

Northern Wells Community Schools

Guidance Document for 2020-21 Reopening

(For building-specific implementation plans, please click on the corresponding building: NHS, NMS, LES, OES.) – once finalized.

Northern Wells Community Schools strives to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. As our school district reopens our doors for the 2020-21 school year, we continue to be committed to safe and healthy learning environments. Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, adjustments to our operational practices will need to be implemented. As a public institution, we will follow the directives set forth by the Governor, the IDOE, and the Wells County Health Department. In addition, our daily educational decisions will be guided by the following commitments:

1. Maintaining Best Practices for Teaching and Learning
 - NWCS is returning from online, remote learning because we believe that our onsite, collaborative learning environments provide the best learning outcomes and social/emotional development for students.
 - As we implement safety measures for onsite learning, we will do so in manner that also promotes the primary benefits of our onsite, collaborative learning environments.
2. Providing Educational Access to All Students
 - Students may be restricted from onsite participation due illness or other health-related concerns.
 - NWCS is committed to the continued education and development for students who require alternative learning environments.
3. Reducing/Containing COVID-19 Spread and Avoiding Mass Quarantines/School Closures
 - Protective and mitigative measures must be established to ensure our ability to provide onsite programming.
 - Cooperation with our staff, students, and families along with timely communication and strict contact-tracing practices will greatly increase our ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school doors open.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, each school's individual building plans will commit to the following preventive/mitigative practices:

- ✓ Promote Self-Screening Measures and Enforce Campus Restrictions for Individuals with Identified Symptoms (*see table on the following page*)
- ✓ Promote Hygienic Practice to Reduce Viral Spreads
- ✓ Increase Quality and Frequency of Facility Cleaning and Sanitation Practices
- ✓ Optimize Contact Tracing (*Seating Charts, Cohort Groups, Adjusted Schedules*)
- ✓ Facilitate Social Distancing (*as feasible*)
- ✓ Reduce Large Group Settings (*as feasible*)
- ✓ Restrict Campus Visitors and Non-Essential Volunteers and Require Masks for Any Permitted Visitors/Volunteers
- ✓ Restrict Facility Usage for Non-School Sponsored Events
- ✓ Require Masks for Specific Situations and Specific Settings
- ✓ Restrict Students from Congregating in Large Groups
- ✓ Implement Special Precautions and Preventive Measures for our Most Vulnerable Staff and Students

Consistent adherence to approved screening and restriction practices listed within the table below will be key to maintaining our school district's ability to continue an onsite learning option. In addition to the resource below, please reference this decision-making flow chart. (*under construction*)

Screening Measures (before a child/employee leaves home)	A fever of 100.4° F or greater • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell A child (or employee) should stay home from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed above based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained. Parents call and report absences if remaining home for this reason.
Return to school/work after having one symptom above and <u>NO COVID 19 test:</u>	No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and • At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. • Any student, teacher, administrator, or staff who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing. The state website www.coronavirus.in.gov has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.
Return to school/work after having one symptom listed above <u>and testing negative for COVID 19:</u>	Return when the fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers or upon feeling better
Return to school/work after having one symptom above and testing <u>POSITIVE</u> for COVID 19 with symptoms:	First: Notify your school immediately of any positive test Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met: • The individual no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and • At least 10 calendar days since their test without symptoms; or • The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.
Return to school after having one symptom above and testing <u>POSITIVE</u> for COVID 19 asymptomatic:	Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone <u>ten calendar days without symptoms</u> and <u>have been released by a healthcare provider</u> . Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.
If someone in your home has symptoms or is being tested for COVID 19:	Students and employees should remain home for 72 hours if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. Parents and employees notify the school if someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19.
If someone in your home has tested positive for COVID 19:	If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic. Return to school after documented infection with COVID-19 should be directed by the individual's health care provider. Parents and employees notify the school if someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19.

The status of the COVID-19 spread for any Indiana county may be tracked at this website: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>
As we start of the 2020-21 school year, our school district is classified within the “Low to No Spread” category. If the spread level changes for our school district, we may choose or be required to become more restrictive in our daily practices. The tables on the following pages illustrate our school district’s anticipated response to each spread progression within various operations. In ALL scenarios, NWCS will maintain constant communication with the Wells County Health Department, and we will adhere to any directive they provide to us due to an increased spread level.

Responding to Community Spread within Northern Wells Community Schools Teaching and Learning

Low to No Spread	Minimal or Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
<p>Low to few known <u>active exposure cases</u> with little impact to school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily, onsite learning environments will be offered to 100% of the student population.• Alternative online options available for students unable to participate onsite due to illness or health-related concerns. Students participating online will be ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities. Other guidelines for online participation will be designated in specific building-level plans.• Any employee choosing to wear protective masks may wear masks.• Protective masks may be required in specific situations.• Desks/tables will be separated as feasible with nonessential furniture being removed. Plexiglass dividers may be installed where social distancing is not feasible.	<p>Minimal or moderate <u>active exposure cases</u> with some impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily, onsite learning will continue to be offered; however, protective masks will be required for everyone involved with onsite learning and alternative schedules may be implemented.• Online learning options will continue to be available for families. Previous guidelines and restrictions for the 100% online option will remain in place.	<p>Substantial <u>active exposure cases</u> with significant impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 spread is such that rolling closures are needed (could be short term or long term)• 100% online learning may be required for all students.

Responding to Community Spread within Northern Wells Community Schools Extra-Curricular Programming

Low to No Spread <small>Low to few known <u>active exposure cases</u> with little impact to school building attendance and staffing</small>	Minimal or Moderate Spread <small>Minimal or moderate <u>active exposure cases</u> with some impact on school building attendance and staffing</small>	Substantial Spread <small>Substantial <u>active exposure cases</u> with significant impact on school building attendance and staffing</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-time athletes are required to have an IHSAA pre-participation physical; returning athletes are not required to obtain a new physical, but they must provide a 2020-2021 IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire and Consent and Release Certificate, NWCS Release form, and Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form. Adhere to all social distancing guidelines as feasible; may wear masks when not feasible. Prior to equipment being used and immediately following usage, shared equipment must be thoroughly cleaned. Students must supply water bottles and no sharing of water bottles will be allowed Locker rooms used at 50% capacity, or at AD scheduling. No clothing may be left at school. All athletes must take clothing home each day to be washed If receiving treatment from the trainer, both the student and the trainer should wear face coverings Students must wash their hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before and after all workouts Gathering sizes should be decreased as much as possible to reduce risk. Gathering sizes should be reduced by half capacity in large areas. Free weight lifts may be conducted. Spotters should wear masks while spotting a lift Contact is limited to only contact necessary to compete as defined by the IHSAA Schedule may be adjusted to reduce the number of events, duration, and participants present Spectators, media, and vendors may be present but should implement social distancing and follow established mass gathering guidelines. Spectators may be limited. Concessions will follow the same guidelines as implemented by local restaurants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of protective masks may be required. Activities and spectators may be limited in accordance with Health Department guidelines or directives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 spread is such that rolling closures are needed (could be short term or long term) All or specific extracurricular events may be postponed or cancelled.

Responding to Community Spread within Northern Wells Community Schools Student Transportation

Low to No Spread	Minimal or Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
<p>Low to few known <u>active exposure cases</u> with little impact to school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents may transport children to and from school as they feel most comfortable Assigned seats on buses, siblings sit together, load the bus back to front (as feasible) and dismiss front to back (as feasible) Students will ride their assigned buses only. <u>Students will not be allowed to ride on other buses</u> (Emergencies will be addressed on a case by case basis) All staff self-screen each day before starting routes Hand sanitizer available on the bus Parents are to conduct health screening (page 2) prior to placing students on the bus and have students wash hands prior to getting on the bus. Do not send children to school if they have any symptoms (see page 2) Bus drivers and students may wear masks Bus is cleaned and disinfected between each route Minimal field trips with the first 30 days of reopening. Students will wash hands or utilize hand sanitizer upon arrival at school Student drop off and pickup should avoid the gathering of large groups 	<p>Minimal or moderate <u>active exposure cases</u> with some impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as transporting students in low to no spread. Protective masks will be required for all bus drivers and bus riders. 	<p>Substantial <u>active exposure cases</u> with significant impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 spread is such that rolling closures are needed (could be short term or long term) 100% online learning may be required for all students and transportation services would not be required.

Responding to Community Spread within Northern Wells Community Schools Food Service

Low to No Spread <small>Low to few known <u>active exposure cases</u> with little impact to school building attendance and staffing</small>	Minimal or Moderate Spread <small>Minimal or moderate <u>active exposure cases</u> with some impact on school building attendance and staffing</small>	Substantial Spread <small>Substantial <u>active exposure cases</u> with significant impact on school building attendance and staffing</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students wash hands prior to breakfast and lunch Use hand sanitizer. ● Hand sanitizer is provided for students and staff ● Food service staff wear masks as they prepare and serve food. (Same as restaurants.) ● No self-serve service available ● Assigned seating in the lunchroom or students assigned as groups to tables to support cohorts and contact tracing. ● Scan cards used in place of keypads as feasible ● Disposable plates and utensils may be utilized ● Cafeteria tables are cleaned between each meal services ● Floor is marked to space students while they wait to receive their meals ● Food should not be shared ● Students go in small groups to dispose of trash in cans spread throughout the cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Same as serving meals in low to no spread. ● Bulk food distribution for students on the days they are not in school ● Possible “Grab and Go” from cafeteria to permit eating of meals in the classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 spread is such that rolling closures are needed (could be short term or long term) ● 100% online learning may be required for all students and school buildings would be closed. ● Meal pick-up and delivery practices will be implemented per IDOE and Health Department guidelines. ● Protective masks will be required for all staff.

Responding to Community Spread within Northern Wells Community Schools Cleaning and Sanitizing

Low to No Spread	Minimal or Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
<p>Low to few known <u>active exposure cases</u> with little impact to school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff self-screen each day before starting shifts ● Soap and hand sanitizer are available throughout the building and in each classroom ● Routine cleaning is performed on a regularly scheduled basis by district custodial staff assigned to that building or area. Routine cleaning includes daily cleaning and disinfecting of all restrooms, scheduled sweeping of all floors, sanitizing of cafeteria tables, emptying trash and other building-based tasks ● Routine cleaning will also include the focused on cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces, specifically for the purpose of preventing spread of disease ● Emergency cleaning: The emergency cleaning plan will be implemented at the direction of the Superintendent or designee in response to an actual infection located at or attributed to a particular school or location or when directed by County or State health authorities ● Upon direction to implement an emergency cleaning plan, the facility will be evacuated and plans for the length and scope of facility closure will be communicated to the public and staff. This may only affect a portion of the facility. 	<p>Minimal or moderate <u>active exposure cases</u> with some impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue all procedures of Low-to-No Spread with additional deep cleaning procedures conducted by custodial staff at the direction of the Director of Facilities or Designee. 	<p>Substantial <u>active exposure cases</u> with significant impact on school building attendance and staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 spread is such that rolling closures are needed (could be short term or long term) ● 100% online learning may be required for all students and school buildings would be closed. ● Deep cleaning will be implemented in preparation for a return to onsite programming.