

School Reopening Plan
2020-2021 School Year
August 3, 2020

- I. **Full Reopen**. All students and staff members will be present. This plan will be used if area health department officials report a flat or declining rate of COVID-19 infection AND advise a full reopen.
 - a. Before school
 - i. Parents will be provided with a guidance document from the Quillen College of Medicine. This document will help parents decide whether their child should be sent to school that day.
 - ii. Masks will not be required.
 - b. Transportation
 - i. All bus routes will be in use.
 - ii. Social distancing on buses will not be possible with all students
 - iii. All buses will be sanitized daily
 - iv. All riders and drivers will be required to wear a mask or face shield.
 - v. Drivers will screen riders with infrared thermometers when boarding, pending receipt of equipment.
 - vi. Bus unloading will be staggered so as to cut back on crowding.
 - c. Instruction
 - i. The state-adopted start of the year Checkpoint assessments will be utilized in grades 3-8 and in high school math and ELA courses that require end of course tests. The data gleaned from these assessments will drive instruction going forward.
 - ii. An online formative assessment and associated TCAP Item Bank platform will be utilized throughout the academic year.
 - iii. Mock interim assessments that mirror current TCAP summative assessments will be utilized at the end of both semesters.

- iv. Online and Distance Learning options will be made available to students who demonstrate a medical need. Schools will work with individual families to make arrangements.
- d. Common areas
 - i. Areas such as administrative offices, clinics, libraries, cafeterias, etc will be organized in such a way as to minimize the number of people present at any given time.
 - ii. Restrooms will be monitored to minimize the number of people present at any given time.
 - iii. Building administrators will implement one-way traffic patterns in hallways where practical
 - iv. Large scale assemblies are discouraged and should be discontinued. "Large scale" shall be defined by the Governor's Executive Order in effect at the time.
- e. Classrooms
 - i. Doors will be propped open during times students are moving to reduce touching.
 - ii. Classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Common surfaces such as desks will be cleaned prior to students entering the classroom and as students exchange classrooms.
 - iii. Students will not share text materials or technology unless the objects are sanitized between uses.
 - iv. Social distancing will not be possible with all students and all teachers present at school.
 - v. Carpeted areas, upholstered common furniture and similar items that can harbor corona virus will be not be utilized.
 - vi. Teachers will arrange desks to maximize separation and face all students in the same direction.
- f. Nutrition Services
 - i. Meal service will be organized in such a way that students do not touch community serving utensils.
 - ii. Servers will be required to wear masks and gloves.

- iii. Outdoor seating will be utilized when weather permits.
- iv. All persons shall be afforded the opportunity to wash their hands before and after every meal.
- v. If WCDE receives a waiver for the duty-free lunch requirement, students may eat their meals in classrooms.
- g. Travel
 - i. Student field trips and staff development travel will be reduced to the absolute minimum necessary.
- h. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - i. Cloth masks will be recommended for all staff and students but not required.
 - ii. Provisions for regular hand washing will be implemented.
 - iii. Provisions will be made to provide appropriate PPE to students involved in speech, singing, and other, similar activities.
- i. General Sanitation
 - i. The protocol typically in use during flu season will be in effect at all times.
 - ii. In the event of a positive test among staff or a student, the classroom or areas exposed will be immediately closed until cleaning and disinfection can be performed.
- j. Communication
 - i. WCDE email addresses will be issued to all students grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year. Primary communication with students will be via email.
 - ii. Communication with parents will be via group text and the WCDE website (system), school-adopted digital application and website (school), and classroom adopted digital applications (teacher).
 - iii. Parents will be notified of the presence of positive cases in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.
- k. Extra-curricular activities

- i. Athletic practices and competitive events will continue according to agreed upon protocols in place at the time.
 - ii. Student group activities will be approved provided no groups in excess of 50 individuals are together and provided that all social distancing protocols can be applied.
- I. Special Populations
 - i. Medically at-risk students will be given the option of distance and online learning opportunities on a full-time basis.

- II. **Staggered Schedule.** A percentage of the student body and all faculty/staff members will be present. This plan will be used if it becomes necessary to implement a social distancing protocol without exception, subsequent to a moderate spread of COVID-19 as defined by the regional health office. Given the typical school enrollments and the size of our buildings, a 25% attendance arrangement will be implemented.
- a. Before school
 - i. Parents will be provided with a medically approved guidance document. This document will help parents decide whether their child should be sent to school that day.
 - ii. Masks will strongly encouraged for all persons entering any school building.
 - b. Transportation
 - i. All bus routes will be in use.
 - ii. Drivers and riders will wear masks or face shields.
 - iii. Drivers will screen riders with infrared thermometers when boarding, pending receipt of equipment.
 - iv. Social distancing on buses will be enforced.
 - v. All buses will be sanitized daily
 - vi. Bus unloading will be staggered so as to cut back on crowding.
 - c. Instruction
 - i. The state-adopted start of the year Checkpoint assessments will be utilized in grades 3-8 and in high school math and ELA courses that require end of course tests. The data gleaned from these assessments will drive instruction going forward.
 - ii. An online formative assessment and associated TCAP Item Bank platform will be utilized throughout the academic year.
 - iii. Mock interim assessments that mirror current TCAP summative assessments will be utilized at the end of both semesters.
 - iv. Teachers will have students in class on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Fridays will be set aside for

online/distance learning planning and preparation, class work assessment, digital interaction with students, and PLC meetings.

- v. Students will be physically present one day per week, actively engaged in learning and held accountable for their learning five days per week.
- vi. It will be necessary for students to use technology at home to stay engaged. We will issue chromebooks and other technology to those students that need such equipment.
- vii. Each school will identify a staff member that will serve on a digital 'help desk' five evenings per week. Individuals will serve on a rotating basis. A stipend will be made available to these individuals using federal funding allocations.
- viii. Full-time Online and Distance Learning options will be made available to students who demonstrate a medical need. Schools will work with individual families to make arrangements.

d. Common areas

- i. A screening protocol will be in place for all persons entering the school buildings.
- ii. Areas such as administrative offices, clinics, libraries, cafeterias, etc will be organized in such a way as to minimize the number of people present at any given time.
- iii. Restrooms will be monitored to minimize the number of people present at any given time.
- iv. Building administrators will implement one-way traffic patterns in hallways where practical

e. Classrooms

- i. Doors will be propped open during times students are moving to reduce touching.
- ii. Classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Common surfaces such as desks will be

cleaned prior to students entering and as students exchange classrooms.

- iii. Students will not share text materials or technology unless the objects are sanitized between uses.
- iv. Social distancing will be observed.
- v. Carpeted areas, upholstered common furniture and similar items that can harbor corona virus will be not be utilized.
- vi. Teachers will arrange desks to maximize separation and face all students in the same direction.
- vii. Changing areas such as locker rooms will not be utilized.
- viii. Playground equipment will not be utilized.

f. Nutrition Services

- i. Meal service will be organized in such a way that students do not touch community serving utensils.
- ii. Seating will be structured in such a way as to ensure social distancing. If this is not possible, and if a state waiver is issued for the duty-free lunch requirement, it may be necessary for students to eat in their classrooms.
- iii. Outdoor seating will be utilized when weather permits.
- iv. All persons shall be afforded the opportunity to wash their hands before and after every meal.
- v. Provision will be made for students that are not physically in class on any given day to pick up meals at school via a 'drive through' arrangement.

g. Travel

- i. Student field trips and staff development travel will be reduced to the absolute minimum necessary.

h. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- i. Cloth masks will be recommended for all staff and students but not required.
- ii. Provisions for regular hand washing will be implemented.

i. General Sanitation

- i. The protocol we typically use during flu season will be in effect at all times.
 - ii. In the event of a positive test among staff or a student, the classroom or areas exposed will be immediately closed until cleaning and disinfection can be performed.
- j. Communication
 - i. WCDE email addresses will be issued to all students grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year. Primary communication with students will be via email.
 - ii. Communication with parents will be via group text and the WCDE website (system), school-adopted digital application and website (school), and classroom adopted digital applications (teacher).
 - iii. Parents will be notified of the presence of positive cases in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.
- k. Extra-curricular activities
 - i. Athletic practices and competitive events will continue according to agreed upon protocols in place at the time.
 - ii. Student group activities will not be approved.
- l. Special Populations
 - i. Medically at-risk students will be given the option of distance and online learning opportunities on a full-time basis.
 - ii. Special Education students in self-contained classes will continue to attend school five days per week subject to availability of transportation and staff necessary to maintain social distancing.

III. **Virtual Open.** No students will be physically present at school. Professional staff will be present in the buildings during regular school hours and required to observe social distancing protocols. Other staff members will be present at the discretion and under the direction of applicable building principals and supervisors. This plan will be put into effect provided there is a substantial spread of COVID-19 and/or there is an order sent down from state government.

a. Instruction

- i. The state-adopted start of the year Checkpoint assessments will be utilized in grades 3-8 and in high school math and ELA courses that require end of course tests. The data gleaned from these assessments will drive instruction going forward.
- ii. An online formative assessment and associated TCAP Item Bank platform will be utilized throughout the academic year.
- iii. Mock interim assessments that mirror current TCAP summative assessments will be utilized at the end of both semesters.
- iv. Teachers will be in their classrooms and have availability to their instructional technology during regular class time and at any other time they so desire.
- v. All persons in the building must strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- vi. Students will be actively engaged five days per week and will be held accountable for their learning.
- vii. Teachers will be available electronically to students during the regular school day via multiple, digital means.
- viii. Students in grades 8-12 will have the Canvas online learning system available to them. Students in grades K-7 will have the Google Classroom online learning system available to them.
- ix. It will be necessary for students to use technology at home to stay engaged. We will issue chromebooks and other technology to those students that need such equipment.

b. Nutrition Services

- i. Subsequent to rules promulgated by the state department's office of student nutrition and the USDA, we will return to the same protocol used in the summer feeding program.
 - ii. Subject to applicable statutes, meals will be made available to all children whether they are on the free/reduced meal program or required to pay full price.
- c. Travel
 - i. Student travel will be eliminated.
 - ii. Staff travel will be limited to only essential travel.
- d. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - i. Cloth masks will be recommended for all staff and students but not required.
 - ii. Provisions for regular hand washing will be implemented.
- e. Communication
 - i. WCDE email addresses will be issued to all students grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year. Primary communication with students will be via email.
 - ii. Communication with parents will be via group text and the WCDE website (system), school-adopted digital application and website (school), and classroom adopted digital applications (teacher).
- f. Extra-curricular activities
 - i. Extra-curricular activities will cease.

IV. Dealing with infected persons

- a. Students identified as sick should be sent to the school nurse immediately. The school nurse will evaluate the student and use clinical evidence to determine the best course of action for the student. Students presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will be given a mask, placed in supervised isolation and will be sent home for recommended COVID-19 testing as soon as practicable. This will be coordinated with the Washington County and/or Regional Health Department.
- b. Students identified with COVID-19 will remain at home for a minimum of ten (10) days and/or released to return to school by the health department.
- c. The Health Department will conduct a case investigation to identify anyone who came into close contact with the positive case (more than 10 minute exposure or within 6 feet or less).
- d. Close contacts, as identified by the health department, must be quarantined at home for 14 days following their exposure to the case and will be monitored by public health via regular phone calls throughout the 14 days. Close contacts can return to school when released by the Health Department.
- e. Students presenting with a fever, without diagnosis that accounts for the fever with the exception of flu or strep throat, will be considered a probable cause and would be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days and follow the same procedure for returning to school as a positive case.
- f. Students quarantined at home will have virtual instruction made available to them.
- g. Adults exposed to COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure.

- V. **Acceptable Threshold** – this is a metric utilized to determine if there are an acceptable number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases to allow safe opening and operation of Washington County Schools.
 - a. The Tennessee Department of Health defines the threshold for acceptable COVID-19 disease transmission within a community as an average of ≤ 10 cases per 100,000 over the prior 14 days.
 - b. The metric/threshold may change over time as new information is gathered and additional metrics concerning school reopening is established by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Department of Education.
- VI. **School Operating Scenarios**
 - a. **None to minimal**: defined as very few, if any, COVID-19 cases among Washington County residents, with an average of 0-5 new cases over the prior 14 days. Washington County Schools will operate on a fully open basis under this scenario.
 - b. **Minimal to moderate**: defined as an average of 6-10 new COVID-19 cases among Washington County residents over the prior 14 days. Washington County Schools will operate on a staggered schedule under this scenario.
 - c. **Substantial**: Defined as an average of >11 new COVID-19 cases among Washington County residents over the prior 14 days. Washington County Schools will operate on a virtual protocol under this scenario.

- VII. **Mitigating Factors:** there are four factors other than number of new cases that must be considered to fully determine community risk, to wit;
- a. Disease epidemiology: Level of community transmission, number and type of outbreaks, impact of the outbreaks on delivery of healthcare or other critical infrastructure or services, and epidemiology in surrounding jurisdictions.
 - b. Community characteristics: size of community and population density, level of community engagement/support, size and characteristics of vulnerable populations, access to healthcare, transportation, planned large events, and relationship of community to other communities.
 - c. Local Healthcare capacity: healthcare workforce, number of healthcare facilities, testing capacity, hospital intensive care unit capacity, and availability of personal protective equipment.
 - d. Public Health capacity: public health workforce and available of resources to implement strategies, and available support from other state/local government agencies and partner organizations.