

Covid-19 Policy

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District (WBASD) has developed the following policy to attempt to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all WBASD students. This policy seeks to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and school community. Our top priority is to keep illness out of the school environment, thereby best protecting our students and school community from illness transmission. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be maintained, when feasible, and face masks must be worn at all times while in WBASD buildings for the health and safety of our students and school community members.

Symptom screening for all persons who wish to enter any WBASD school will begin at home each day. If anyone exhibits the following tabled symptoms, he/she must remain at home, contact the school to inform the school of the absence and contact their Medical Practitioner (MD, DO, PA-C, CRNP) for further guidance. Additionally, that person must present a Medical Practitioner's clearance note for readmission to school.

Group A 1 or more symptoms

Fever (100.4 or higher)
Cough
Shortness of breath
Difficulty breathing

Sore throat
Runny nose/congestion
Chills
New lack of smell or taste
Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Headache
Diarrhea

(Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2020)

* Any student who is ill or demonstrating the above tabled symptoms must STAY HOME and report the absence to his/her school. He/she must contact their Medical Practitioner for further guidance of care and written documentation for clearance to return to school.

* Students and staff who have been in contact with anyone diagnosed or symptomatic of COVID-19 must also STAY HOME and report the absence to his/her school. He/she must contact their Medical Practitioner for further guidance of care and written documentation for clearance to return to school.

* Every person will have his/her temperature measured upon arrival to school each day by faculty/staff members appointed by school administration. Any student or staff with a measured temperature of 100.4 or greater will be directed to the School Nurse for further evaluation. No visitors will be admitted to school with a temperature of 100.4 or greater. All buildings will have a designated isolation area, in the case that symptomatic students are awaiting parents for excusal. Considerations for deciding upon this area of isolation should include, but not be limited to, proximity to the school exit, proximity to a dedicated bathroom, proximity to the nurse and ability to ensure confidentiality. This area should NOT be the Medical/Nurse's Office because of the great volume of other students who require the school nurse throughout the day.

* If a student or school member tests positive for the Covid-19 virus, the school must be informed immediately and the infected student or school member must abide by the most current recommendations of treatment/isolation offered by the PA-DOH, PDE, CDC, and his/her Medical Practitioner. The District will also notify the Department of Health of any positive cases. A written clearance note from the infected student/school member's Medical Practitioner must be presented to the school administration/school nurse before readmittance to school will

occur. Communication to the parents/guardians of the students in the same classroom as the infected student/school member will occur upon confirmation of a positive Covid-19 test result, without disclosing any confidential student information. All appropriate cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.

Health and Safety: General Recommendations for Students/Parents

- If your child does not feel well in the morning and/or is showing the above described symptoms, DO NOT send him/her to school. Parents/guardians should contact their Medical Practitioner (MD, DO, PA-C, CRNP) for further guidance. Additionally, that student must present a Medical Practitioner's clearance note for readmission to school.
- If in doubt - keep your child home and contact his/her Medical Practitioner.

Health and Safety: General Recommendations for School Staff

- If you do not feel well in the morning and/or show symptoms as described above, DO NOT report to school. The staff member should contact their Medical Practitioner (MD, DO, PA-C, CRNP) for further guidance. Additionally, that person must present a Medical Practitioner's clearance note for readmission to school.
- If in doubt – Stay home and contact your Medical Practitioner.

Health and Safety: General Recommendations for All

Hygiene Recommendations:

- All individuals in school will sanitize their hands with hand sanitizer or wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds on arrival to homeroom/first period of the school day,

before and after bathroom use, before and after eating, before dismissal and as needed throughout the school day.

Social Distancing Recommendations:

- Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be maintained, when feasible, and face masks must be worn at all times while in WBASD buildings for the health and safety of our students and school community members.

Health and Safety: Masks/Face Coverings

No masks- no entry. Face masks that cover the mouth and nose are required for all individuals when in WBASD buildings, except while eating. Face masks serve to protect other people in the case that the wearer has no discernible symptoms but is unknowingly carrying the virus.

* Students must provide their own masks/cloth face cover/shields. In addition, students must have an extra mask available at all times.

* The WBASD will provide all staff with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as needed, to work with students in close proximity, including but not limited to masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.

* Students and staff will receive guidance, as needed, on appropriate use and fitting of PPE.

Health and Safety: Training and Expectations

* Hygiene and handwashing procedures and hygiene reminders will be implemented and posted with high visibility signage.

* Hand washing/sanitizing protocols will be required on arrival to homeroom/first period of the school day, before and after bathroom use, before and after eating, before dismissal and as needed throughout the school day.

* Students/Staff will be reminded regularly of best hygiene practices and implement them throughout the day.

Health and Safety: Other Distancing Considerations

* Using spaces at partial capacity (Cafeteria/Gym/Library/Outside [weather permitting])

Hallway/Stairwells

* Limited usage, where possible

* Defined traffic flow patterns

Bathrooms

* Limit occupancy

* Increased cleaning procedures

WBASD will continue to follow the guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education (PA-DOH and PDE), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Pennsylvania Governor as it becomes available.