

Wesclin Unit School District #3

2021-2022 Learning Plan January 18, 2022

Introduction

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Wesclin School District has prioritized our students' education. We were fortunate to provide a quality education for students, while keeping the students safe, during the 2020-2021 school year. This included an in-person learning option that allowed the students to be in person for over 75% of the school year as well as a remote learning option if chosen by the parents. Working Together, the students, parents, faculty, staff and administration made the 2020-2021 school year a success.

During 2021-2022 school year, we will welcome all students back for in person learning unless there is a specific medical concern that has been documented, discussed and approved by the administration. We have asked for local control, in consultation with the Clinton County Health Department, to base the decisions on the local data of COVID in our schools and our zip codes. In addition, we will also base the decisions on the requests and needs of our community.

School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms. If there are infection rate changes in our schools/zip codes it may become necessary to revisit/modify this plan.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

Wesclin Unit School District #3 will be operating on the schedules stated below. Our bus routes and cafeterias will be open at full capacity.

Our school hours will be:

- New Baden and Trenton Elementary – 8:00-2:45
- Wesclin Middle School – 8:15-3:03
- Wesclin High School – 8:00-2:48

1. **Mask Wearing** - Pursuant to Governor Pritzker's *COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85*, issued August 4, 2021, all individuals, including students, staff, and visitors, **must** wear a face covering inside Illinois school buildings, unless an individual cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask due to a documented medical condition. A mask exemption form must be completed, submitted and approved by Wesclin School District.

Building Specific Metrics – Beginning on Friday, August 20, I will again send Building Specific Metrics via teacherease. These metrics will be monitored.

- The building metrics will be monitored on weekly basis. At such time that the district is permitted to make local decisions regarding mask wearing, we will use this data to determine mask wearing at Wesclin Unit School District #3's schools.

2. **Physical Distancing**

- To the extent possible, Wesclin Unit School District will promote physical distancing:
 - Arrange furniture, play spaces and other activities to model and reinforce physical distancing
 - Provide assigned seating for an individual and groups of students
- School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating.
- If numbers of COVID cases within our schools remain low, we will begin to transition students working at tables and in pods as soon as possible.

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Wesclin School District will continue to encourage and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - Continuing to teach and assist our younger students with proper handwashing which includes the use of soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Reminding everyone to wash hands frequently
 - Using hand sanitizer when entering or leaving an area of the building
 - Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes)

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- Disinfectant will be available in every classroom should a student like to clean their area when changing classes.
- Areas will be cleaned immediately when necessary due to illness.

5. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Wesclin School District will implement the following procedures:

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, need to stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- a. If experiencing COVID 19 symptoms, a return to school note from a physician or a negative COVID-19 test will be necessary. With parent/guardian permission, symptomatic students can be tested at school with a Binaxnow rapid antigen test.
 - Siblings may attend school if a doctor's note or a COVID test occurs within 24 hours.
- Individuals become ill while at school will be evaluated by the nurse or related personnel. If the student is ill or symptomatic and cannot remain at school they will need to be picked up from school immediately.
 - Siblings may attend school if a doctor's note or a COVID test occurs within 24 hours.

Quarantine Guidelines

The guidance states that individuals must isolate/quarantine for 5 days after symptom onset/positive test or close contact. This is assuming that a mask is able to be worn when returning. To better understand the timeline, see below:

Day 0 – Symptom onset or positive test result (whatever happens first) or close contact

Day 1 – Remain at home

Day 2 – Remain at home

Day 3 – Remain at home

Day 4 – Remain at home

Day 5 – Remain at home

Day 6 – Return to school*

* COVID+ - This individual can return on Day 6 as long as symptoms have improved and are fever free for at least 24 hours prior without medication.

* Close Contact – This individual can return on Day 6 as long as the individual is symptom free and has not been in contact with a COVID+ person (especially in the home). If this individual is unable to remain isolated from the COVID+ person, the individual must stay at home for an additional 5 days. If an individual is vaccinated and asymptomatic, quarantine is not necessary.

- Wesclin School District implements the Test to Stay strategy with parent/guardian consent. The Test To Stay strategy requires that school close contacts, that are masked, should test 2 times (when possible) from the date of exposure. If the student remains negative, the student may remain at school. The school district will use the Binaxnow test for the screenings.

6. Vaccination Status

- Working with the Clinton County Health Department, ~~two~~ COVID vaccine clinics have been held at Wesclin High School. In the future, the school district may consider conducting another clinic.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can contact the Clinton County Health Department and/or Wesclin School District for assistance in scheduling an appointment.

7. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's building principal.
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact the superintendent to discuss the need(s).

8. Athletics and Spectators at Events

- a. Athletics will follow guidelines and schedules as specified by IHSA, SIJHAA, and our specific athletic conferences.
- b. Pursuant to Governor Pritzker's *COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85*, issued August 4, 2021, all individuals, including students, staff, and visitors (including spectators), **must** wear a face covering inside Illinois school buildings while participating or watching Wesclin athletics. The administration will attempt to enforce this to the greatest extent possible.

9. Field Trips, Visitors, Volunteers, and Meetings

- Fieldtrips may return during the 2021-2022 school year. Faculty, staff and administration will determine if schools/classes will be taking field trips. Students will not be required to attend field trips.
- Visitors will be allowed to return to buildings to work in specific classrooms. Visitors will not be permitted in the cafeteria during lunch.
- Any visitor or volunteer that is in the school at least weekly and in contact for 15 minutes must be vaccinated or produce a negative weekly COVID 19 test.
- Meetings may be held in person.

10. Collaboration with Public Health Officials/Review

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Clinton County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.
- We will review the plan often and make changes as necessary.

Nothing in this guidance precludes us from closing a specific school or the entire district immediately should a situation occur that causes a significant level of concern.