



WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

INSPIRE ★ STRIVE ★ THRIVE

Mr. Jerry S. Boyd
Superintendent

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We are working to ensure a safe environment while continually providing education to our students. One of our top priorities is protecting students, families, faculty, and staff.

COVID-19 is here to stay, but we have learned methods and gained tools to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. Our schools are able to manage this disease in a sustainable and adaptive manner. Additionally, many of the strategies used to address COVID-19 can protect from other diseases and support healthy learning environments in our schools.

We will continue to recommend best practices:

- Face masks are recommended by the CDC but are not required.
- Encourage regular handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Reinforce respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).
- Social distance when possible.
- Clean and disinfect often.

Response to COVID-related illness:

- Parents should monitor their child for a temperature greater than 100.4, cough, congestion, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal symptoms, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, headache, or body aches each day. If any of these symptoms are present the student should: Stay home and be fever free, without the use of fever reducing medication, for 24 hours with symptom improvement before returning to school.
- Staff are expected to follow these same procedures should they develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

Attendance:

(Positive COVID-19 test)

- As with other illnesses, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may return once they are 24 hours fever free, without the use of fever reducing medication, with improving symptoms. Should a parent/guardian choose to follow the TDOH recommendations for isolation/quarantine, the student's absence will be marked excused once the parent provides one of the following: Doctor's excuse or Parent note.
- Home tests will not be accepted. Please contact your doctor for an excuse or use a parent note.

(Close contact regardless of vaccination status)

- If an individual is exposed to someone with COVID and **not** exhibiting symptoms, they **do not** need to stay home. They may continue to attend school and work.

COVID Testing:

- Schools will offer **FREE**, COVID-19 testing for students and staff members who become symptomatic while at school.

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