

## STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY PROTOCOL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) carefully monitors the most up-to-date information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and local, state, and federal government.

WCPS is striving to be proactive in addressing concerns and questions regarding student wellness and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. WCPS continually assesses buildings, buses, and staff to ensure safe school environments and personal protective equipment (PPE) is available.

Parents should be aware that school staff will follow the same requirements listed below for students.

### STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Parent/Guardians are to screen their student's health daily for symptoms which may include but are not limited to:
  - a. Temp 100.4 F or greater
  - b. Cough
  - c. Difficulty Breathing and/or Shortness of Breath
  - d. Diarrhea/Vomiting
  - e. New Loss of Taste and/or Smell
  - f. Sore Throat
  - g. New Onset of Severe Headache
2. Students should stay home if they have any one of the symptoms listed above, a-g. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.
3. Students in the same household as individuals showing signs/symptoms are to stay home unless fully vaccinated or have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days and are currently asymptomatic. Self-isolate the student and students in the same household and seek professional medical assessment before returning to school. The student(s) is/are to remain isolated at home until a release note from a medical professional is provided, allowing the return to school of the symptomatic student. This return to school note for the symptomatic student also allows students who live in the same household to return to school.
4. Fever Guidelines: During this COVID-19 pandemic, if a student has a fever at home/at school, the student is to remain home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication (after isolation/quarantine requirements are met).
5. If your student tests positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as potentially having exposure, **immediately report this to your school principal and email to [responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us).**
6. Discuss with your child the importance of regular hand washing. Hand sanitizer should be utilized when soap and water are not available.

### DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

1. If a student exhibits signs/symptoms of COVID-19, the health room staff will isolate the student and notify you.
2. Health room staff will advise, and you will need to pick up your child within a 30-minute time frame to reduce person-person exposure.
3. After leaving school, the student should self-isolate and seek professional medical assessment before returning to school. The student(s) is/are to remain isolated at home until they submit a release note from a medical professional allowing his/her return to school.

### **STUDENT HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR IS A CLOSE CONTACT**

1. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student remains isolated at home until released by a medical professional or the WCPS COVID Response Team to return to school.
2. Students identified as potentially having exposure may be asked to:
  - a. Not return to school;
  - b. Self-quarantine/self-monitor; and,
  - c. Seek a professional medical assessment.
3. An isolation/quarantine period of up to 14 days and a release note from a medical professional may be required to return to school.
4. WCPS cannot disclose the identities of staff or students who test positive or are suspected of being positive for COVID-19 because of privacy laws. However, WCPS will conduct contact tracing to limit the risk of exposure to others. WCPS will collaborate with health officials to facilitate contact tracing and notification related to COVID-19 cases or possible exposures. In addition, WCPS, if needed, will gather the names and contact information of students that may have been exposed.

### **STUDENT IS TRAVELING**

1. Domestic travel, including Puerto Rico: no testing or quarantine is required regardless of vaccination status.
2. International travel:
  - a. Fully Vaccinated Student: No testing or quarantine is required. Check specific airline and country travel guidelines.
  - b. Not Fully Vaccinated/Not Vaccinated Student: Testing and quarantine per CDC guidelines: Follow these guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html> and contact the COVID Response Team at [responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us).

WCPS will follow [cleaning and disinfecting procedures](#) established by the Maintenance and Operations Department following local health officials and CDC guidelines.

**Additional information can be obtained by contacting the WCPS COVID-19 Response Team at [responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:responseCOVID19@wcps.k12.md.us) or visiting the COVID-19 Response website at <https://sites.google.com/wcps.k12.md.us/covid-19/PORTAL>**