

WIRT COUNTY SCHOOLS



Re-Entry Plan for COVID19

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Students, Staff and Parents,

From March 13th and in the weeks and months that followed, teachers, students and parents were asked to suddenly change how the business of school was done. Teachers were asked to teach, and students were asked to learn in an entirely different manner. Teachers in Wirt County and across the state and nation met this challenge head on and went on to the end of the school year doing some amazing things virtually to engage and educate students. As a new school year fast approaches, we are again faced with an unprecedented challenge of opening schools and educating students while keeping students and staff safe in the process.

The purpose of this document is to establish a transparent process and to put in place a series of protocols for the students and staff members of Wirt County Schools that allows a return to traditional in-person instruction, while at the same time, providing guidance for disinfecting, sanitizing, screening, social distancing and other safety protocols that will allow this reopening to be possible. This plan balances public health concerns with the importance of educational and social/emotional wellbeing of our students. The development of this plan is in accordance with guidance provided by the West Virginia Department of Education and current public health guidance.

The importance of students getting in person education is well documented. There is already evidence of the negative impact that recent school shutdowns have had on students across the state and country. With this in mind, the primary mission of this document is to provide a plan of action for Wirt County Schools to continue educating students while maintaining the health and safety of everyone involved. The plan outlined below does this in progressive stages, beginning in a very cautious manner and changing our protocols gradually based on local health and wellness data, with the ultimate goal being a return to 5 days per week in person instruction.

Finally, I want to stress that this plan is dynamic in nature for several reasons. As stated above, our protocols will be based on local health and wellness data. As this data changes, where we are in our plan will also change. Our scientific understanding of COVID-19 is ever changing. When this happens the guidance that we receive from DHHR, the Governor's Office, WVDE and other agencies also changes. Therefore, Wirt County Schools stands ready to revise and update this plan as needed. Even though the challenge we face is unprecedented, I am confident that working together, we can meet this challenge and continue to do great things for the students of Wirt County.

Employee Return to Work Schedule

The governor's recent proclamation moving the school starting date for students to September 8th has made every county school system in the state to revise their school calendars for the upcoming school year. This proclamation also, unknowingly, created a problem for most counties school systems, in that changing the start date for teachers (and other 200-day employees) to a later date would cause all 200-day employees to miss a pay period. To ensure that this did not happen, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) provided flexibility to counties allowing OS and other types of days to be moved to the beginning of the school year. Snow days also may take on a new look with a virtual leaning option. While the calendar looks different in many ways from a typical school calendar, it has been approved by the WVDE.

Teachers and other 200-day employees will return to work on campus August 24th, 2020. This two-week period before students return will be used for professional development and to begin creating and uploading content in Schoology (our new online learning platform). A portion of this time will also be used to train all staff on the protocols and safety procedures of our re-entry plan in preparation for students returning.





Re-Entry to School Phases and Timeline

Wirt County Schools will begin in person instruction on September 8th, 2020 per the governor’s proclamation. However, in order to minimize student interactions and to ensure social distancing, Wirt County Schools will begin with a staggered re-entry schedule for students. Students will be divided into two groups: Group A and Group B. Students will be assigned to a group based on family groups and common bus stops with the idea being to keep students living in the same household together within the same group. We are in the process of creating the rosters for Group A and Group B. Week 1 Group A and Group B will alternate. In Week 2 and Week 3 Group A will attend on Monday and Tuesday with Group B attending Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a virtual learning day for both groups to allow for extra cleaning to be completed in schools. When the rosters are completed, we will let parents and students know which group they are in.

Week 1:

September 8th	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 9th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus
September 10th	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 11th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus

Week 2:

September 14th	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 15th	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 16th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – virtual learning
September 17th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus
September 18th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus

Week 3:

September 21st	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 22nd	Group A – on campus	Group B – virtual learning
September 23rd	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – virtual learning
September 24th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus
September 25th	Group A – virtual learning	Group B – on campus

At the conclusion of Week 3 (and depending on local health and wellness data), Wirt County Schools will move into the next phase of our re-entry plan. In this phase all students will return to school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday with virtual learning still taking place on Wednesdays to allow for extra cleaning to take place in our school buildings.

Week 4:

September 28th	All Students – on campus
September 29th	All Students – on campus
September 30th	All Students – virtual learning
October 1st	All Students – on campus
October 2nd	All Students – on campus

Week 5:

October 5th	All Students – on campus
October 6th	All Students – on campus
October 7th	All Students – virtual learning
October 8th	All Students – on campus
October 9th	All Students – on campus

Week 6:

October 12th	All Students – on campus
October 13th	All Students – on campus
October 14th	All Students – virtual learning
October 15th	All Students – on campus
October 16th	All Students – on campus

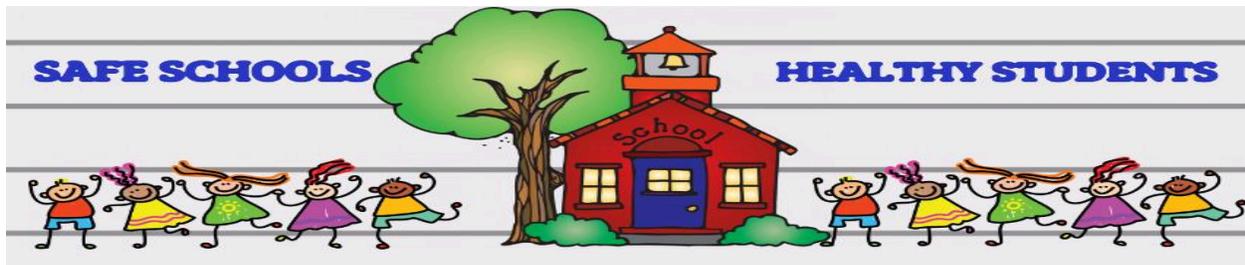
At the conclusion of Week 6 (and depending on local health and wellness data), Wirt County Schools will move to in person instruction, with all students five days per week. If, at any time, local health and wellness data changes, Wirt County Schools could move back to a previous phase of our plan depending on guidance from WVDE and local health officials.

Wirt County Schools will continue to feed students throughout this process. Meals will be sent home with A and B Groups to cover their days of virtual instruction. Students that choose the full virtual option may still pick up meals at designated locations if desired. If Wirt County Schools must move to “Fully Remote” instruction, meals will still be provided at designated locations.



Transportation

- School re-entry will begin with a staggered approach with Group A and Group B attending on different days of the week. This will allow social distancing on buses.
- An additional staff member will be placed on each bus during morning bus routes to take student temperatures as they get on the bus.
- Students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Pre K – grade 2 students can wear masks as directed by their parents.
- Windows will be kept at the first opening or greater to encourage fresh air flow when occupied.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon boarding the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats on the bus according to common bus stops and family units sitting together. Students will sit two per bus seat as a maximum. If ridership requires three students to sit together, family members may sit three per seat.
- Bus passes for students not living in the same household will not be permitted. These arrangements will need to be taken care of outside of school.
- Bus operators will sanitize the bus between runs using approved disinfectant wipes, liquid or mist.
- Bus routes and pick-up and drop off times may vary during the staggered schedule.



School Buildings

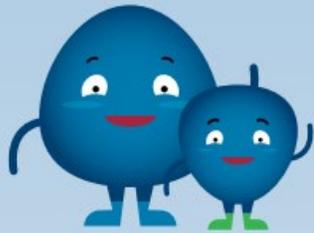
- All students and staff will enter/exit through designated locations.
- Students will proceed directly to assigned classrooms.
- Staff will proceed directly to designated work areas.
- All hallway traffic will be socially distanced and follow the designated directional markers.
- Students not arriving by bus (walkers, drop offs and students that drive to school) must be screened upon entry.
- Staff (including substitutes) must be screened upon entry.
- Students/staff with temperatures above 99° F will be further screened by the school nurse. If verified, ill students will be isolate in a dedicated space until parents can sign the student out and seek further medical attention. Staff members, verified to be ill by the school nurse, will be relieved of duties and sent home.
- Day shift custodians will sanitize restrooms and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and common areas multiple times throughout the day.
- The use of water fountains will be prohibited. However, students may use personal bottles at bottle filling stations.
- Air purification filters (capable of filtering out virus sized particles) will be placed in classrooms and cafeterias.

Instruction

- Elementary grades will remain in classroom groupings with cross classroom interactions restricted.
- Classrooms will be arranged with social distancing in mind and with students facing the same direction.
- Classrooms will limit the sharing of materials between students.
- At secondary grade levels, release times for classrooms will be staggered to limit student interactions. Masks will be worn at class changes and at times that social distance cannot take place.
- Students, when grade appropriate, can help teachers by wiping down their desks with a disinfectant wipe as they prepare to change classes.
- Teachers will utilize the Schoology platform to provide content, interact with students, provide feedback on student work, and to communicate with parents.
- Schoology will be utilized for all virtual instruction for students that are not on campus.
- Administrators can monitor the posting and completion of work on Schoology to hold teachers and students accountable.
- Teachers and students will solely utilize the Schoology platform in the event that “Full Remote” instruction is necessary.
- WV Virtual School and a possible local full virtual option will be offered.
- School counselors will utilize the Schoology platform to interact and connect with virtual students to ensure that the social/emotional needs of students are met.



COVID-19 SHOULD I COME TO SCHOOL?



HOW TO SCREEN FOR COVID-19

IF I HAVE:

THEN:

1 NO SYMPTOMS



Proceed to school

**2 EXPOSURE,
NO SYMPTOMS**



Cannot go to school

Home for 14 days since exposure

**3 DIAGNOSIS,
NO SYMPTOMS**



Cannot go to school

Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test

4 AT LEAST 1 SYMPTOM

- Fever
- Chills
- Shortness of breath/
breathing difficulty
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell



Cannot go to school

- Home until:
- 10 days since first symptoms
 - No fever for 3 days (without fever medicine)
 - 3 days of symptom improvement, including coughing and shortness of breath

How Parents Can Help

- Please review the symptoms on the previous page and keep symptomatic and/or otherwise ill students home.
- Masks will play an important part of a safe return to school. Practice putting the mask on at home and if there is a mask that works and is comfortable for your child, please send it to school with them. Even though masks in PreK through 2nd grade are not required, parents could send masks if desired.
- Please talk with your children about the importance of hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, not sharing of food or other items to help stop the spread of germs.
- Please be patient and flexible as we move forward. Plans and protocols are likely to change.