



WILLIAMS COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMON RE-OPENING AGREEMENTS

PREFACE: All Ohio schools closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 10, 2020, by order of the Governor and State Health Commissioner in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Throughout June, little guidance was available from the State of Ohio regarding guidelines for school reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. School district Superintendents from each public school in Williams County, as well as the Williams County Health Commissioner, came together throughout June and July to identify common practices for school reopening in Williams County.

These general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with reopening schools throughout Williams County.

- Each school district will implement safety protocols as realistically as possible.
- Each school district will work closely with the Williams County Health Department to promote safety in each school building.
- Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
- School districts recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies in our county.
- School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars with some possible professional development adjustments.

The following principles will be common to all Williams County public school districts:

Daily Health Assessments

- Students and staff/personnel are expected to take their own temperature before reporting to school and to stay home if above 100F or if experiencing other symptoms.
- Students and staff/personnel who exhibit symptoms during the school day will be sent to the school nurse for an assessment.
- Staff dealing with a student exhibiting symptoms will be wearing PPE.
- Areas that were occupied by a person exhibiting symptoms will be thoroughly sanitized.

Communications when a student and/or staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID 19 positive case

- Communication will be developed in partnership with the Williams County Health Department and will be sent by the school district.
- A common template will be developed to include the following:
 - Communication will be shared per Health Department protocol.
 - The school district will cooperate with the Health Department's work in social tracing and quarantine requirements.
 - The Williams County Health Department will define what is considered "exposure" to COVID 19.
- If a student tests positive for COVID 19, they and their families will be referred to the Williams County Health department. The Health department will perform all contact tracing.

Student Health issues that are NOT diagnosed as COVID 19

- Please refer to the Decision Tree for People with COVID19 symptoms provided with this document.
- This decision tree will be utilized throughout the school year.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are strongly recommended and encouraged for all students.
- Individual school districts may choose to require facemasks for all students, staff and adults initially, and/or during the school year.
- Staff members will be required to wear a mask, unless it is medically documented unsafe to do so and/or wearing the mask interferes with the learning process (i.e., speech therapy).
- School nurses and/or staff who care for students with symptoms must wear PPE, provided by the district.
- It is strongly recommended that all students wear a mask if riding on school transportation.

Classroom Occupancy

- Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place, but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk.
- Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- Students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands before and after classes, before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- Sanitation will include both proper hand washing and sanitizing stations.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Williams County Health Department will consult with each school district to establish safe classroom layouts.

Online learning

- School districts will offer online learning for parents who do not choose to send their child to school.
- Parents may choose from two options:
 - Send their child to school (assume some level of risk)
 - Online/Remote learning options, contact your local school district for information
- Students will not be permitted to transfer back and forth from traditional to remote learning. If the student selects to enroll in remote learning initially, students must complete the semester of remote learning before re-entering the traditional school setting.

Food Service

- All districts will offer food service.
- School districts will follow “Dine Safe” orders, similar to restaurants in the county.
- Logistics will be determined by each district and school building in order to maximize social distancing.
 - Individual condiment packets will be used.
 - Reduced capacity in cafeterias.
 - Students will sanitize their hands before and after lunch.
 - Sanitation between lunch periods.
 - Traditional meal options will be served.
 - No self service

Hand Sanitizing Stations

- School districts will provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the building, classroom, and on school transportation.
- Students will be encouraged to practice good hand washing and sanitizing throughout the day.

Transportation

- Williams County districts will allow two students per seat and in some instances three students if the children are younger and therefore smaller.
- Districts will allow siblings to sit together.
- Seating charts will be required to assist with contact tracing, if needed.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended and encouraged for all students and drivers while on the bus.
- In the event the State policies require school districts to use alternative schedules, districts may adopt minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation.

Recess

- School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
- This may include limiting student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or to maintain social distancing.
- Districts will work towards encouraging more structured recess activities that limit the students’ physical contact with others.
- Students will sanitize their hands before and after recess.

Field Trips

- Classroom based field trips will not take place until further guidance is provided.

Visitors/Volunteers

- There are different levels of school visitors; therefore, each district will make decisions for each situation.
 - Visitors are discouraged from being in school district facilities during school hours.
 - Safety precautions, such as taking temperatures and completing a screening questionnaire, will be implemented for all visitors.

Important Items of Note

- If there is a change in the level/color of Williams County COVID monitoring, then additional safety precautions, in partnership with the Williams County Health Department, will be implemented.
- If the county is labeled by the State of Ohio as “orange”, school districts would require face masks to be worn by all students in grades K to 12.
- If Williams County is classified as red, the school systems will consult with the Williams County Health Department to determine the best course of action for students, activities, and learning. Information will be reviewed, and decisions will be made within 24 hours of receiving the notification of receiving a "red" status for the county. Dependent upon the data, schools and activities could remain open with the in-person learning option. If a change in status to the level of "red" occurs, schools will remain open until further notice is provided to district stakeholders. However, parents will be notified on any changes to the learning plans as soon as possible. The school systems, in cooperation with the Williams County Health Department, will make the most informed decisions for their individual district. As of this print date, information is released by the Governor's office each Thursday that indicates a county's “alert status.” This information will be heavily monitored each week.

Agreement is Subject to Change

- Significant time, effort and collaboration were spent amongst Superintendents and the Williams County Health Commissioner to develop guidelines that align with directives and recommendations from Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Health. Please understand it is our desire to adhere to this agreement in developing our own district-specific guidelines and protocols. However, due to the fluidity of the COVID19 pandemic, and in order to respond to new recommendations or mandates, changes to this agreement are to be expected. County Superintendents and representatives of the Williams County Health Department have been and will be in constant communication to prepare and respond differently, if necessary, to provide for the safety of our students and staff members.

Respectfully,

Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools
Kermit Riehle, Edgerton Local Schools
Anthony Stevens, Edon Northwest Local Schools
Jim Wyse, Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
Jamie Grime, Montpelier Exempted Village Schools
William Hanak, North Central Local Schools
Nate Johnson, Stryker Local Schools
Jim Watkins, Williams County Health Department

Williams County Health District

Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms for Williams County Schools

People who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at school	People who received a lab test for COVID-19	People with a COVID-19 diagnosis without a lab test or people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without a medical evaluation	People with other diagnoses (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain symptoms or healthcare provider says symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition	People who were exposed to someone with COVID-19
<p>Symptoms: At least 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing OR At least 2 of the following: fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell/taste, congestion/runny nose, headache, and GI symptom (vomiting, diarrhea, nausea)</p> <p>Place person in a separate room away from other people, maintain physical distance and wear PPE. Recommend person wear a mask and get tested. Send person home. Disinfect room.</p>	<p>Pending test result: Recommend isolation of person and their household at home pending result.</p> <p>Positive test result*: Health Dept will monitor these individuals daily until they are released from isolation. People shall stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared or from test date if asymptomatic AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p> <p>Household members shall stay at home to quarantine and will be monitored by health dept for 14 days.*</p> <p>Negative test result but has symptoms with no other diagnosis: People are to stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p> <p>Recommend household members to stay at home to quarantine for 14 days.</p>	<p>These persons are not monitored by the Health Dept but may have been seen by their provider or through a telehealth visit and told to isolate/quarantine.</p> <p>Stay at home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p> <p>Household members shall stay at home to quarantine for 14 days.</p>	<p>Stay home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific guidance from provider or ODH Communicable Disease Chart.</p> <p>Follow school policy on return to school for other illnesses.</p>	<p>Persons should quarantine at home for 14 days if they are a close contact (within 6 ft for 15 min or longer) to a person with COVID-19 during the infectious period.</p> <p>Infectious Periods: A person with COVID-19 is considered infectious beginning 48 hours before their first symptom through Day 10 after their first symptom. The day of their first symptom is Day 0.</p> <p>An asymptomatic person is considered infectious 48 hours before their test date through Day 10 after their test date. The test date is Day 0.</p>

* Health Depts are only notified of positive test results. These confirmed cases and their close contacts will be monitored by the health department. People who fall into other categories are not monitored daily by the health department however should follow the guidance from their provider and the CDC.

Adapted from Minnesota Department of Health (6/3/20)

Based on ODE School Planning Guide (6/30/20) and ODH IDCM (6/12/20) and CDC (7/8/20)

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