

WNCS Safety Protocols Plan

Our safety plan is drawn primarily from the joint publication of [Maryland's Departments of Health and Education](#) along with [CDC recommendations](#) to schools. Both these publications affirm fully open classrooms with specific safety measures taken. (We will not be offering an online learning option).

In keeping with CDC's recommendations, WNCS encourages all eligible people to pursue vaccinations. As of this writing,

Parents are asked to read and support the safety measures outlined below. Parents are then asked to sign and return the attached waiver – which expresses support of the safety measures and assumption of COVID-19 related risks.

Guidance from governing authorities may shift during the year, and WNCS will update our plans and inform parents accordingly.

Vaccination:

- MD departments of Health and Education call vaccines, “one of the most critical strategies to help schools resume regular operations.”
- All those above 12 years are encouraged to get vaccinated.
- WNCS staff is fully vaccinated.

Masks:

- Masks are required indoors for all people in the building (vaccinated as well as unvaccinated).
- Masks may only be removed while indoors for the purpose of eating. Students may only remove their masks: when seated, distanced, and given permission by their teachers.
- (*update 10-28-21*) Outdoors: Our COVID policy started the year with the requirement that masks be worn outdoors in most settings - this was more cautious than required of us by PG county and by the Depts. of Education and Health for schools. Given that our county remains one of the most cautious in the state, that our entire school population is comparatively small and that the local infection rates have now dropped back below 10 new cases/day/100k people, we will now relax the requirement on outdoor masking. Starting on Oct 28, wearing masks while outdoors will be optional. Students will need to keep careful track of their masks if they remove them while outdoors and families are reminded that it is YOUR responsibility to provide at least two adequate masks for your child each day.

Distancing:

- WNCS will work to maintain 3 feet (or more) of physical distance between students indoors and out.

Ventilation:

- WNCS will take advantage of ventilation recommendations from the CDC including:
 - o Maximizing fresh air-intake from our air handlers.
 - o Ensuring working exhaust fans in bathrooms.
 - o Running air purifiers in each of our classrooms.
 - o (When appropriate) opening windows and doors for fresh air circulation
 - o Making use of opportunities to take students outdoors.

Handwashing:

- Teachers will encourage thorough, frequent handwashing (especially after sneezes and before eating).
- Hand sanitizer will be supplied in each classroom.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- **With every use:** Copier, entry doors, bathrooms (handles of door, sink, toilet and towel dispenser wiped down by user). *Do not throw wipes in the toilet.*
- **Several times a day:** classroom and bathroom door handles.
- **Daily:** Classrooms: desks, chairs, door handles, light switches. Common area door handles. Classroom tables or desks after lunch or snack.
- **Several times a week/as needed:** Bathrooms: clean and disinfect all surfaces. **Weekly:** Entire building to be cleaned per cleaning Contract. (Includes disinfection of all high-touch surfaces).
- **Mid-week:** Per Contract.
- **Monthly:** Per Contract
- **Irregular/As necessary:** In the event that we close a classroom and/or whole school due to infection concern, all possibly exposed spaces will be left for at least 48 hours, and then thoroughly disinfected.
- **Note:** School will provide alcohol-based wipes, in bathrooms, classrooms and common areas.

Testing and contact tracing:

- CDC recommends testing as an important component in managing virus outbreak.
- Anyone in the WNCS community (teacher, student, or family member) should get a test if they have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and/or if they are showing symptoms.
 - o Vaccinated people who have known exposure should be tested 3-5 days after exposure regardless of whether they have symptoms.
 - o Vaccinated people are not required to quarantine after a close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - o Students who are correctly wearing masks, and who were not within fewer than 3 feet of a potentially infected person are not considered close contacts by the current CDC definition.
- WNCS will continue to collaborate with state and local health department to report and provide information about any potential COVID-19 cases.

When showing symptoms:

- Staff/students should not come into school when sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and should pursue evaluation and testing by their healthcare provider.
- Staff/students should stay home if they have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19 and have not completed quarantine.
- Students/staff who develop symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately.

Response to Confirmed Case of COVID-19 and Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms in Schools and Child Care:

- Parents are expected to communicate to WNCS about a positive test result and/or COVID-19 symptoms or close contact that happened off campus.
- WNCS will communicate to local health department about a positive test result and/or COVID-19 symptoms.

- WNCs will provide notification to families of any close contacts that occur while the student is on campus.
- Any exclusions from school of individuals or closures of programs, classrooms or the whole school will be made by the local health department.

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Household members ² should not attend or work in a child care, school, or youth camp until the person with symptoms is able to return <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
	If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

²These persons should not be reported to the local health department as contacts. The child care, school, or youth camp should inform the household members of these recommendations.

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Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 if indicated ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
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Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. Person should have written health care provider assessment that COVID-19 testing is not indicated and risk of COVID-19 is low.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
	If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance <i>except</i> those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

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