

Fall 2021 Opening Information

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District is committed to opening school for all PreK-12 students, in-person five days a week for the 2021-22 school year, while maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all.

In early August, the New York State Department of Health announced it would not be issuing new guidance for schools. However, the State Education Department, the NYS Department of Health and the Monroe County Department of Public Health did recommend that schools base their reopening plans on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance released in July. In planning for Fall 2021, we also reviewed the American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools.

Therefore, based on the above referenced guidance, the following precautions will be in place when school opens for students on Wednesday, Sept. 8th:

- Universal masking when indoors for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks will be incorporated throughout the day. Masking will be optional when outdoors.
- Physical distancing of 3 feet in classrooms, whenever possible
- Physical distancing of 6 feet when eating
- Handwashing reminders to students and explicit handwashing instruction for our youngest learners
- Hand sanitizing stations available and hand sanitizing encouraged throughout the day
- Classrooms, buses and high traffic areas will be cleaned and sanitized regularly
- Mandatory masks on buses with windows open, whenever reasonable, to increase air flow
- In lieu of daily health checks, parents and staff will be asked to sign a one-time attestation for the school year.
- Limited visitors to school

The District is committed to providing a safe environment, while allowing for many activities that are part of a normal school year, as much as possible. Therefore, this year we will be:

- Allowing for limited parent volunteers in our PreK-5 classrooms, when possible
- Looking to offer short field trips, when possible and safe
- Allowing in-person extracurricular clubs and activities
- Allowing in-person open houses and back to school events

All of the above will require universal masking and distancing whenever possible.

The District will continue to review and adjust these protocols as the school year progresses and more information and guidance becomes available. More information is available in the

FAQ document linked below. If you have a general question that has not been answered, please use the form linked below to submit your question.

Links:

CDC School Reopening Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools:
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Fall 2021 School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Will students and staff be required to wear masks?** Yes, we will be requiring universal masking for all students and staff indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Outdoor masking will be optional.
- 2. Will mask breaks be allowed?** Yes, mask breaks will be allowed, whenever possible.
- 3. What are you going to do when students arrive at school without a mask?** Our commitment is to get students back to school five days a week. Universal masking and physical distancing will help us remain open, even if there is a community increase in COVID cases. We are hopeful that our community will support us in this effort by sending their students to school with a mask. Students who arrive without a mask will be provided with one.
- 4. Will physical distancing be required?** Yes, we will be requiring 3 ft. of distancing in classrooms, whenever feasible, and 6ft. social distancing while students are eating.
- 5. Will you be testing students in school?** No, we are not planning to conduct voluntary testing in September, but will monitor this decision as the school year begins. If voluntary testing resumes, we will ask for parent permission before testing.
- 6. Will there be a 100% virtual or hybrid program offered?** Our commitment is to get all students back to school, in person, five days a week. Therefore, there will not be a virtual or hybrid program offered.
- 7. Will students be back full-time?** Yes, all PreK-12 students will be back full-time this year.
- 8. Will extracurricular activities be offered?** Yes, we are working to find ways to incorporate some opportunities for extracurricular activities, music, field trips, etc. throughout this school year, where feasible.
- 9. Will you be requiring vaccinations for students?** WCCSD is not requiring vaccinations. Only the State can require a vaccination for students. Masking will be required.
- 10. Will you be requiring vaccinations for staff?** Vaccination is not required for staff; however, we will require universal masking of staff and students indoors.
- 11. Is there a plan to offer vaccinations to those students who have not yet been immunized?** Not at this time. If the interest exists, we would work with Monroe County Department of Public Health to offer an additional COVID vaccination clinic in the future.
- 12. How will you accommodate children with serious medical conditions?** We will work with families of students who have serious medical conditions that require a nontraditional setting. We ask those families to contact our Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Mrs. Mary Vito at Mary_Vito@wheatland.k12.ny.us.
- 13. How will you address students' social-emotional needs?** We realize that students and families were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic differently. Our school leaders, counselors, social workers, teachers and staff will be focused on a supportive return

to school for all students. If you have specific concerns related to your child, please reach out to your school counselor or principal.

14. Will school assemblies happen? Yes, we are planning to have school assemblies, open houses, etc. this school year. All visitors will need to follow our masking and distancing protocols.

15. Will students have access to lockers this year? Yes, MS/HS students will have access to their lockers this year.

16. Will students be able to eat in the cafeteria? PreK-5 students will be seated in the cafeteria to allow for 6 foot social distancing. Students in 6-12 grade will eat in the cafeteria and in other designated classrooms in order to maintain social distancing.

17. What are the plans for busing? WCCSD buses will run normal bus routes this fall. Masks will be required, and windows, when reasonable, to allow for air flow, and frequent sanitizing will be continued. Students from the same household will be encouraged to sit together.

18. Will you put more emphasis on handwashing at the elementary level, instead of just using hand sanitizer? Yes, we will provide instruction and incorporate regular handwashing breaks for our youngest learners (PreK-2) and provide reminders for all students.

19. Will you be requiring daily health assessments again? No, daily screenings are no longer required by New York State. However, we will be asking families and staff to complete a one-time attestation at the beginning of the school year.

20. Will we receive information on COVID cases at WCCSD? We receive confirmation of official COVID cases from the Monroe County Department of Health. All cases are entered into the NYS COVID Dashboard, which is available at the following link: [NYS COVID Dashboard](#).

21. For middle and high schoolers, are students required to bring laptops to their classes on a daily basis? Yes, students in grades 6-12 should bring their charged laptop to and from school each day. Students in PreK-5 will be issued a laptop, but that device will typically remain in the classroom.

22. What is the plan if schools have to close again? If we are required to close by New York State, we will provide instruction through Schoology and ClassDojo, as we did during portions of the 2020-21 school year. More specific details will be provided at that time.

Questions with Answers TBD

1) Will students who have cold-like symptoms be required to be evaluated by a doctor and show proof of a negative COVID test to return to school? We have received guidance and charts from the Monroe County DOH that provide information on how we will evaluate and manage students who are symptomatic. They are available on our website.

2) Will there be any limitations on sports and/or the number of spectators that can go to sporting events? At this time, sports will proceed as scheduled. Students and

spectators will be expected to mask indoors. There will not be limits on the number of visitors at our home events. We expect that non-vaccinated spectators will remain masked and social distanced for both indoor and outdoor events.