

Board of Education Special Meeting  
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 6:00 PM  
Civic Center  
407 East 7th Street  
Wakefield, NE 68784

1. Opening Procedures
  1. Call to Order
  2. Open Meetings Act
  3. Roll Call
2. Excuse Board Member Absences
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion and Action Items
  1. Reveal the final renderings of the sports complex  
Farup
  2. Seek public input on ESSERIII funding allocations.  
Farup
  3. Discuss the 2021-2022 Return to School Plan  
Farup
5. Adjournment

## **Draft Version 7-28-21**

### **Wakefield Community Schools Plan for Safe Return to School - 2021-2022**

The 2021-2022 school year for K-12 students begins on August 19, 2021. This plan is intended to help students, staff, and visitors return to school to be as safe as possible. Several recommendations exist for public schools in Nebraska, and each of those recommendations is addressed in this plan. The guidelines below are based on the latest updates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For a direct link to those updates click here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. They provide safe and supportive learning environments for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to critical services, and improve life outcomes. They also employ people and enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. Though COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within school settings, when prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than community transmission levels.

Wakefield Community School will work with local public health officials, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including those related to privacy, to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission, local vaccine coverage, staff vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in our school.

The CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. However, if WCS administrators and leaders decide to remove any of the prevention strategies for their school based on local conditions, we will remove them one at a time and monitor closely for any increases in COVID-19 cases. Schools should communicate their strategies and any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families, and directly to older students, using accessible materials and communication channels, in a language and at a literacy level that teachers, staff, students, and families understand.

The list below includes the items that are required to be in the 2021-2022 Plan for Safe Return to School:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaborations with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health/safety policies
- Coordination with State and local health officials, including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance
- Ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' social-emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services

### **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

- Face masks are encouraged for staff and students that have not been vaccinated.
- Face masks may be required temporarily for staff and students if COVID-19 cases rise, and the administration believes that this safety precaution is necessary to prevent further spread and possible school closure.

### **Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing**

- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible and practicable. If necessary, social distancing strategies will be increased from 3 to 6 feet.
- Nonessential furniture will be removed in an effort to make social distancing possible.
- Student desks and tables will be arranged in ways that maximize social distancing efforts.
- Barriers such as plexiglass will be used when deemed necessary.
- Non-essential visitors and volunteers may be limited if deemed necessary.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught and encouraged.
- Proper cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught and encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all times, so it can be used when needed.

### **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**

- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently and routinely. Disinfecting wipes and solutions will be used as will an electrostatic sprayer containing a disinfecting solution.
- When possible, shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized between uses.
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings will be set to maximize ventilation.
- HVAC filters will be changed regularly.

### **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

- The NNPHD requirements for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine will be followed.
- Normal health and wellness procedures will be followed:
  - Students and staff shall stay home when sick.
  - Students and staff must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school. A fever is a temperature of 100.4 or above.
- Students will continue to be excused for COVID-related absences.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

- Students and staff who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home.
- Students and staff who exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be encouraged to stay home and get tested.
- If COVID levels rise, WCS will consult with NNPHD regarding screening and testing protocols.

### **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations at School**

- All WCS staff members were provided the opportunity for on-site vaccination.
- On-site vaccination for WCS staff members will be provided for all staff members if possible.
- WCS will provide information to parents and students regarding vaccination availability within the community and surrounding area.

### **Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies**

- All IEP's and 504 plans will be followed. If necessary, these plans will include specific health and safety procedures related to COVID-19.

### **Coordination with State and Local Health Officials**

- PPS will continue to communicate and collaborate with local and state health officials in an effort to monitor case levels, be up-to-date with COVID-19 related guidance, and implement or modify COVID-19 protocols.

- This plan will be reviewed at least every 6 months and revised as is needed.

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

- The goal is to provide in-person education for all students for the entire 2021-2022 school year.
- In-person education is instrumental in addressing the academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of WCS students.
- If it is necessary for a student to miss an extended period of time due to COVID-19 related absences, WCS will ensure the student stays up-to-date with all learning. A device and connection to the internet will be provided if needed for all school-related needs.

### **Additional Components**

#### **Symptom Screening**

- Families are encouraged to screen students for COVID symptoms and follow NNPHD's guidance for testing and quarantine/isolation.
- Normal WCS health protocols will be followed:
  - Students and staff members who are sick should stay home
  - Students and staff members must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
- If the need for symptom screening arises, protocols will be implemented

#### **Food Service**

- Breakfast will be served and eaten starting at 7:30 am in the lunchroom.
- Lunch will be served and eaten from 10:50 am to 1:15 pm in the lunchroom.
- Water fountains (including bottle fillers) will be available. Students may bring bottled water if they so choose. Since the drinking fountains will be available, bottled water will not be provided by WCS.

#### **After School Programming**

- The After School Program for students in grades K-6 is available from 3:30 pm to 5:00 Monday through Thursday.
- After School Program for students in grades 7-12 is available for academic support from 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

#### **Important Notes:**

- Feedback for this plan was sought by the District in two ways:
  - During the Board/Community Engagement meeting on July 28, 2021

- Via the survey posted on the District's website and sent out via district communications system.
- This plan was developed to create a safe environment for WCS students and staff members while providing the best possible educational environment.