RE-ENTRY PLAN
GUIDANCE FOR
COVID-19

Hampshire County Schools

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: The guidance in this document is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of COVID-19 is known. New directives from Governor Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Education and public health officials may be forthcoming and may evolve prior to the start of the school year or during the school year. Hampshire County Schools must be prepared to alter their learning plans to comply with any new directives and to best safeguard student health and learning needs.

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Additional Resources: Definitions, Websites, School Calendar, Student Screening, Bus Flyer, Best Practices, Color Coding System, Etc.
Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

Since March 13, we have experienced an unusual sequence of firsts in education. For all of us, the COVID-19 pandemic has made us all stop, rethink, plan, and operate in a “new” normal. As a school system we are preparing to navigate in “firsts and news” and work outside of the norms. As we prepare for the start of a new school year, we are diligently working to construct a return to school plan that strives to ensure the safety of our students and the staff who care for them.

As each day will bring new challenges for Hampshire County Schools, we remain committed to focus on the education and well-being of our students. We will continue to move forward operating within the guidelines being provided by our local and state officials. The following document adheres to those guidelines with the safety and education of our students and staff in mind. As we have discovered throughout this time, the best plan may need to be changed or modified to remain current. Please be aware information, guidance, and dates may change as current information is provided from the Governor and the West Virginia Department of Education.

We are appreciative of your support and entrusting us with your children. We will remain devoted to our students and will work hard to provide safe school environments. We strive to create a solid education plan with the current information before us. If you have questions surrounding our re-entry document, please contact me or a member of our central office team at 304-822-3528. We are here to serve and want to assist you.

Warmest Regards,

Jeffrey Pancione,

Superintendent, Hampshire County Schools
The Hampshire County Board of Education, in consultation with the West Virginia Department of Education, has developed a guide for reopening schools in Hampshire County in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. As Hampshire County Schools (HCS) prepares for re-entry to school, it is critical to be prepared for change as the year unfolds.

This document is built upon the guidance and recommendations of the Hampshire County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is designed with the health and safety of students and staff as the priority as schools begin to reopen and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. As impacts of the Covid-19 may evolve, the Hampshire County Health Department, WVDE, and the CDC will continue to provide updated guidance and recommendations to HCS on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects on students and employees.

As statewide and local COVID-19 public health needs change over time, it is critical for Hampshire County Schools to plan for a variety of learning scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. HCS will consider the following possible re-entry plans and key focus areas as we prepare to reopen.

_Hampshire County Schools Re-entry plan follows guidance from the West Virginia Department of Education: West Virginia School Toolkit Document located on the WVDE website at the following link:_ [https://wvde.us/school-system-re-entry/](https://wvde.us/school-system-re-entry/)
Instruction:

Students are scheduled to begin school on September 8, 2020. Students will either return to school on a five day a week schedule, with a remote learning possibility in case of closure, attend school on a hybrid model with a modified schedule, or through a full online virtual platform.

Option 1 - Students will attend school five days a week with a possibility of Remote Learning: This allows us to educate, feed, and care for our students more consistently. Students will be using Schoology (an online platform), both in the classroom and for Remote Learning if students cannot be in the classroom (snow days, distance learning days, or if schools are closed unexpectedly again). Teachers and students will be trained to use this platform and be ready to continue their learning remotely online with no delay. On days that students are not able to be in school, learning will continue at home.

Option 2 - Hybrid Model - Currently Not an Option for Hampshire County Students

Students will attend school on a Hybrid model. Option 2 is more restrictive with our students attending on a modified schedule. Several scenarios are available including:

- Students attending 4 days with a day for intensive cleaning and a preparation day for blended learning and remote learning.

- Students split into two groups – Group 1 and Group 2. Group 1 will attend Mondays & Tuesday with Group 2 attending Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be an intensive cleaning day and a preparation day for blended learning and remote learning.

No students will attend on Wednesdays as thorough cleaning and sanitation will occur and also be a preparation day for this blending and remote learning approach during this scenario. All students will be engaged in learning five days a week through this blended learning model. Meals will continue to be provided for students not scheduled for classes.
Option 3- Virtual School- This is being made available to parents who are not comfortable sending their students back to school when we return. Hampshire County Schools will be using Schoology as the virtual school platform. Schoology is the platform that will be used for in school and remote instruction. Schoology will be facilitated in the Virtual form by a Hampshire County Teacher. West Virginia Virtual School is not being considered at this time.

The virtual platform is a method of learning that requires more parental support and involvement. It is essential for parents/guardians to be willing to work and monitor their child's progress in order for him/her to be successful. It should be understood that the virtual course work is graded and students may be in danger of failing and/or retention if the work is not completed or does not meet the minimum grade requirements of achievement. Parents can monitor student grades on the Schoology platform.

If parents are uncomfortable with returning to school and decide it is best to start the year in a virtual setting, they will need to register. The online registration link is available at our website at www.boe.hamp.k12.wv.us. Each school will have a virtual school registration day if you prefer to visit your child’s school to complete the application.

Each school will announce registration days by calling individual families, call outs or by posting on social media. If you need more information about registering for the Virtual School option, please contact your child’s assigned school directly.

All staff will be expected to report to the physical school building daily even in the event of a quarantine or mandated closure as long at it is deemed appropriate by the superintendent and follows local and state guidelines.
Safe Schools: Health and Wellness

The priority of the Hampshire County school system is to consider the education, safety and wellness of our students and our employees. In order to accomplish this the following will be utilized:

- Proper cleaning and disinfection will occur with more frequency. In addition to the standard cleaning procedures, schools will be sprayed with an approved disinfectant on desks, door handles, bathroom stalls, sinks, lockers and other highly touched surfaces.
- Each classroom will be equipped with disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, soap (where there are classroom sinks) and other supplies as appropriate.
- Proper handwashing will be taught and encouraged with more frequency.
- Upon arrival, students will report directly to a designated area/classroom. Hampshire County Schools will provide a screening checklist to enable parents to check their child each morning prior to departing for school. It is imperative that parents take an active role in making sure their child isn’t sent to school with symptoms. Students with a fever of over 100 degrees or higher, cough, chills, or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing must be kept home. High School students will complete a screening at school.
- Educators, Professionals, and Service Personnel staff are required to wear face coverings or a face mask when they cannot provide a socially distanced manner.
- Hampshire County Schools requires that students in grades 3 through 12, unless medically waived, wear a face covering in the following settings: during bus transportation, while in hallways or congregate areas, or anytime social distancing is not possible. Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings.
Focus Areas

- Students in grades 6 and above in counties operating in the yellow or orange levels of School Re-entry Metrics and Protocols are required to wear face coverings at all times. If COVID-19 cases for a specific area sustain an upward trend, further restrictions may be implemented. Due to the fluid nature of COVID-19, requirements and recommendations on protocols are subject to change. This can be monitored by accessing the County Alert System: [http://dhhrww.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx](http://dhhrww.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx).

- Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield.

- Parents may provide an appropriate mask or face covering for your child. Hampshire County Schools will offer each student a face covering at the beginning of the school year. It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to keep this reusable mask clean.

- Signage will be located throughout the building to remind students to social distance.

- Hallways will be designated as one-way, with posted directional reminders on the floor and/or walls.

- Floor markings will be located six feet apart in areas where students frequently congregate.

- Classroom will be organized to keep desks six feet apart when feasible or having students sit facing the same direction.

- When numbers of students in a classroom prevent keeping a six-foot distance, our staff will take all possible precautions to limit shared spaces and close contact.

- Enrichment classes such as physical education, art, music, and guidance will be held in the student’s main classrooms in grades PreK-5 to limited use of shared spaces.

- Cooks will be expected to wear a face covering when serving meals to students and staff.

- Each school will establish meal schedules for breakfast and lunch to ensure social distancing and safety for students.

- Visitors will be limited. Schools will not be holding back to school or open house events.
Focus Areas

- Procedures will be in place to provide appropriate social distancing for essential parent/guardian meetings, such as IEPs, disciplinary actions, etc. or when possible hold such meetings on a virtual platform.

Monitoring and Handling of Presumptive, Suspected and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19:

Hampshire County Schools will:

- Establish and enforce wellness policies to prevent the spread of disease.
- Post signage at the main entrance requiring that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter.
- Conduct symptom screening of any visitors entering the building. Screening will be provided at the school's main entrance.
- Students with parent assistance (elementary and middle) will complete a Wellness Screen daily at home. High School students will complete at school.
- Staff will also complete a Wellness Screen daily.
- Students that are feeling ill, should stay home and complete assignments virtually as able.
- Students that develop symptoms at school will be kept in a designated area until a parent, guardian or designated adult can pick them up.
- If a student is sent home with symptoms, it is likely medical follow-up will be recommended and a note from provider needed prior to his/her return.
- If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, the child should not be at school and should stay at home until they meet the following criteria:
  1. It has been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms OR student has been released by medical providers AND
  2. It has been at least 24 hours since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine) and symptoms have improved.

- If a child has a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without using fever reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
Focus Areas

- If a child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school for the next 10 days, assuming they have not developed symptoms since that test.
- If a child has been determined (by the Health Dept.) to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they should remain out of school for 2 full weeks since the last known contact, unless they test positive. If positive, the criteria above would apply.
- They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine, even if they test negative.
- Anyone with positive COVID-19 test will need to be cleared by medical provider/Health Dept., prior to returning to school.

Mental Health - Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can be overwhelming. The precautions that continue to be in place to slow the spread of the virus and the uncertainties these precautions may create can give rise to unexpected emotions in both children and adults.

Hampshire County Schools will:

- Clearly communicate re-entry plans with students, families and school staff. Identify and address concerns related to re-entry.
- Develop a plan/protocol to ensure students feel safe, welcome and connected to at least one caring adult in the school.
- Establish a school mental health resource team focused on the physical, social-emotional and mental health wellness of students, staff and families. School counselors, school psychologists, school nurses and social workers are trained to provide social-emotional and mental health supports to students.
- Provide access to professional student support staff, including school counselors, school psychologists and school nurses.
- Establish partnerships with community agencies to provide additional mental health services, as needed.
Child Nutrition:

- Establish lunch schedules and procedures that maintain cafeteria capacity at a 50% maximum threshold including:
  - Spaced meal serving lines (marked on floors)
  - Spaced seating
  - Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery if necessary
  - Classrooms may be used for mealtime seating
  - Outdoor seating may be available

- Coordinate food service operations with teachers and administrators.
- Insure that all food service employees wear face coverings at all times, to the greatest extent possible. Such coverings shall be cleaned or replaced daily.
- Thoroughly detail, clean and sanitize the entire cafeteria/classrooms/or any facility being utilized for meals before resuming dine-in services and continue to do so regularly.
- Focus such cleaning and sanitation on high-contact areas that would be touched by employees and students between school meal services.
- Discard any single-use items left in the meal service area by students.
- Ensure food preparation and distribution models are in place that adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Place designated trash bins where students can dispose of items at the end of the meal service in a manner that adheres to proper social distancing guidelines.
- Serve milk in individual containers.
- Eliminate self-service food stations for food, condiments and utensils.
- Eliminate family-style meal service (i.e., in pre-k collaborative settings within the school system). Meals will be distributed to students by a school employee following proper food safety guidelines.
- Eliminate share tables until the State of Emergency is lifted related to the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise directed by the Governor’s Office.
- Ensure that all students and staff wash their hands before and after the meal service.
- Ensure that USDA Civil Rights requirements (i.e., special diets, protected classes) are followed.
- Develop meal service contingency plans for remote learning scenarios.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure students have access to school meals during unanticipated school closures.
- Plexiglas shield will be placed in meal service lines.
- Disposable containers will be used when available.
Communication:

- Reliable communication channels will be developed that accommodate all families regardless of technology accessibility. This should include online communications, emails, robocalls, personal phone calls, texts, newsletters (electronic and paper).
- Families will be surveyed to learn how to best communicate with them. An email or phone number that is monitored regularly will be provided that families and community members may use to submit questions.
- Timely updates will be provided to the community for the upcoming school year including when school begins, what the school day will look like, what safety precautions are in place, additional requirements of students and important screening protocols.
- Hampshire County Schools will be transparent and timely in updating families and communities.

Technology:

Hampshire County School has been implementing a 1:1 device program for our students for the last several years. With the purchase of new Chromebooks for our incoming freshman, we are proud to announce that all students will be provided with a device.

- Elementary – IPad
- Middle – ThinkPad or Chromebook
- High School – Chromebook

We continue to explore options to provide internet access at various locations within our county. Students will be able to visit any school location, connect to the WIFI on a school issued device, and complete school work either in the school or in the parking lot. Should students be unable to make it to one of these sites, and have no other internet access, parents/guardians should work with their school to explore other alternatives.
Transportation:

- Buses will be sanitized daily.
- When feasible students will sit two to a seat on each bus, unless they are siblings or live in the same household.
- School bus operators are expected to wear a face covering when loading and unloading students.
- Transportation aides will wear face coverings.
- Students in grades 3 and above are required to wear face coverings on the school bus.
- When feasible, utilize procedures for loading and unloading buses to limit the number of students entering/exiting the school buildings.
- Teachers and students will view, “Safe Bus Loading and Unloading Procedures” video.
- When possible, we encourage parents to drop students off at school to limit the number of students being transported on school buses.
- Approval must be granted through principal or transportation director for a student to ride on a bus other than their regular bus assignment.

Special Education:

Students who have an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or a 504 Plan will continue to be supported by a special education teacher. Each student’s assigned special education teacher will be in contact with each family to discuss the students’ instructional plan starting the week of August 24th. If you have moved or changed phone numbers, please give the school a call to update information.

Parents, if you have questions about accommodations or need more information about 504s and IEPs contact your child’s school by phone or email.
Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The West Virginia Department of Education and Hampshire County Schools are committed to supporting our career technical education programs. These programs serve a critical need in our state and county. This program has provided enriched learning and work experiences for thousands of students.

We realize that changes will be necessary in the delivery of instruction, the development of school schedules and the administration of career technical education. These unique learning opportunities require creative and strategic planning to meet the needs of students. The information available on the following link will serve as a framework for the upcoming school year.

https://wvde.us/school-system-re-entry/career-technical-education/

Extra-Curricular:

- Determination regarding athletics are made by the WVSSAC. Please visit the WVSSAC website for all guidelines https://www.wvssac.org/
NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS on OUTLINED dates.

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AUGUST
24-27 Curriculum Development (staff)
28-31 Professional Learning (staff)

SEPTEMBER
1-3 Professional Learning (staff)
4 Prep Day (Staff)
7 Labor Day (Holiday)
8 School Begins-First Day for Students
14-15 Pre-K/Head Start Begins

OCTOBER
12 Non-Tradition Instructional/Faculty Senate Day

NOVEMBER
3 General Election Day
5 End of 1st Nine Weeks
11 Veterans Day (Holiday)
13 Report Card Day
23-24 Possible make-up days
25, 27 School Closed
26 Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)

DECEMBER
23 Non-Tradition Instructional/Faculty Senate Day
24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31 School Closed
28 Christmas Day (Holiday)

JANUARY
1 New Year’s Day (Holiday)
22 End of 2nd Nine Weeks
29 Report Card Day

FEBRUARY
15 Non-Tradition Instructional/Faculty Senate Day

MARCH
24 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
31 Report Card Day

APRIL
1 Non-Tradition Instructional/Faculty Senate Day
2, 5 Possible make-up days

MAY
26 HHS Graduation
31 Memorial Day (Holiday)

JUNE
3 Last day for Students
4 Last day for Staff (unless make-up days)
21 Observed WV Day (Holiday)
June 7-8 Possible make-up days
BEST HEALTH PRACTICES ON THE BUS

Sit in your assigned seat.

Sit facing forward.

Strongly suggest a face mask or face covering.

Avoid touching your face.

Cough/sneeze into your elbow or your shirt.

Do not open backpacks or share any items on the bus.

Stay home if you feel sick.
West Virginia Department of Education:

- [https://wvde.us/](https://wvde.us/)
- [https://wvde.us/school-system-re-entry/](https://wvde.us/school-system-re-entry/)

Resources for General Public Health and Safety:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [https://www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/)
- WV DHHR- COVID: [https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx](https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx)
- National Association of School Nurses- COVID: [https://www.nasn.org/nasn/resources/practice-topics/covid19](https://www.nasn.org/nasn/resources/practice-topics/covid19)

Resources for Social-Emotional Wellness:

- Social-emotional Learning for Parents (CASEL video) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2d0dq6B7WA&t=289s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2d0dq6B7WA&t=289s)
- West Virginia Department of Education: [https://wvde.us/reclaimwv/](https://wvde.us/reclaimwv/)
- West Virginia Behavior and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center [https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/](https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/)
- West Virginia Handle With Care [http://handlewithcarewv.org/](http://handlewithcarewv.org/)

Resources for School Food Service:

- West Virginia Food Code Permit holders are required to follow directives of the regulatory authority in response to public health emergencies. 8-304.11 [https://www.wvdhhr.org/phs/food/index.asp](https://www.wvdhhr.org/phs/food/index.asp)
Definitions

**Confirmed case:** A person who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus using a laboratory test.

**COVID-like symptoms:** Temperature of 100.4 or higher, fever or chills, new cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea.

**School outbreak-associated case:** A confirmed case among students/staff should be classified as outbreak-associated. Family members or others outside the school who get sick should not be classified as a school outbreak-associated case.

**Isolation:** Staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Isolation lasts for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, 24 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication, and an improvement of symptoms. For people who have not had symptoms, isolation lasts 10 days from the day they had their first positive test. In some instances, as determined by an individual’s medical provider, isolation may last in excess of days.

**Quarantine:** Staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person is a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Quarantine lasts for 14 days (unless the person develops symptoms, then they will be put in isolation).

**Close contact:** A person who:

- was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 (even if they did not have symptoms) for at least 15 minutes total.
- provided care for someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- had direct physical contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19, shared
- eating or drinking utensils with someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- got respiratory droplets on them (through sneezing, coughing, shouting, etc.) from someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- was in the same class/core group as a person with COVID-19.

**Core Grouping:** The practice of keeping the same individuals in the same group at all times during the school day. Changes in core groups are timed to align with school breaks. Core grouping helps limit the number of contacts each individual has. As a result, quarantines, dismissals, or suspension of in-person learning in the event of a student or staff member with COVID-19 affect fewer people. Students may be in multiple core groups (for example, bus ride to school, after-school sports, classroom).

**Confirmed outbreak:** Two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/staff from separate households, with onset within 14 days in a single classroom or core group.
Best Practices to Address Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, loss of sense of smell or taste, or gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing. If a person is given an alternative diagnosis (e.g. strep throat, influenza, etc.) they should be stay home from school following the standard exclusion criteria for communicable diseases in schools.

Responding to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single cases</th>
<th>Response</th>
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| **One student with confirmed COVID-19 within a school** | » Student stays home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours fever-free, and improving symptoms).  
» Class/core group stays home for a 14-day quarantine irrespective of test results.  
» If school is not practicing core grouping or there is some mixing of grouping, work with local health department to identify close contacts (including providing class schedules and class rosters), exclude contacts until released from quarantine.  
   » Anticipate grade-wide or school-wide dismissal for several days while identification and notification of close contacts is ongoing. |

| **One teacher/staff member with confirmed COVID-19** | » Staff member stays home until 10 days after onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever free with improved symptoms (10 days from test date for those who were asymptomatic).  
» Classroom/core group must quarantine for 14 days irrespective of test results.  
» All close contacts (students/staff) must quarantine for 14 days.  
» WVDHHR will determine when testing is appropriate for close contacts. |

| Confirmed outbreak | » All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours fever free and improving symptoms).  
» Class/core group must quarantine for 14 days irrespective of test results.  
» WVDHHR recommends testing close contacts (about 5 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms).  
» If outbreak and exposures are limited to one classroom or core group, suspension of in-person instruction for the entire school should not be necessary. |
| **Two or more outbreak classrooms/ core group**  
* (school outbreak) | » All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours fever free and improving symptoms).  
» All classrooms/core groups, including staff, must quarantine for 14 days irrespective of test results.  
» WV DHHR recommends testing of close contacts (about 5 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms).  
» Consider suspension of in-person learning for the school, especially if evidence of transmission between classrooms/core groups within the school (as opposed to two distinct classroom outbreaks both starting with known household exposures). See information below on suspension of in-person learning for a school.  
|  
| **In schools not core grouping, two or more people, from separate households, with confirmed COVID-19 with onset within 14 days in the same school**  
* (school outbreak) | » All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours fever-free, and improving symptoms).  
» Work with local health departments to identify contacts. All contacts must quarantine for 14 days irrespective of test results.  
» WV DHHR recommends testing of close contacts (about 5 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms).  
» Consider suspension of in-person learning if teacher/staff staying home interferes with the ability of the school to operate.  
|  
| **5% of students/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period**  
* (school outbreak) | » All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours fever free and improving symptoms).  
» Work with local health department to identify contacts. All contacts (students and staff) must quarantine for 14 days irrespective of test results.  
» WV DHHR will determine when testing is appropriate for close contacts  
» Recommend suspension of in-person learning for 14 days.  

**Considerations for Siblings**

The siblings of people with COVID-19 will likely be considered close contacts because they often live in the same house as the person who has COVID-19. They will stay home for a 14-day quarantine.

The siblings of people who are home for quarantine because they were exposed to COVID-19 do not need to stay home or be tested unless the sibling in quarantine develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Parents should closely monitor all of their children for symptoms.

**Considerations for COVID-19 testing in schools**

It is important that people who are sick get tested for COVID-19. People who are not sick, but were a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should get tested for COVID-19 about five days after they were in contact with a sick person. Students and staff should work with their health care provider to get tested. Public health can help with testing if a person does not have a health care provider.
Testing everyone in a school (either before school starts or during school) is not recommended. Testing everyone has not been well-studied. Social distancing and wearing masks are more important ways to prevent COVID-19. A negative test means that the person did not have COVID-19 when they were tested. A negative test does not mean they are “safe” or “cleared” to be at school.

**Criteria for Suspending In-Person Learning**

**Suspending In-Person Learning for a Classroom:**

In-person learning for a single class/core group should be suspended when:

- There is a student or staff member with confirmed case of COVID-19 because all members of the class/core group will be quarantined for 14 days. Length of suspension: 14 days.
- There is a classroom/core group outbreak, because all members of the class/core group will be quarantined for 14 days. Length of suspension: 14 days.

**Suspending In-Person Learning for a School:**

In-person learning for a school should be suspended when:

- Five or more classroom/core group outbreaks (defined above) occur within a 14-day period. Length of suspension: 14 days. OR
- 5% or more unrelated students/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period (minimum of 10 unrelated students/staff). Length of suspension: 14 days.

**District-wide Suspension of In-Person Learning:**

In-person learning for an entire county should be suspended in accordance WV DHHR School Alert System, [wvde.us/reentrymetrics](http://wvde.us/reentrymetrics).
SCHOOL RE-ENTRY METRICS AND PROTOCOLS

For weekly updates on the state’s School Alert System and color-coded map visit wvde.us/reentry.

**GREEN**
Minimal Community Transmission
3 OR FEWER CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

- Continue best health practices to prevent the spread of disease as outlined in the WVDE Re-entry Toolkit.
- Require face coverings* for grades 3 and above on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Limit activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- Engage community to actively participate in continued mitigation.

**YELLOW**
Increased Community Transmission
3.1-9.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

- Require face coverings for grades 3-5 on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Increase student cohorting by limiting exposure outside of core groups.
- No assemblies or activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- Local education leaders work with county health officials to determine if increased mitigation and community engagement activities are necessary to prevent escalation of disease.

**ORANGE**
Heightened Community Transmission
10-24.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

- Require face coverings for grades 3 and above at all times.
- No assemblies or large group activities.
- Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities.

**RED**
Substantial Community Transmission
25+ CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

- Suspend in-person instruction and all school-related activities until yellow level is maintained on a seven-day rolling basis.
- Activate remote learning the next school day.
- Staff continues essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education services.

*This guidance substitutes face coverings unless they aggravate existing health conditions.

If COVID-19 levels increase to any within color bands according to WV DHHR data, counties should institute increased protocols beyond these requirements.
ELEMENARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The person conducting screenings should maintain a six-foot distance while asking questions. Ask the person dropping off the child the following questions before entering the facility or school transportation vehicle. If no person accompanies the child during drop-off, use your best judgment if the child can respond on their own.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should not be at school.

1. Have any of the children you are dropping off had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?
   - Yes: The child should not be at school. The child can return 14 days after the last time he or she had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or as listed below.
   - No: The child can be at school if the child is not experiencing symptoms.

2. Do any of the children you are dropping off have any of these symptoms?
   - One of these:
     - New onset cough
     - Shortness of breath
   - Or two of the following:
     - Fever of 100.4 or higher
     - Chills
     - Muscle Pain
     - Sore throat
     - Fatigue
     - Congestion
     - Loss of smell or taste
     - Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
   - If a child has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and the family member should call the child’s health care provider.

3. Since they were last at school, have any of the children you are dropping off been diagnosed with COVID-19?
   - Yes: If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they meet the criteria below.
   - No:

Returning to School

A child can return to school when a family member can ensure that they can answer YES to ALL three questions:
- Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
- Has it been at least 24 hours since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
- Has it been at least 24 hours since the child’s symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

If a child has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.

If a child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

If a child has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they should remain out of school for 14 days since the last known contact, unless they test positive. In which case, criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine even if they test negative.
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OR ANY PERSON ENTERING THE BUILDING

The person conducting screenings should maintain a six-foot distance while asking questions. Ask each person entering the building the following questions prior to entering the facility or school transportation vehicle.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should not be at school.

1. Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?
   - ○ Yes  The person should not be at school. The person can return 14 days after the last time they had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or as listed below.
   - ○ No  The person can be at school if they are not experiencing symptoms.

2. Since you were last at school, have you had any of these symptoms?
   - One of these:
     - ○ New onset cough
     - ○ Shortness of breath
   - Or two of the following:
     - ○ Fever of 100.4 or higher
     - ○ Chills
     - ○ Muscle Pain
     - ○ Sore throat
     - ○ Fatigue
     - ○ Congestion
     - ○ Loss of smell or taste
     - ○ Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
   - If a person has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and call their health care provider.

3. Since you were last at school, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
   - ○ Yes  If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they meet the criteria below.
   - ○ No  Returning to School

A person can return to school when a family member can ensure that they can answer YES to ALL three questions:
   - ○ Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
   - ○ Has it been at least 24 hours since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
   - ○ Has it been at least 24 hours since the child’s symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

If a person has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.

If a person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

If a person has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they should remain out of school for 14 days since the last known contact, unless they test positive. In which case, criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine even if they test negative.
COVID-19
SHOULD I COME TO SCHOOL?

HOW TO SCREEN FOR COVID-19

IF I HAVE:   THEN:

1. NO SYMPTOMS  Proceed to school

2. EXPOSURE, NO SYMPTOMS  Cannot go to school
   Home for 14 days since exposure

3. DIAGNOSIS, NO SYMPTOMS  Cannot go to school
   Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test

4. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE  Cannot go to school
   
   One of these . . . . . . .
   • New onset cough
   • Shortness of breath
   Or two of the following:
   • Fever of 100.4 or higher
   • Chills
   • Muscle Pain
   • Sore throat
   • Fatigue
   • Congestion
   • Loss of smell or taste
   • Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
   
   Home until:
   • 10 days since first symptoms
   • No fever for 24 hours (without fever medicine)
   • 24 hours of symptom improvement, including coughing and shortness of breath
BEST HEALTH PRACTICES IN YOUR SCHOOL

- Maintain six feet of social distance
- For best protection, wear a face covering
- Clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face
- Do not share pens/writing utensils
- Cough/sneeze into your elbow or a tissue
- Do not come to school if you're feeling sick

West Virginia Department of Education

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BEST HEALTH PRACTICES IN YOUR SCHOOL

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