

Winona Area Public Schools (WAPS) COVID-19 Health Protocols

Approved by the School Board on March 3, 2022

Effective Date: March 7, 2022

Updated: March 17, 2022

The following guidelines and recommendations are based on the guidance from the

- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): [Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools \(update 3/10/2022\)](#)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) (updated 01/13/2022)
- MDH [Recommendations for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#) - (Updated 3/1/2022)
- [Minnesota State High School League 2021-2022 COVID-19 Guidance](#) - (Updated 1/20/2022)
- [MDH COVID-19 Testing Recommendations](#) (updated 2/22/2022)

Federal Government and Minnesota Rule Requirements:

- The CDC no longer requires the wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. See [CDC: Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](#) (updated 2/25/2022)
- Handling a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19: Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). See [MDH: Reportable Disease Rule](#)

Prevention Layers	Protocols
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is recommended but optional that all students and staff, visitors, contractors, and adult learners wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status, while in district buildings. ● When using district transportation for any purpose, including school buses and vans, occupants will follow the current CDC/Federal mandate. <p>Situations Where Face Coverings are Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When entering the Health Offices in any school building with illness symptoms; ● People who test positive and return after a 5 day-isolation are required to wear a well-fitting face covering indoors for days 6-10. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) ○ Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
Isolation (if you tested positive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People who have a positive test for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms, must stay home and isolate for at least five days from the day they were tested. Day 0 is the day you were tested for COVID-19. Day 1 is the first full day after you were tested for COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If symptoms are improving and you have been fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication), isolation may end after 5 full days if you can wear a well fitting mask. ○ If you were severely ill with COVID-19, you should isolate for at least 10 days. ○ People unable to wear a well-fitting mask (e.g., under age 2, people with certain disabilities) must isolate themselves for 10 full days.

<p>Close Contact Tracing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact tracing will not be conducted unless there is a cluster of cases identified within the same classroom, cohort, or group of individuals. In these situations, identified close contacts will be required to adhere to the quarantine protocols.
<p>Quarantine (if you were exposed to a known positive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully Vaccinated** Individuals OR Tested Positive for COVID-19 within the Past 90 Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You do not need to stay home and quarantine unless you develop symptoms. ○ Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you had your last close contact with someone with COVID-19. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Stay home until you know the results. ○ It is encouraged to get tested at least 5 days after you had your last close contact, even if you don't develop symptoms. ● Non Household Exposure (Not Fully Vaccinated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People who had close contact and are not fully vaccinated must quarantine for at least 5 full days. Day 0 is the last date of potential exposure. Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19. ● Household Exposure (Not Fully Vaccinated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and live in the same household as someone that tests positive will be required to quarantine during the positive person's isolation period. ○ Individuals may return after the positive individual is done with isolation (return on day 6) if they are tested for COVID-19 <i>after</i> the positive person's isolation ends and are symptom free. ○ If not tested for COVID-19, individuals must quarantine for 5 days from the end date of the positive person's 5-day isolation. <p>**Fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.</p>
<p>Physical Distancing and Cohorting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing will be implemented when possible. ● Cohorting will be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other. ● Classroom teachers/staff are required to document seating charts/cohort groups to identify close contacts when someone tests positive for COVID-19.
<p>Health Screening and Staying Home When Sick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, staff, and visitors are recommended to complete a daily health screening. ● Individuals who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to follow the pathways outlined in the: COVID-19 Decision Tree (updated 10/18/21). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-19 Isolation Guide for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programming (updated 3/15/2022) For people who are sick or test positive. ○ COVID-19 Quarantine Guide for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programming (updated 3/15/2022) For people who are in close contact (exposed) to a person with COVID-19. ● Students who have influenza-like or COVID-19-like illness symptoms must stay home and take a COVID-19 test. Students can return with a negative test if they have been fever-free (without the use of fever reducing medication) for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving. Rapid tests are available at every school office and families can also call the school and request for test kits to be delivered to their household. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students who are not tested for COVID-19 or seek care from a healthcare provider can return once it has been five (5) full days from the onset of symptoms and must wear a well fitting mask for days 6-10.

COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WAPS encourages the COVID-19 vaccination for all individuals. ● WAPS has free rapid test kits available for enrolled students and staff. Testing kits can be picked up at the main office of each building. ● Saliva testing will be offered weekly for staff members wishing to screen for the virus (screening testing).
Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff members are encouraged to build routines of handwashing and respiratory etiquette into the daily schedule. Employees, students, and visitors will be instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing. ● All students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to use hand sanitizer prior to or immediately upon entering district buildings. All buildings will have hand sanitizer dispensers available for public use.
Cleaning and Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular housekeeping practices are conducted by our maintenance department, including routine environmental cleaning of classrooms and common spaces. ● WAPS has evaluated the operational capacity of indoor ventilation systems to ensure they are in proper working order in preparation for the school year. Whenever possible, steps will be taken to increase the intake percentage of outside air to increase dilution of contaminants, and minimize recirculation, while maintaining indoor air conditions. In the absence of effective mechanical ventilation, steps will be taken to increase natural ventilation as much as possible, including opening windows when possible and safe.
Accommodations for Children with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. To learn more about accommodations, parents/guardians should contact their child’s case manager.
Visitors & Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WAPS welcomes visitors, community providers, volunteers, and other authorized adults into district buildings as long as they adhere to relevant provisions of the WAPS COVID-19 Health Protocols. ● Nonpublic students visiting district buildings to receive educational services will adhere to relevant provisions of the WAPS COVID-19 Health Protocols. ● All classrooms, sites, and programs are required to keep a roster of visitors and volunteers (name, contact information, date, time, program, site, etc.) for contact tracing purposes.
Key Kids	<p>The Key Kids program will follow the elementary school processes.</p>
Athletics & Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Competitions/Games: All participants, coaches, and advisors must comply with WAPS COVID-19 Health Protocols at home events. When traveling to other schools for away events, WAPS participants, coaches, and other persons must comply with away school district’s protocols, unless they contradict and are more relaxed than the provisions of the WAPS COVID-19 Health Protocols. ● Face Coverings: When distancing cannot be maintained, such as on the sidelines, student-athletes will be strongly recommended to wear a face covering both indoors and outdoors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation: When using district transportation for any purpose, including school buses and vans, occupants will follow the current CDC/Federal mandate. Distancing will be implemented to the extent possible and/or student-athletes will remain seated with their cohort assignment. ● Physical Distancing/Cohorts: Student-athletes should remain in cohort groups when applicable, and pods of students should remain 6’ from other pods. ● Health Screening: All participants are expected to complete daily health screenings prior to coming to school. Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. If students are absent from school due to being sick or in quarantine, they must remain home from after-school activities and athletics. ● Contact Tracing and Quarantine: Contact tracing will be conducted to identify those needing to quarantine. Coaches are expected to have documentation of student cohort groups and seating assignments for transportation. People who are fully vaccinated can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic, facilitating continued participation in in-person learning, sports, and extracurricular activities. ● Per MSHSL requirements: Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 cannot participate in interscholastic in-person competition until all three of these things are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever, and, ○ It has been at least 10 days since they first experienced symptoms or tested positive, and, ○ The symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better. <i>(Day 0 is the day symptoms started or the day of the test if asymptomatic. Student is eligible for competition on Day 11 if all three conditions have been met.)</i> ● If a student does the 5+5 isolation, per MSHSL rules, a student may practice with the team on day 6. To practice on days 6-10 the individual must have lessening symptoms and be fever-free for at least 24 hours. During days 6-10, students must wear a well fitting mask at all times, cannot travel, and avoid being around people who are at high risk. If a person cannot wear the mask at all times, the student will be asked to leave practice. During the 5+5 isolation, a student athlete may not participate in a competition.
<p>Facilities Rentals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facility rentals during the school day will follow the WAPS COVID-19 Health Protocols. ● Facility rentals outside of the school day will follow City of Winona guidance.