



## **2020-2021 Frequently Asked Questions for Wayne Trace Local Schools**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 2020-21 School Year for parents of Wayne Trace Local Schools that we will re-open in person on August 19, 2020. The district will work to keep this FAQ as up to date as possible, but please know that plans may change quickly due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

### Instructional Questions

#### **What are the educational settings that Wayne Trace Local Schools may use this year?**

WTLS has three options:

1. In person learning held on our three campuses – all staff and students will be educated in our buildings with precautions being taken to provide as safe of an environment to learn in as possible.
2. Remote Learning – all students would be educated at home via online instruction provided by our teaching staff through the Google platform. Scheduled time will be provided for students to be taught each day.
3. Parent Selected Virtual Academy – this virtual option can be selected if parents choose not to send their student to school. Curriculum will be provided through the Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy (NOVA).

#### **What learning option does WTLS intend to start the year in?**

WTLS intends to start the year in the 2020-2021 school year with all students on campus, 5 days a week.

#### **When will my student start school?**

WTLS will follow the calendar that has been approved by the Board and begin school on August 19, 2020 with all students.

#### **Will there be an online option available?**

Yes, we recognize that not all families will be ready to send their children back to school, we have available online, through the Parent Selected Virtual Academy. We will ask any family wanting an online option to commit to that option for a semester. Please contact Mr. Tim Manz at [manzt@waynetrace.org](mailto:manzt@waynetrace.org) if you are interested in this option.

#### **Will the online experience be similar to what we did from March to May 2020?**

No, our Parent Selected Virtual Academy will be through Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy (NOVA). Wayne Trace teachers will not be teaching the curriculum.

**If someone commits to e-Learning or in-person to start the year, will they be allowed to move later to the alternate option?**

We ask that if a family chooses the online option that they commit to it for a semester. Students will not be able to move from the online option to in-person instruction until the semester ends.

**Can my child participate in athletics/extra-curricular activities while doing online learning?**

Yes.

**What about students who receive special education services?**

Students who participate in online learning and receive special education services will continue receiving their services virtually. Students receiving special education services who enroll in our online option will receive appropriate accommodations.

Daily Considerations

**How will classrooms be set up differently to reduce possible spread?**

Excess furniture and equipment is being removed from all classrooms so as to provide the maximum opportunity to spread out. When social distancing will not be possible in a classroom, individual desks will be in rows facing the front of the room.

**What about the rooms with tables instead of desks or times when the teacher works with small groups?**

We will social distance to the maximum extent possible. Students will be expected to sit in assigned seats.

**What about passing periods?**

The best advice we have been given is to have students wear masks during passing periods and keep them moving. We are considering staggering movement and modifying schedules to the extent that we can. Students should wear masks during passing periods.

**What about sharing of supplies?**

Obviously, we cannot completely eliminate sharing of supplies (ex: art class). We will sanitize supplies before each class but it will be imperative for students to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using shared supplies. In some classes, students may be assigned the same supplies to use each day. It is key to keep student hands clean while at school.

**What about band and choir?**

We will spread students out to the maximum extent possible, attempt to have them facing in one direction, wear masks when possible, and use other spaces to spread out when possible.

**Will our substitute teachers follow the same guidelines?**

Yes.

**Will paper packets be offered to students?**

No – the online option is our only alternative to in-person instruction. Some students may be provided work in packets if they have to be quarantined for a short amount of time.

**If a teacher is out with symptoms, will a sub be used for 14 days?**

It is possible that a sub may be used to manage the classroom, but the teacher may be able to video conference in to teach. This will be dependent upon the individual situation.

### Health & Safety Questions

**Do students/staff have to wear masks?**

Yes. All employees and students will be required to bring a mask and wear it in designated areas and in certain circumstances (i.e. hallways, bus, small groups). Adults will be required to wear a mask in most all settings. Excluded may be some situations in which the teacher is providing instruction to the whole class and the mask may hinder their ability to do so. Students will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus and in most situations while at school. Those situations will include, but are not limited to: times when social distancing is not possible, in larger group settings, possibly in small group settings, or when they are directed to by an adult.

**Will any students be excluded from wearing a mask?**

Students in grades K-12 will wear a mask in most all settings. There are some settings where masks may not be possible to wear (lunch, ag lab, technology lab, goes against industry standards).

**What if my child has sensory issues or is claustrophobic?**

We intend to work with our families and employees to find ways to comply with this important protective measure while being sensitive to individual issues.

**Is there a certain type of mask required?**

Any cloth/surgical type face covering will be acceptable. The district will have disposable masks when students do not have a mask.

**What can we do to keep schools open and keep children/staff safe?**

The number one way to keep school open is to keep children home if they are sick. Please screen your children daily and do not send them to school if they are ill. Wearing a mask at the appropriate times is also an important way to stop the spread and keep everyone safe. Hand hygiene is also very important. Students touch many things at school. All those items can't be cleaned thoroughly every day, rather it is important to keep the hands of the students clean. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer routinely will be important to keep the school environment safe. Each classroom will have a hand sanitizer and cleaning disinfectant provided by the district.

**What should families do each morning for a daily health assessment?**

Students should not have a fever above 100F. Students should be able to say that they feel fine. Additionally, students should not have a sore throat or a new cough, the student(s) should not attend school until the fever is not presenting itself for 24 hours without a fever-reducing medication and/or the other symptoms have ended. If a guardian calls a student sick, please tell the secretary all of the symptoms.

**What are typical COVID-19 related symptoms?**

A fever of 100 or greater, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea and new loss of taste or smell. Emphasize hand washing at home and at school. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer anytime they are transitioning but especially before and after lunch/recess. Additional hand sanitizing stations are being added in key locations throughout all schools.

**If a student arrives at school and is ill, what will happen?**

The student will be immediately referred to the office and likely sent home. A quarantine room will be established. If your student exhibits COVID symptoms, the quarantine room may be used. While in quarantine, waiting to be picked up, your student will be observed by an adult.

**When can an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 return to school?**

Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school or work once they are released by the local health department.

**When can an individual return to school who has COVID like symptoms, and has been exposed, but has not tested positive for COVID?**

In this case, the individual can return to school once they are fever free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medicine and at least 10 days since the onset of the symptoms.

**When can a student with typical illness symptoms return to school that has not been exposed to COVID?**

The student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, and be symptom free for 24 hours.

**When can an individual who has been deemed a close contact of a confirmed case return to school?**

Close contacts have to be off of school for 14 days from the date of last contact of the confirmed case.

**What additional cleaning protocols will be in place?**

High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. More intense cleaning will occur each evening. Desks and other surfaces may be cleaned throughout the day by teachers or students. Nightly cleaning protocols have been developed in coordination with the Paulding County Health Department.

**What about the cafeteria?**

While some school districts have elected to have their students eat lunch in classrooms we have elected to use our cafeteria. There will be seating charts (so that we can determine who was in contact with whom if there is an outbreak) and individual classes will be seated together. Cafeteria staff will be masked and adjustments will be made to the serving line so students are not touching common surfaces. Students will be required to tell the cashier their lunch number at check out.

**How about recess?**

Recess will go on as it has in the past. Some differences will include: sanitizing of hands before and after recess, students being asked to maintain proper distance from others on the playground, and possibly a limited number of students in certain areas on the playground.

**Will volunteers/visitors/guests be allowed at school?**

All volunteers will follow the protocols set for our staff in the buildings. Visitors and guests will be kept to a minimum.

**What about common water fountains?**

Water fountains will be turned off, but we are working to install water bottle refill stations. Students will be allowed and encouraged to bring their own water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day.

**Will my child or staff be temperature screened?**

Not routinely. We do have additional thermometers (no touch) for all schools but we do not anticipate daily or regular screening on campus for every student.

Transportation Questions

**Will students be required to wear masks on the bus?**

Yes, any student riding a bus will be required to wear a face covering. The bus poses the biggest issue in proper distancing. The face covering will provide a layer of protection against the transmission of a virus. We will work with those students as the year progresses.

**What other precautions will be taken on the bus?**

Seating charts will be used on the bus. Should there be a positive case, we need to be able to identify who was seated near the affected student. Siblings will sit together on the bus. Busses will be cleaned after each route.

**How will athletes traveling to away games be handled?**

All students will wear a face covering while riding on school transportation. If a student athlete is waiting to play at an away venue, the student athlete will wear a face covering. The coach/advisor will determine at what point a student athlete can remove the face covering for the contest/match.

## Questions About Positive Cases

### **What happens if there is a positive case in my child's school/classroom?**

The school district will cooperate with the Health Department's work in contact tracing. Due to privacy laws, the school CANNOT divulge personal health information of individuals who may be confirmed to have COVID-19. The Health Department (not the school district) will reach out to any families impacted and initiate contact tracing protocol. Any change to the above process will be directed by the local health department.

### **What happens if there is a positive case in my child's classroom?**

If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's classroom WTLS will immediately notify the Paulding County Health Department. In some cases, the Health Department will notify WTLS first. The school district will cooperate with the Health Department's work in contact tracing. Due to privacy laws, the school CANNOT divulge personal health information of individuals who may be confirmed to have COVID-19. The Health Department (not the school district) will reach out to any families impacted and initiate contact tracing protocol. Any change to the above process will be directed by the local health department.

### **What happens if there are multiple confirmed cases in a school?**

There may be pockets of COVID illness that arise throughout the year. This may result in classes or parts of the building changing to a more remote learning option for a time period. The district will take that time to thoroughly clean/disinfect that area or classroom.

### **What if a family member of a student/staff member has COVID-19?**

If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic. The Paulding County Health Department will provide guidance.

## Other Questions

### **When can I drop my child off in the morning?**

Parents can follow the procedures outlined in the past for dropping off and picking up students.

### **Whom should I contact if I have general questions or comments about COVID-19?**

Building principals may be contacted with general questions or comments.

### **When will athletics be allowed to start?**

Separate guidance will be sent out regarding athletics. WTLS will follow guidance from the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.