



Washington County Schools COVID-19 Guidance - 2023-2024 Reopening Plan

Washington County Schools has a priority of having our students and staff at school safely. Below are the mitigating strategies we have in place to achieve this goal.

Before students or staff arrive to school for the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do a daily self-check - If a student or staff member has any of the following, please do not come to school and determine if you should see a health care provider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever (>100.4°F) or feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating) New cough Difficulty breathing Sore throat Muscle aches or body aches Vomiting or diarrhea New loss of taste or smell If you suspect you or your child has COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider or your school's Healthy Kids Clinic regarding the need for COVID testing before returning to school. Be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school.
Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are optional and all school-affiliated sites will be Mask Friendly - meaning your decision to mask or not will be respected. We will continue to monitor throughout the school year.
Student Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kentucky Department of Education is returning to pre-pandemic attendance policies regarding student attendance. There is no longer a state approved excused absence for students relating to COVID-19. As with any other illness, COVID-19 related absences will require a medical or parent note. If a student receives a doctor's note for absences, these days will be excused. If a student tests positive with a home test, the student will need to turn in parent notes for each day missed to have these days excused. Students have a total of six (6) parent notes for the entire school year. WCSD recommends that if a student tests positive using a home test, to then verify the results with your healthcare provider or at the school's Healthy Kids Clinic. Contact your child's school to schedule an appointment.
Employee Sick Leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a staff tests positive for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 related absences will be treated as any other illness requiring the use of accumulated paid sick leave.
COVID Positive-Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your school to report positive test results. A student or staff member who tests positive, should isolate at home for a minimum of five (5) days from the day of the test or the day symptoms started (whichever is first). These students or staff member can return to school after day five if fever free and their symptoms are fully resolved OR after 10 days if they have lingering symptoms. Those who test positive but never developed symptoms can return after five days. Continue wearing a mask indoors through day 10.
Contact Tracing & Close Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCSD will not conduct contact tracing for positive cases. When feasible, your school will notify families and staff when a known exposure to COVID-19 occurs in the classroom or in school settings. If you are known to have had close contact to a person with COVID-19, it is recommended to be tested 5 days or more after exposure. Monitor yourself for any symptoms, follow CDC guidelines and contact your healthcare provider or school's Healthy Kids Clinic for guidance as needed.
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a student tests positive, a KHSAA Covid-19 Return to Activity Form will need to be completed and submitted to the coach once the student is released by the health care provider. To access the KHSAA Covid-19 Return to Activity Form, click HERE Contact your school and/or school coach to receive more information.
In School Prevention Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCSD will teach and reinforce healthy habits including: washing hands, wearing a mask if they feel it is needed, getting a COVID-19 test when necessary. WCSD will continue to clean and sanitize frequently.
Additional Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance may change based on guidance from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, CDC, or Kentucky Department of Education. Guidance for K-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning can be found at https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthcare-guidance.

