



WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-2022 Reopening Plan

Disclaimer: The district's reopening plan is a fluid document that is subject to change based on the recommendations from the CDC, AAP, NYSED, NYSDOH, LCDOH, the district's Risk Management and Safety Specialist, and the district's physician. Additionally, the district will be monitoring Washington County's COVID-19 community transmission rate and how the transmission rate may impact the daily operational procedures. Transmission rates are measured by the CDC's four-category system of low, moderate, substantial, and high. [Click here](#) for the CDC COVID-19 data tracker.

Guidance: *The district's reopening plan is based on guidance from:*

- The Center for Disease Control
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The New York State Department of Health
- The New York State Education Department
- The Washington County Department of Health
- Needham Risk Management Resource Group, LLC
- The District's Medical Director

Goal: *The District priorities for the 2021-2022 school year will be to:*

- Safely return to 100% in-person instruction
- Safely maintain an in-person learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff
- Avoid school closures and quarantine to the extent possible
- Preserve co-curricular activities, extracurricular activities, and interscholastic athletics for students by following the recommendations set forth by the medical professionals
- Our plan will be "fluid" with modifications throughout the year as additional guidance is obtained from our medical professionals



Remote Learning

- No voluntary remote learning option- 100% in-person instruction
- Remote learning will be offered only if there is a class/grade/school wide mandatory quarantine or closure issued by Washington County Public Health Services or other governing body

Masking

- We will be working continuously with the Local DOH in regard to masking recommendations and will seek to modify our procedures as appropriate

Indoors: Masks are required for all individuals in a school building, regardless of vaccination status

- Frequent student mask breaks are encouraged/expected

Outdoors: Masks are not required

- Unvaccinated guests (*i.e. spectators*) are encouraged to wear masks
- Outdoor learning and recess is encouraged to be used as much as possible

Daily Health Screenings

- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to complete the daily “Raptor” screening tool
- Students and visitors will complete a temperature check upon arrival

Attendance

- All students are expected to attend school in-class every day
- Remote learning will only be provided if there is a grade/class-wide quarantine
- Individual students who are quarantined will be provided with classwork and tutoring services if appropriate

Testing

- Washington County is developing a possible screening plan – not anticipated to be completed until mid-to-late September
- Voluntary participation



Social Distancing / Classroom Arrangement

- Student desks will be distanced by 3-feet, greater if possible
- Classroom windows and doors will be open to increase ventilation, to the extent possible
- Seating charts are required for possible quarantine purposes

Transportation

- Buses can be filled to capacity
- All passengers and drivers must wear a mask while on the bus, regardless of vaccination status
- Windows will be open to the greatest extent possible
- Parents/Guardians who are able to provide transportation to and/or from school are encouraged to do so to reduce the population on buses
- Siblings will be seated together
- Parents able to drop students off early this year to support work schedules:
 - Jr/Sr High – 7:00 am.
 - Elementary – 8:10 am.
- Seating charts will be maintained on busses for quarantine purposes

Meals / Cafeteria

- The primary eating location will be in the cafeterias & classrooms, overflow areas will be maintained as necessary
- Social distancing will be maintained

Quarantines

Each case will be investigated by WCDOH, however as a general rule Washington County's plan will be:

If there is an exposure:

- **Fully Vaccinated** Individuals are not required to quarantine, if asymptomatic (Not showing any symptoms)
- **Unvaccinated Individuals**
 - *Separated by at least 6-feet: No Quarantine required
 - *Separated by less than 6-feet:
 - *If properly masked: No Quarantine required
 - *If not masked (*i.e. meal time*): County Quarantine



Interscholastic Athletics

- Indoor Sports: Masks are required
- Outdoor Sports: Masks are not required

Spectators

- Indoors Sports
 - *Limited spectators, masks are required
- Outdoor Sports
 - *Spectators encouraged, masks are recommended for unvaccinated individuals

Extra/Co-curricular Activities

- Extra-curricular clubs will be active
- Field-trips will be considered on a case-by-case basis

Daily Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures and Protocols

- The district will continue regular cleaning and disinfection daily or more frequently, as needed, along with frequent cleaning and disinfection of shared objects and surfaces as well as high transit areas, such as restrooms and common areas.
- Filtration/Ventilation: ensure maximum outside air is utilized in all HVAC equipment
- Classrooms will be disinfected as necessary
- High volume touch points will be disinfected frequently throughout the day as well as each night
- Primary products used: EPA approved disinfectants, disinfecting mist/fogger, disinfecting sprays & surface wipes
- Use of hand sanitizer and the practice of good hygiene will be taught/encouraged
- All staff will have access to PPE

Use of School Facilities

- Limited indoor use of school facilities by outside groups
- Outdoor use of facilities will be permitted

Visitors

- The number of visitors will be limited
- Masks and temperature checks are required



Safety Drills

- Modified to maintain social distancing

Substitute Teachers

- The district will attempt to secure substitutes for necessary positions

Vaccinations

- There are no current mandates/requirements for employees or students to be vaccinated
- The district will work with WCDOH to encourage vaccinations and will hold clinics for eligible students and staff who are interested.
- Students under 18 would require a parent to be present to obtain a vaccine. Clinic dates and times will be shared as they are coordinated.