



Operations Plan 2021-2022

West Iron County Schools is making every possible effort to meet the needs of our students and follow the current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Covid guidelines and layered approach to combating this virus.

#1 Vaccinations: Covid-19 vaccinations are recommended for those 12 years of age and older, but will not be required for students to attend school. It is not a school required vaccine. However, please be aware that the vaccine may reduce or eliminate the need to quarantine. Please discuss your options with your healthcare provider if you wish to schedule a vaccine.

#2 Properly worn face coverings (masks): MDHHS currently strongly recommends universal indoor masking for all staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. There is no current federal or state mask requirement that applies in Michigan. At WICS, mask wearing will be recommended for staff, students, and visitors. If there is a change, and mask wearing becomes a requirement, we will notify our school community. **However, on our school busses, properly worn masks are required, as face coverings are required on all public transportation including school buses.*

#3 Screening and testing for illness
If you are sick, please stay home. We encourage you to get tested if you have Covid symptoms. Last year, spring athletes were required to be tested weekly. This is not a current requirement.

#4 Cleaning Protocols and Social Distancing
We will continue to provide a safe and clean learning environment, just like last school year. Each classroom and common space will be disinfected at least daily. In addition, we will provide cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer for each classroom and bus.

Social distancing will also be practiced as much as possible, and proper hygiene will be emphasized at all levels. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school buildings and busses. Furthermore, every classroom on our campus has a fresh air exchange system in place for this year.

Positive Covid-19 and close contact quarantines

- Students or staff members who test positive for Covid will be required to quarantine from school for 10 days.
- The District will continue to assist the Health Department with contact tracing, and notify parents if their student is a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid at school.
- Students or staff members who are identified as a close contact exposure will receive quarantine instructions from the local health department and/or their health provider.
- Virtual learning will be available to students who are required to be absent from school for a positive Covid diagnosis or close contact quarantine.

Required reporting

As per MDHHS, we will post current Covid case counts on the school website as required. Go to www.westiron.org for this information.

My number one priority is always the safety and well-being of all West Iron County Public Schools students and staff. Although things are improving, we are not out of this yet. This is our current plan as we start the school year. West Iron County Schools staff appreciates your support and understanding. We are entering this school year in a spirit of high hope!

--Kevin Schmutzler, Superintendent

[MDHHS School Guidance Update](#) Aug. 13, 2021
[Required vs. Recommended](#) Received Aug 13, 2021