

Northern Wells Community Schools

2021-2022 COVID-19 Continuing Education Guidance Document

Northern Wells Community Schools continually strives to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. Our daily educational decisions will be guided by the following commitments:

1. **Maintaining Best Practices for Teaching and Learning:** NWCS continues to believe that onsite, in-person, collaborative learning environments provide the best learning outcomes and social/emotional development for students.
2. **Providing Educational Access to All Students:** Students may be temporarily restricted from onsite participation due to positive COVID-19 test results. NWCS is committed to the continued education and development for students in those situations.
3. **Reducing/Containing COVID-19 Spread and Avoiding Mass Quarantines/School Closures:** In order to ensure the ability to maintain onsite programming, NWCS may implement more targeted protective measures in order to mitigate viral spreads.

Screening Measures should be completed before a student/employee leaves home. A student/employee should stay home, if the individual exhibits a fever of 100° F or greater with any of the following symptoms: Persistent Cough, Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing, Chills, Repeated Shaking with Chills, Muscle Pain, Body Aches, Headache, Sore Throat, New Loss of Taste or Smell, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Nausea.

2021-22 Employee and Student Quarantines/Restrictions will be Limited to Individuals with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result.

The table below provides guidelines for returning to school/work following a positive COVID-19 test. Whether there are symptoms or not, a positive test result will require a 10-day quarantine for the individual who has tested positive. The difference is when the 10 days start.

Guidance for returning to school/work after experiencing a fever of 100.4° F or greater and one or more of the symptoms listed above with positive test result for COVID-19 . . .	No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers • Other symptoms have improved • At least 10 calendar days have passed since the first symptoms appeared.
Guidance for returning to school/work after testing POSITIVE for COVID 19, but being asymptomatic (experiencing no symptoms) . . .	10 calendar days without symptoms from the date of the positive test result.

The status of the COVID-19 spread for Wells County may be tracked at this website:

[County Scoring Guide](#) and [District 3 County Metrics](#).

- NWCS will monitor the community spread of COVID-19 in accordance with the in-school spread of the virus.
- At any specific time during the school year, if 5% or more of the student enrollment within one of the NWCS schools are quarantined due to a positive for COVID-19 test result, eLearning may be implemented for a minimum of two weeks for that specific school in order to mitigate the spread.
- At any specific time during the school year, if 5% or more of the student enrollment within one of the NWCS schools are quarantined due to a positive for COVID-19 test result, eLearning may be implemented for a minimum of two weeks for all NWCS schools in order to mitigate the spread.
- Other than the implementation of eLearning due to 5% or more of positive cases, Long-Term Remote Learning will **not** be offered as an educational option for the 2021-22 school year. All enrolled students will be required to regularly participate in on-site programming.
- For students who may be quarantined with a positive COVID-19 test result, schools will implement measures to maintain learning for the quarantined student. These measures may include the student remoting into the classroom for virtual participation in daily lessons.
- As a general practice, face coverings will be optional for the 2021-22 school year. This includes bus transportation.
- If the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases in a school or specific cohort of students, various mitigating measures, including face coverings, **may** be implemented for the specific school or cohort of students. Individuals, who have fully participated in the COVID-19 vaccination process, would not be expected to wear face coverings in these specific scenarios.
- Cleaning and sanitizing practices will continue to be implemented due to its positive impact on overall healthy environments and the reduction of many contagious viral and bacterial infections.
- If Wells County's COVID-19 spread level is blue, all school-day visitors will be permitted within our schools' regular check-in procedures. If Wells County's COVID-19 spread level is yellow or orange, all school-day visitors will still be welcome; however, temperature check screenings will be added to the check-in procedures. If Wells County's COVID-19 spread level is red, school-day visitors will not be allowed.
- If Wells County's COVID-19 spread level is yellow or orange, spectators at sporting events may be restricted to 75% or 50% capacity. If Wells County's COVID-19 spread level is red, spectators at sporting events may be restricted to as low as 25% capacity.