

WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

2021-22 Reopening Plan

9/7/2021

This plan has been developed in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Tippecanoe County Health Department (TCHD) officials, school corporation physicians, school nurses, administrators, and staff/faculty representatives.



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Introduction

West Lafayette Community School Corporation's (WLCSC) reopening plan has been developed using the CDC, ISDH, and TCHD guidelines for reopening schools. The WLCSC School Board has the sole authority to make adjustments to this plan. However, executive orders from the Governor or Emergency Orders from TCHD may require measures that alter plan designs previously approved by the school board.

The reopening plan aligns with guidance in accordance with ESSER III for the safe return to instruction and continuity of services. WLCSC will continue to follow guidance from the organizations listed above to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and to the extent to which WLCSC has adopted policies, on the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC. WLCSC will continue to ensure continuity of services including students' academic, social, emotional, mental health, food assistance, and other needs. WLCSC will also continue to support staff social-emotional/mental health and other needs.

We believe the plan we have developed meets all of the CDC, ISDH, and local Tippecanoe County Health Department recommendations and guidelines. The WLCSC School Board looks forward to another excellent school year, and we appreciate the support of our students, parents, staff, and community during the 2021-22 school year.

In-Person Instruction

The WLCSC Board of Trustees recognizes that in-person instruction offers the highest-quality educational experience to students and maximizes the skill and professional abilities of teachers and staff. We believe that in-person instruction is the best approach for building positive relationships which leads to successful learning. Public schools establish relationships between teachers, students, parents, administration and community members. The stronger the relationship, the better the education services that are provided to our students. Utilizing the recommended guidelines of CDC, ISDH, and TCHD guidelines, and by implementing prevention and mitigation measures, we believe we can reopen school onsite and at the same time provide our students, parents, and community with the highest quality of education that is built on developing and strengthening student, parent and community relationships.

In consultation with administration, faculty representatives, school nurses, and school physicians, the West Lafayette Community School Corporation will open the 2021-22 school year using an in-person model of instruction. The in-person model will have students attending a full day of school at their assigned building starting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Prevention and Mitigation Measures

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter a school building.

Families (parents, guardians, and students)

Families are encouraged to review CDC COVID-19 health and hygiene recommendations with their children. Below are listed several resources for families:

- [CDC – How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)
- [COVID-19 in Children and Teens](#)
- [Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Children](#)
- [ISDH Back to School Resources for Parents and Caregivers](#)

A daily checklist (Appendix A) has been developed for students, parents, and staff with reminders regarding items that may need to be brought to school.

A daily COVID-19 Screening tool (Appendix A) has been developed for parents by ISDH regarding self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms. The administration is requesting that everyone do their part in completing a self-screening before entering school. If a student at school exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, a separate clinic location is provided in each school for those students.

Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff are encouraged to review CDC COVID-19 guidance. As a school corporation, WLCSC strives to follow CDC guidelines for health and safety for students and staff. Below are listed several resources for teachers and staff:

- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

A daily checklist (Appendix A) has been developed for students, parents, and staff with reminders regarding items that may need to be brought to school.

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School Corporation

Each building is implementing health and safety procedures with regards to personal hygiene, bathroom breaks, water bottle fill-up, breakfast/lunch, recess, hallway procedures, classroom procedures, school bus protocols. Prevention and mitigation strategies may include the following:

- regular cleaning of high touch surfaces
- deep cleaning protocols as needed
- increased ventilation and air filtration
- encourage the use of water fountains for bottle refill only

- students and staff are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene
- establish a separate clinic space to treat symptomatic students
- maximize physical space to allow for as much social distancing as possible
- institute required seating charts as necessary so that contact tracing can occur in a timely and accurate manner

Other prevention and mitigation strategies specific to certain curricular and extracurricular activities may be instituted as circumstances warrant.

Per I.C. 20-33-2-47(b) a school corporation or a state accredited nonpublic school shall report to the local health department the percentage of student absences above a threshold determined by the department by rule adopted under IC 4-22-2.

Social Distancing Protocols

Social distancing protocols will look different at each school based upon the student ages, the square footage of classrooms and hallways, and the type of school schedule being implemented.

Students attending specials (choir, band, orchestra, general music, library, computer labs, art, P.E., etc.) will be provided specific instructions about how these activities will be provided. The school building administration will provide specific information to students and parents about these protocols as they are developed.

(Each school's administration, teachers, and staff members will build upon the above protocols based on CDC, ISDH, and TCHD guidance.)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In accordance with the CDC and TCHD guidance, WLCSC will observe the following:

All Students, Teachers, Staff, and Visitors

- Face masks are **required** for all when indoors and not eating, regardless of vaccination status.
- Face masks are **required** for everyone on school transportation, including CityBus, until further notice, per the federal Department of Transportation.

[Per the CDC](#), masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face, and face coverings such as bandanas, face shields, scarves and gators are not permissible. Face masks with a clear plastic panel may be permissible for those with accommodations.

There may be times when masks will be allowed to be removed during the day such as breakfast, lunch and other times as deemed necessary. The WLCSC board and

administration will closely monitor continued guidance from CDC, ISDH, and TCHD and will continue to evaluate mask requirements during the 2021-22 school year.

If any family needs assistance with PPE, they should contact their child's school administration. While supplies are limited, WLCSC administration will do everything possible to assist those families in need.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

If staff, parents, or students are interested in learning more about the COVID-19 vaccine, please see the resources listed below:

- [ISDH Back to School Resources for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- [ISDH COVID-19 vaccination sites](#)

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

WLCSC will follow ISDH guidelines on the definition of close contacts and quarantine. If all individuals are masked indoors, an individual is considered a close contact if fewer than 3 feet from the person who tested positive for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. For information regarding quarantine procedures for close contacts, see Appendices B and C.

For a list of COVID-19 testing sites in Tippecanoe County, visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>.

Students who are ill, quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure, or absent from school for other reasons will be provided with their school homework via the ordinary channels facilitated by the teachers.

Positive Case Protocols

If at any time during this process, someone within the school setting tests positive for COVID-19 as confirmed by the Tippecanoe County Health Department, the administration will follow the CDC, ISDH, and TCHD guidelines to determine mitigation procedures. Each situation will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the resources from these organizations will help guide WLCSC administration through the mitigation process. See Appendix C, D, and E for more information on quarantines.

In all positive case reports, the administration must respect the confidentiality of students, staff, and their families.

If a student has been confirmed to have COVID-19, as confirmed by the TCHD, the school district's administration will use contact tracing measures to determine who should be contacted based upon proximity of other students who were in contact with that student.

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should immediately call the Tippecanoe County Health Department at 765-423-9193.

Visitors and Field Trips

Visitors are required to wear masks while indoors in all WLCSC buildings.

School day field trips will not be allowed during the first nine weeks. The guidance on co-curricular activities such as day field trips shall be determined on a periodic basis. Administration will reevaluate at the conclusion of each nine-week grading period.

Accommodation of Medical Needs

A student that requests an alternative accommodation due to the student's medical needs shall submit a written statement from the student's treating physician outlining the medical necessity for an alternative arrangement. The school reserves the right to have the request and written statement reviewed by the school nurse and/or physician.

School Technology

WLCSC's technology department will be providing specific information to families as needed about protocols the technology staff will be utilizing for digital devices and keeping computer stations and equipment sanitized.

Special Education

Using guidance provided by the IDOE, WLCSC's special education teachers and staff will plan, prepare, and guide their decisions based on the individual needs of the students they serve. WLCSC's top priorities are maintaining a safe and healthy school environment as well as complying with Article 7 laws. Special Education staff will draft IEPs and internal building-level protocols that includes strategies and procedures to minimize disruption to teaching and learning. WLCSC's special education plan includes proactive and frequent communication with families to discuss delivery methods of instruction and appropriate platforms. As a corporation, the special education teachers and staff continue to work with and train staff to ensure they are able to meet all of the needs of all of their students with IEPs. They will analyze annual case reviews, future and current services, transition IEPs, and accommodations to make sure WLCSC is providing FAPE to all of the students we serve.

Transportation

The Federal Department of Transportation mask mandate requires that everyone riding a bus, including CityBus, yellow buses, and activity buses, wear a mask. Bus drivers will have on hand a limited supply of masks for students to use. However, parents/students should not count on masks being available. If the federal transportation guidelines should change,

this requirement may be updated.

WLCSC busing will run the assigned routes and stops each day school is in session. It will be the parent's responsibility to make sure the student attending that specific day's group, is at the stop 5 minutes early.

Each student will have an assigned seat on the bus. This assigned seating will be strictly enforced. Students should follow proper procedure while riding the bus: stay in your seat, keep hands and feet to yourself. Students should avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces outside the assigned seating area. Students must follow drivers' instructions.

Each route bus will be disinfected each day after the afternoon routes. If a student is reported to be symptomatic or is diagnosed with COVID-19, that bus will be pulled from the fleet for at least 24 hours until disinfected and ready for service.

WLCSC route buses are equipped with air conditioning. Drivers will refrain from using the units, and place every other window down at the beginning of each route (weather permitting). No student shall adjust or close windows.

Each bus will contain appropriate PPE equipment for the driver including gloves, disinfectant spray, and safety glasses if needed. Drivers should report any incidents to the transportation office before the end of one's shift.

If a student who is not scheduled to attend class on a designated day rides the bus, parents must notify the school of this as soon as possible.

Food Service

WLCSC food service staff members will follow CDC and ISDH guidelines. Each school will provide as much social distancing as possible during student lunch and breakfast times. The following is a list of protocols that will be used by all food service employees:

- Any staff with a fever as defined by the CDC will NOT work and need to be fever free without any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the POS stations.
- All employees will be required to wash hands per Health Department Guidelines.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized between each lunch period.
- Alternatives to condiment pumps will be utilized.

Athletics

- All WL Athletics venues will be operating at full capacity for the 2021-22 school year.
- The WL athletics department will use the same face mask policy being used by the WLCSC for the 2021-22 school year.

- WL Athletics will also use the same practices as WLCSC to determine close contacts, quarantine times, vaccination status, etc.
- Hospitality rooms for officials should not include shared food service and should allow space for social distancing. Individual waters and pre-packaged snacks may be made available.
- Concessions may be sold if food handlers and cashiers use appropriate PPE.
- All trips must be approved by WLJSHS administration.
- It is acknowledged that social distancing principles should be followed as much as possible for bus transportation.
- Student-athletes and coaches should try to sit no more than 1 person to a seat. If possible, allow an empty row between persons sitting on same side of bus.
- Coaches should prioritize the bus riders to each away event.
- Travel Consent forms will be signed and turned in for athletes traveling with parents or a teammate's parents to away events.
- All student-athletes and coaches, regardless of vaccination status, will wear face masks at all times while on the bus.
- Each seat should be cleaned with CDC-approved sanitizer before initial use for a trip.
- Encouraging fresh, clean practice gear, washing of hands, and the cleaning of facilities/equipment are best practices that should be utilized.

Return to play (RTP) protocols for student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19:

- WL Athletics will continue to follow all RTP protocols established by our partners at Franciscan Sports Medicine.
- IHSAA rule 19 has changed regarding the number of missed practices and practices needed to return to contest participation.
 - It is no longer based on the number of practices missed but instead it is based on the number of days missed (count every day, regardless of if a practice is scheduled, except Sundays).
 - If an athlete misses 8 - 14 days, they will need 4 practices, on 4 separate days, before they can participate in a contest.
 - A practice cannot take place on a day of a contest to permit the athlete to participate in that contest.
 - If an athlete misses 15 or more consecutive days they would need 6 practices, on 6 separate days, before they can participate in a contest.

Updated athletics plans and information will be published on our athletics [website](#).

Summary

WLCSC School Board, administration, teachers, and staff members are committed to ensuring a safe school environment. While no plan is perfect, we believe we have the components, procedures, and protocols in place to safely open our schools. We appreciate the support, patience, and understanding of our students, parents, and staff as we work together to open schools for the 2021-22 school year.

APPENDIX A – DAILY CHECKLISTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF

Supply Checklist:

- Face mask
- Filled Water bottle (recommended from home)
- Hand sanitizer (recommended from home)

Health/Wellness Checklist:

COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:



FEVER 100.4* OR CHILLS
*or school board policy if threshold is lower



SORE THROAT



COUGH* OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH
*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough



DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN



HEADACHE*
*particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with fever



NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL

**May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.*

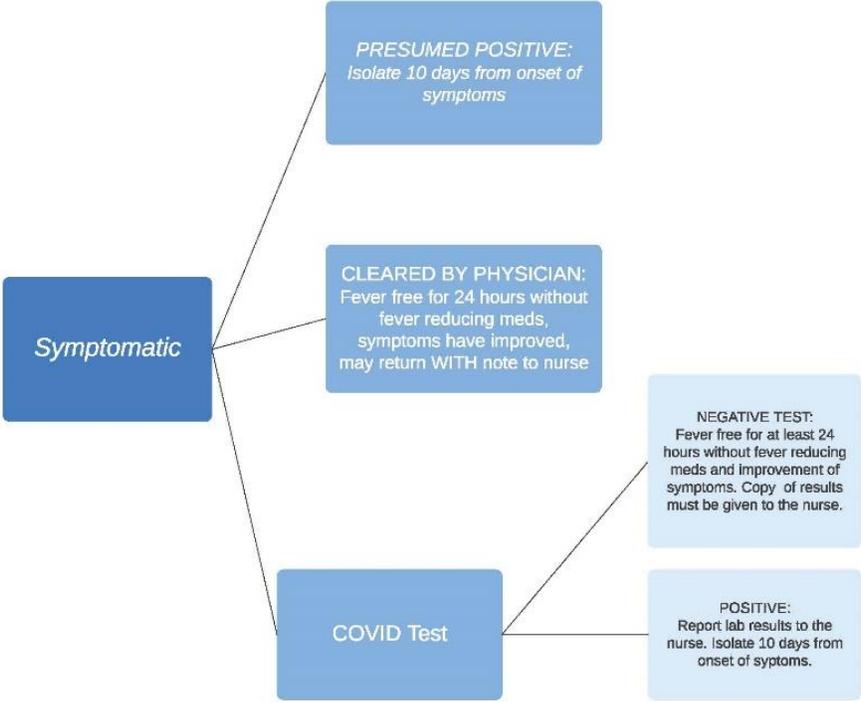
- 1 Does your child have any sign of illness above?
 - 2 Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
 - 3 If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, begin isolation of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Have you been tested for COVID-19? Only a positive test or provider diagnosis can confirm if someone has a current infection.
 - 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria.
- If you have trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face **CALL 911!**



Updated: 2/9/21

APPENDIX B – Symptomatic Guidance (for both vaccinated and unvaccinated)

West Lafayette School Corporation
COVID-19 Guidance for Symptomatic Students & Staff
(Guidance pertains to both vaccinated AND unvaccinated)



APPENDIX C – Asymptomatic Close Contact Guidance*

**Where face coverings are not used—e.g. lunch, indoor athletics, etc.—quarantines will be required of asymptomatic close contacts.*

COVID-19 School Quarantine Guidance

