

January 4, 2022

Dear WCCC Families,

We hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing winter break. As you well know, the post holiday season has brought a surge of illness to our area. **For now, we continue to strongly recommend that all students and staff wear a mask throughout the school day.** It is federally mandated that students wear a mask on all school transportation.

As always, we will continue to work with the Warren County Health District (WCHD) and our home schools to best protect and serve our students. As a county, and a district, we are committed to keeping our campuses open and our students in school. In order for this to happen, as a district, we need to make adjustments and updates to our processes to maintain in-person learning whenever possible. We are committed to exhaust every creative option to provide the best learning experiences for our students.

Over the last few weeks the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC provided new updates for students and/or employees that has, or was exposed to COVID-19. **Based on those updates, our protocols are now as follows:**

Anyone who tests positive must be isolated at home for 5 days after the start of their symptoms (or positive test if non symptomatic). They can return on day 6, and must wear a mask up through day 10. The mask can be removed on day 11 without restrictions.

Anyone who is EXPOSED OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL will follow these guidelines depending on their vaccination status. Students exposed while in school, but not in the Mask to Stay program will also follow this.

Fully Vaccinated* (fully vaccinated/up-to-date):

- Can remain in school without restrictions BUT it is highly recommended that a mask be worn for 10 days after the exposure. Mask can be removed on day 11 without taking a test and remains symptom free
- Masks can be removed on day 5 with a negative COVID test completed on that day. Negative tests must be promptly sent to our contact tracer, Heather Kern (heather.kern@mywccc.org).
- If at any time you develop symptoms or test positive, you must stay home.

*Fully vaccinated/up-to-date means both initial vaccination and booster have been completed or/both initial vaccinations have been completed and are under a 6 month window to receive a booster. OR: Any individual who has tested Positive for COVID within the last 90 days are considered vaccinated. Positive results must be given to the school to be placed in the students records.

Unvaccinated (or not fully vaccinated/not up-to-date):

- You must stay home for 5 days.
- If you do not have any symptoms, you may return on day 6, but must wear a mask through day 10.
- If at any time you develop symptoms or test positive, you must stay home.

Guidelines for the Masks to Stay program have also been updated. Students who have been exposed while IN school or a school related activity may participate in the Mask to Stay program. When students (only with parents permission) commit to Mask to Stay, it is understood that they must follow ALL guidelines to remain in the program. This includes wearing a mask fully covering the mouth and nose at all times except while eating or drinking. During lunch, students must also maintain a full 6' distance from others.

Anyone who is EXPOSED WHILE IN SCHOOL (OR SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITY) and participating in the Mask to Stay program will follow these guidelines depending on their vaccination status.

Fully Vaccinated* (fully vaccinated/up-to-date):

- Can remain in school without restrictions BUT it is highly recommended that a mask be worn for 10 days after the exposure. Mask can be removed on day 11 without taking a test and remains symptom free.
- Masks can be removed on day 5 with a negative COVID test completed on that day. Negative tests must be available to us for student records.
- If at any time you develop symptoms or test positive, you must stay home.

Unvaccinated (or not fully vaccinated/not up-to-date):

- Can remain in school but **WILL BE REQUIRED to wear a mask properly for 10 days** after being exposed.
- Masks can be removed on day 5 with a negative COVID test completed on that day. Negative tests must be available to us for student records.
- Masks can be removed on day 11 without a test and remain symptom free.
- If at any time you develop symptoms or test positive, you must stay home.

For students who are eligible for the Mask to Stay program (exposed while in school), the Warren County Career Center has access to the 15 Minute Antigen Test. We have a nurse located at the Main Campus to perform the test. The test can only be completed with a signed permission form (regardless of students age) from a Parent or Guardian. The Atrium Campus has access to at home kits to be completed online with a Proctor. Any outside testing must be forwarded to the Warren County Career Center Contact Tracer, Heather Kern (heather.kern@mywccc.org).

To report a confirmed case of COVID-19 or quarantine, contact our WCCC Contact Tracer, Heather Kern. She can be reached at 513-932-5677, ext. 4021. Additionally, if your student has been vaccinated, please share their vaccination information with our school nurses, Erica Christian at Erica.Christian@mywccc.org or by calling 513-932-5677, ext. 5233 or Leslie Hall at Leslie.Hall@mywccc.org or by calling 513-932-5677, ext. 5300.

Along with COVID-19 and its variants, cold and flu season are here, as well. We know that many of the symptoms of various illnesses have some of the same characteristics. The [CDC has released a list of symptoms of COVID-19](#). Please make yourself aware of the possible symptoms as symptoms often vary by student. With that said, we are asking parents to be extra diligent in monitoring their children for symptoms. **We are committed to keeping students in school and are counting on parents to partner with us to keep their child home if they are ill.**

All of the information provided in this letter can be found on the WCCC website at www.mywccc.org for your reference. **It is critical that if your student or a family member in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, or are awaiting test results, please remain home.** While we understand we cannot control what takes place outside of school, we ask that you are mindful and take precautions to keep you and your family safe.

We thank you for your commitment in helping keep our students, teachers, and staff safe. We fully understand and accept that we cannot eliminate all risks associated with COVID-19, but together, we can greatly reduce it, working hard as a district, as parents, and as community members to maintain a safe school environment for all! If, at any point, adjustments are needed based on trends in our data, staffing, or new guidance passed down by ODH, we will communicate this to you.

Thank you for your support as we all continue to adapt and fight through these challenging times.

Stay well,
Rick Smith
WCCC Superintendent

WCCC Contact Tracer Heather Kern 513-932-5677, ext. 4021 heather.kern@mywccc.org	WCCC District Nurse Erica Christian 513-932-5677, ext. 5233 erica.christian@mywccc.org	WCCC Test and Stay Coordinator Leslie Hall 513-932-5677, ext. 5300 leslie.hall@mywccc.org
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