



School District of West Salem 2021-22 Reopening Plan

It is the intention of the School District of West Salem to remain open to in-person learning by establishing a safe learning environment through implementing a system of layered mitigation measures. We aim to have near-zero transmission of the COVID virus within our schools. Transmission levels will determine reducing mitigation measures over time. The District will follow all legal orders or mandates presented by government agencies such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, and the Department of Public Instruction. The District will consider guidelines and recommendations when choosing the best course of action. Our local community conditions, which include district buildings, will also be considered throughout the decision-making process. National guidelines may focus on areas that show high transmission with low vaccination rates which may not be relevant to local conditions.

The District's administration is granted authority by the School Board to take appropriate action as necessary in any instance where the District's plan becomes inadequate or does not address the particular situation. The urgency of the situation would determine the necessity for an immediate change to the plan.

When sick, stay home:

Symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever or shaking chills, cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, fatigue/very tired, headache, muscle or body aches, a new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Staying home when sick is an important way to keep students and staff healthy. Your child should stay home until symptom-free without medication for 24 hours if they have:

- Temperature greater than 100.0 degrees
- Vomiting or diarrhea

Students will also be excluded from school/activities based criteria outlined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for childhood communicable diseases.

Please contact your School Nurse if your child develops the following symptoms/illnesses:

- Rash that is open and draining or a rash with a fever
- Contagious diseases: strep throat, impetigo, pink eye, chickenpox, COVID-19
- Nuisance diseases: head lice, scabies, ringworm

Masking:

The District will follow any legally issued orders provided by relevant governmental agencies. The CDC and local medical officials highly encourage masks for anyone age two and older regardless of vaccination status. The West Salem School District fully supports this recommendation for all staff and students while indoors. While supporting this recommendation, we will not be making masks mandatory at this time. The school district will maintain our [COVID-19 dashboard](#). Conditions within the district will be monitored and will be our primary measure of decision-making. If the District sees an upward trend of illness and/or quarantine we will reassess the need to implement a full extent of mitigation strategies including masking. A masking period may be required by a classroom, grade, school, or all individuals in order to keep students within our buildings safe. A decision to move to masking will last for a period of at least three weeks.

Such conditions may be surpassing the outbreak threshold (two connected cases within 14 days) or a rise in cases within our school district boundary. If there is such an increase in conditions that would place our district in the red category according to the [Harvard Global Health Institute](#) (greater than 25 cases per 100,000 people per day within the School District of West Salem), we may require masking for all students and staff when indoors. This data can be found on the [Wisconsin Department of Health Website](#).

****An upward trend of positivity among students and/or staff may supersede any community statistical measure that would allow us to intervene.**

**To access information, scroll down to the map of Wisconsin, click on "school district," and type in West Salem. The number provided is a seven-day total, to get the daily case rate, take the West Salem number and divide it by seven .*



Red: When our district metrics exceed 25 cases per 100,000 people per day, we would universally mask when indoors throughout the district.

Green: When district metrics are lower than 25 cases per 100,000 per day, masks are optional when indoors throughout the district.

****The choice to wear or not to wear a mask is based upon current conditions and personal discretion. Harassment of any type toward mask wearers or non mask wearers will not be tolerated. As a district, we will honor the choices of our students, staff, and families.**

Transportation:

Universal masking is currently required by [federal regulations](#) for everyone utilizing district transportation including our daily bus routes, field trips, and co-curricular transportation.

Social Distancing:

The District will work to provide social distancing wherever possible. We appreciate students also being mindful of their surroundings.

[Quarantine \(see District Quarantine Flow Chart\):](#)

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must quarantine. Individuals not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 who live with someone who is positive will be required to quarantine.

- The District will not require asymptomatic close contacts who are not household members to the positive case to quarantine.
- The District will continue to conduct contact tracing to determine if there are individuals who are close contacts to a positive case in the school setting. The School Nurse, or designee, will contact these families so they may monitor for symptoms.
- This may change if the district experiences cases of transmission of the virus between close contacts to a positive case in the school setting.
- The District will also utilize shortened quarantine.

Cleaning/Ventilation:

Measures of cleaning with the addition of disinfectant of all hard surfaces and high traffic areas will continue to be implemented on a daily basis. Cleaning supplies and hand sanitation materials will be available in all classrooms and in all common areas throughout the district. All supplies will be deemed safe for use by all ages.

The District will provide the highest level of filtration possible and increase air exchanges within each of our buildings.

Personal Hygiene:

Emphasis will be placed on hand washing and covering of one's cough in all settings within the District.

Pauses to In-Person Learning:

The District will follow state and local health directives when considering any temporary halting of in-person instruction. These directives are based upon the following criteria:

- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented and ineffective at halting outbreak transmission
- Logistics of in-person instruction have been seriously impacted due to staff and/or student absences
- Classroom or school-wide cleaning and disinfection needs to be completed
- Extensive contact tracing is needed to identify all contacts (response to a case at a large school event)

Any temporary pause to in-person learning will be the last resort when all other mitigation strategies have been exhausted or were ineffective.

Distance Learning:

The District will provide continuity of learning when a student/s is/are home due to COVID-19 protocols.

Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Activities:

The District will conduct all extracurricular/co-curricular activities in accordance with WIAA and other recommendations. Our participants will follow any policies or procedures by the host district or organization.

Communication to Families:

When a West Salem School District student tests positive for COVID-19, and has participated in school/activities while contagious, close contacts will be notified by phone and/or email. Please continue to monitor our [District COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for updates.

DECEMBER 14, 2020

As part of a motion by Mr. Erik Peterson and Mr. Sean Gavaghan, the Board authorized the Administration to make the decision regarding the mode of learning.

Disclaimer: This plan supersedes all previous reopening plans, and is valid for the 2021-22 school year only.

Presented at the 8-23-21 Board of Education Meeting by Superintendent Ryan G. Rieber