

2021-22 WDMCS RETURN-TO-LEARN PLANS

OVERVIEW

To prepare for the 2021-22 school year, West Des Moines Community Schools (WDMCS) reviewed last year's Return-to-Learn plans. The following plans were created in accordance with Iowa law and supporting guidance documents. These plans may change based on county, state, or federal guidance. This plan is effective **Wednesday, Aug. 25**, and will remain in place until the end of the first semester unless brought back to the WDMCS Board of Education with recommended changes. District leadership will present a plan for the second semester to the Board prior to Jan. 14, 2022.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

COVID-19 TRACKING

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to stay home for 10 days and be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications prior to returning to school or work. Individuals who test positive will be emailed COVID-19 resources. An email notification will be sent to the entire grade level within an elementary school when a positive case is confirmed.
- Contact tracing will **ONLY BE COMPLETED** within the immediate household of the positive individual, and those individuals are highly encouraged to quarantine.
- Individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are highly encouraged to receive one. Numerous organizations offer free vaccines within Polk County.
- Free COVID-19 testing kits may be available in each building, based on availability. These kits are to be used at home and mailed to a testing facility to receive results. These kits are not to be returned to any WDMCS building. Central Iowa testing locations will be frequently shared with families and staff. WDMCS is not allowed to independently administer tests.
- WDMCS will post confirmed cases of COVID-19 that have been reported to the district on a weekly basis. The dashboard will include building-specific positive cases, grouped by both students and staff.

BUILDINGS

- Students and staff will be asked to stay home if they feel ill and/or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. Student absences will be recorded in Infinite Campus, and staff absences will be recorded through their standard leave process.
- Individuals who are not vaccinated are highly encouraged to wear face masks both indoors and outdoors. Based on [current CDC guidance](#), we highly encourage all individuals to wear face masks indoors. Face masks are available in each building.
- Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations are available and encouraged.
- In 2020, WDMCS upgraded the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system to remove viral particles. (We changed from [MERV 8](#) to [MERV 13-14 filters](#).)
- Federal emergency relief funds will be used to continue HVAC updates across the district as part of ongoing construction work.

- Water bottle stations are available in all school buildings. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottle.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will continue in each area. This will occur on an enhanced schedule in elementary buildings.
- High-touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Plexiglass barriers will remain within district and school office spaces that have public-facing interaction. Face shields will continue to be made available to students and staff as an extra layer of protection.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided for each space in buildings.

IN CLASSROOMS

- Teachers are able to take students outside for fresh air.
- Students will participate in recess and P.E. with their peers.
- Breakfasts will be eaten in the cafeteria. Elementary students will eat in the cafeteria at assigned tables. Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Lunches will be eaten in the cafeteria. Elementary students will eat in the cafeteria with their class and have assigned seating. Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Other than students and staff, access to the building during the school day must be approved by the building administrator.
- Elementary assemblies, concerts, field trips, and events must have mitigation strategies created and submitted to building administrators for review. Building administrators will submit final proposals to Superintendency for approval.
- Kids West child care will proceed with normal enrollment numbers.
- Extracurricular activities will take place. WDMCS will continue to reference guidance from several state and local agencies.
- PK families had the opportunity to select online learning. WDMCS teachers will work with a classroom of PK students, which is similar to the 2020-21 school year.
- K-6 families had the opportunity to select a third-party, state-approved online learning system, Edgenuity, for their students. Students will work independently, and Iowa-certified Edgenuity teachers will oversee their work.