child. Families will receive mental health tips from school counselors via weekly/monthly communications.

School social workers will be available to help students and families with accessing basic needs that may have been disrupted during the pandemic. They can help with access to food, clothing, shelter, transportation and school supplies. Additionally, they are available to make home visits if necessary.

Will schools be closed on election day this year?

Yes. Schools will be closed on November 3. Schools that are used as polling places will be cleaned and sanitized before school starts the next day.

For additional questions, please call 314-918-4006.