

# Weakley County Schools Reopening 2020-21

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Health and Safety

#### *What are the symptoms of COVID-19?*

Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache similar to a sinus headache

#### *How will you keep my child safe?*

Student health and safety is our priority which means we will enforce the following:

- Temperature checks before entering the building. Children with fevers will wait in a designated space inside the building for immediate pick-up.
- Face coverings on buses, in hallways and open areas where a distance of six feet cannot be maintained.
- Social distancing whenever possible including staggering the amount of students in a hallway and in common areas like cafeterias.
- Frequent hand washing.
- Limited distribution of papers, no shared items within the classroom.
- Frequent sanitizing during the day, thorough cleaning at night

We are also asking parents to take each child's temperature before the student leaves home.

#### *Will my child have to wear a mask all day?*

Face coverings will be required in the hallways and open areas. Shields and cloth coverings are acceptable forms of face coverings. Students in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will not wear face coverings in the classroom but their teachers will be using shields or other face coverings. Students in grades 6-12 will only wear face coverings in the classroom if the guidelines for social distancing cannot be accomplished.

#### *What happens if a student has a fever?*

Students who are found to have a fever (either at screening upon entering the building or later in the day) will be escorted (with the student and nurse both wearing face coverings) to a designated waiting area for pick-up. Parents will be notified immediately and will be expected to provide the name of the person who will be taking the child home. They will also be notified of current symptoms of COVID-19. If the child is seen by a physician upon leaving school and a specific diagnosis is given that is not COVID-19, the student can return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. If the student sees a doctor and is not given a specific diagnosis, the family will be asked to have the child tested for COVID-19 and to quarantine at home.

#### *What are the protocols if a student or employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or they have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?*

When the school is notified of a positive case among the staff/student population, the school nurse and building

administrator will assist with contact tracing within the school. Any student who fits the definition of having had close contact (less than six feet for more than 10 minutes) will be advised to not return for 14 days from the last exposure. Remote learning for those students will immediately be available.

SYMPTOMS	NO SYMPTOMS	CLOSE CONTACT
<p><b>If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has symptoms (Symptom-Based Strategy)</b></p>	<p><b>If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has no symptoms (Time-Based Strategy)</b></p>	<p><b>If a student or staff is known to have been in close contact with someone who has or has had COVID – 19 (household case, co-worker, etc.)</b></p>
<p>Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and for at least <b>72 hours</b> they have not had a fever and are feeling well.</li> </ul> <p>For more information:  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html</a></p>	<p>Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least <b>10 days</b> have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test (assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test).</li> <li>If symptoms develop, then the symptom-based or time-based strategy should be used.</li> </ul>	<p>The student/staff must be quarantined for <b>14 days</b> after the last contact with the affected individual (even if the student/staff tests negative).</p> <p>If the student/staff lives in the home with the affected individual, they must remain at home for 14 days after the affected individual has been without a fever and is feeling well. If the affected individual was asymptomatic, the student/staff must quarantine for 14 days after the date of the affected individual’s COVID test.</p> <p>The student/staff must have been symptom-free for the entirety of the 2 weeks.</p> <p>If symptoms develop, the student or staff member will follow the guidelines for infected persons.</p>
<p>According to the Weakley County Health Department, if someone tests positive for COVID-19, the quarantine period is 14 days from the onset of symptoms. The Health Department has the authority to enforce compliance.</p>		

Return to school following a positive COVID-case of a student or staff member requires a release from a physician/medical provider.

*If a student or employee has a confirmed COVID-19 case, how will the school notify students who could be affected?*

The Weakley County Health Department will do the contact tracing to identify anyone who has been within 6 feet of the confirmed case for more than 10 minutes. The school nurse and principal will assist. All those who fall within this parameter will be notified by the Health Department they have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case.

\*Actions subject to change and availability of resources.

## Academics

*Will there be a stay-at-home option?*

Students in hardship situations due to health or a family matter will receive access to Monitored Distance Education, an at-home plan that includes videos and step-by-step online instructions for activities. This program is overseen by a teacher for grades and formal written feedback but live interaction regarding the subject matter is not possible. Parents will need to contact the school principal to discuss. A student enrolled in MDE must remain in the program through the first semester.

*If schools close again, will Weakley County offer remote learning?*

Yes. Younger students will have take-home "tool kits" as well as opportunities to interact with their teachers online and by phone. Older students will have access to online classes and regular interaction with their teachers. Grades will be given and attendance taken. Training will be offered to all participants. A phone Help Line will be available for technology-oriented questions.

*What if a Remote Learning student does not have a device or internet access?*

Students who do not have a computer may be issued one by the school district. Those students with low to no internet access will receive computers loaded with class content and will have regularly scheduled contact with their teachers.

*Will all options for schooling be graded?*

Yes. Regardless of the type of learning environment provided to our students, teachers will continue to follow all district grading protocols.

*In remote learning, how will grades be determined? Will logged hours online or parental certification of specific time allocated for study each day be required?*

Grades will be determined by the completion of assignments. Time spent in learning will not be a factor.

*Since we were closed last spring, will our students be too far behind to catch up?*

Teachers in each school compiled a report on how many of the state-mandated standards were missed due to schools closing. After reviewing the results, the consensus is that students will be able to cover those standards and be back on track within a month. If K-5th grade students used the Learning Engagement pages provided online and in the Weakley County Press, many of the standards that were not covered were introduced in those activities.

*How will special needs populations receive what they need?*

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams will determine appropriate services for students with disabilities to have access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

*Will after-school/extracurricular activities be offered?*

Extracurricular activities may be offered on a limited basis. Please check with the school. No field trips will be offered.

*Will my child be counted absent if out of school for COVID-19 related issues?*

COVID-19 attendance provision: Any student who is missing school due to COVID symptoms or quarantine (required due to close contact exposure or a positive COVID-19 test) who is able to continue meeting all requirements and expectations of the educational process while away from the school setting will not be counted absent.

\*Actions subject to change and availability of resources.

## **Other**

### *How will drop-offs and pick-ups at schools be handled?*

Each school is identifying what entrances will be used and how to best direct the flow of traffic. Parents will remain in their vehicles and not walk students to the building entrance.

### *Will buses be available?*

Buses will be available and will observe social distancing guidelines as much as possible. Due to the high volume of bus riders and the limited number of buses and drivers, not all social distancing guidelines can be strictly followed on Weakley County buses. Parents are encouraged to transport children when possible. Students on buses will be required to wear a face covering and will be given one if they do not already have one. Sanitizer will be available on each bus. Seating charts will be created and strictly followed. No children will sit on the first row. In the mornings students will load from the back to front of the bus and in the afternoon the first off will load from front to back.

### *How will breakfasts and lunches be handled?*

Each school has created a plan designed to work for that campus. Some meals may be served in the cafeteria, some in classrooms, and some in common areas. Food allergies will still be considered in providing the pre-packaged meals.

### *Will meals be provided if schools close and we move to Remote Learning?*

If schools are closed, meals will continue to be provided on a drive-by basis at the student's school. Only students enrolled in that particular school will be served there. Families with students in multiple schools will need to travel to each school. Costs of the meals must be covered in an account on SchoolCafe.com or the student must qualify for free meals.

### *If my child enrolls in the Modified Distance Education program, will he/she still be able to receive meals?*

If students opt for Modified Distance Education and notify their school of the desire to receive meals, those meals will be available for daily pick-up at the school.

### *Will schools play sports?*

We will follow the guidelines of the TSSAA.