

Warsaw School District #316 Tentative Return to School Plan

Warsaw School District #316 is committed to opening schools for safe in-person learning and to provide quality remote learning for families choosing that option. We will be adhering to state and local health department recommendations as well as following guidelines set by ISBE and IDPH.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools on July 9, 2021. The State of Illinois has adopted the CDC guidance. We will work with the Hancock County Health Department to determine the prevention strategies needed in our district, based on local metrics. The Illinois Department of Public Health has put forth the following key points, as provided by the updated CDC guidance.

Key Takeaways from the Illinois Department of Public Health:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully reopen while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing). Vaccination data by county can be found here <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata>.

Based on these key points, Warsaw CUSD #316 will recommend the following layered-prevention strategies for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Please bear in mind that layers of prevention

may be increased or reduced as IDPH guidance changes. This plan was developed with input from stakeholders at regular meetings of the school board and is reviewed every 6 months (minimally) or as needed.

1. Masks are recommended for all individuals age 2 and older, who are not fully vaccinated, when indoors.
2. Masks are required on school buses.
3. Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended within classrooms, when possible.
4. Students, teachers and staff should stay home when they have signs of infectious illness.
5. Students, teachers and staff should practice respiratory etiquette (i.e. cover a cough or sneeze)
6. Students, teachers and staff should practice regular handwashing.
7. Contact tracing will be conducted at the direction of the Hancock County Health Department
8. The district will continue increased cleaning and disinfection at its facilities.

Face Coverings

Allowed, but not mandated.

Symptom Screening

If a student presents symptoms or a fever of over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit while at school, the student will immediately be separated from the school population. At that time parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the student from school. Warsaw Schools will follow the guidelines from ISBE, IDPH, and the Hancock County Health Departments in adherence to school privacy laws regarding procedures for exclusion, re-admittance as well as record keeping, monitoring and reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 and symptom monitoring.

Students who test positive must wait 5 days and must have been fever free for 24 hours (without the aid of fever reducing medication) before they may be cleared for return to school. Once a student is symptom free and fever breaks, parents/guardians must notify the office to begin the 24 hour clock to allow for return to in person learning.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Students who test positive for COVID-19 may NOT return to school until the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication. Five days must have also passed since the initial symptoms appeared before the student would be eligible for return. Parents may also present consecutive negative test results to allow for re-entry. The tests must be taken at least 24 hours apart. Warsaw Elementary School will follow the guidelines from ISBE, IDPH, and the Hancock County Health Departments in adherence to school privacy laws regarding procedures for exclusion, re-admittance as well as record keeping, monitoring and reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 and symptom monitoring.

Close Contact

Warsaw Schools will follow the guidelines from ISBE, IDPH, and the Hancock County Health Departments in adherence to school privacy laws regarding procedures for exclusion, re-admittance as well as record keeping, monitoring and reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 and symptom monitoring.

School Day

In-person learning will take place in the school building. All in-person learning will be subject to the guidelines set forth by ISBE and the IDPH as listed above.

Meals

The lunch area will be cleaned and sanitized after each group.

Instructional time

Classrooms will be socially distanced as appropriate and to the best means possible.

Drop off/pick up procedures

Times for parent and bus pick up and drop offs will be staggered.

Water fountain use

They can be used for filling water bottles for students. Students will be allowed to keep water bottles in the classrooms to help reduce hallway traffic.

Hand sanitizer/Hand washing

Hand sanitizer dispensers will be made available in each classroom and at high traffic areas for student and staff use. Students will be encouraged to use sanitizer and additional efforts to promote proper and frequent hand washing will be made.

Visitor protocol

No visitors will be allowed to enter the school building for any reason unless prior approval is received by a school administrator.

Remote Learning

For families opting for the remote learning option, it is important to note many of the changes from last year's model. All remote learning students will be required **to complete 5 clock hours of coursework each day**. This work could consist of but is not limited to video instruction, interactive meeting software (Google meets or Zoom), linked online material, pencil and paper work, Google Classroom assignments or other online work. This work will be graded in the same manner as traditional in person school work and students will be held accountable for unfinished work.

The Warsaw CUSD 316 Board of Education meets monthly for district board meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Updated CDC guidelines will be shared at each meeting during the administration reports. Public input is welcomed and encouraged at the beginning of each board meeting. Any comments or concerns should be directed to the board of education at that time and any further conversation or necessary action will be taken during the meeting.

Warsaw CUSD #316 Tentative Return to School Protocols for Staff

Warsaw CUSD #316 is committed to opening school for safe in-person learning and to provide quality remote learning for families choosing that option. We will be adhering to guidelines set by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Face Coverings

Consistent with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face masks are acceptable, but not required.

Symptom Screenings

School staff members who have a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibits currently known symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) may **not** enter the school building or school bus.

If a school staff member presents with symptoms at school, the staff member will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population and asked to leave.

School staff members who are symptomatic (i.e., fever of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) may **not** return to school until the school staff member has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication **and** 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. For school staff members returning to school following the period of isolating at home (quarantine), please contact Superintendent Katrina Nixon prior to returning to work.

The District will comply with local and state health department guidelines related to informing the school community consistent with confidentiality laws.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

School staff members who test positive for COVID-19 may **not** return to school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication **and** 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. For school staff members returning to school following the period of isolating at home (quarantine), the school staff member must contact Superintendent Katrina Nixon before returning to school.

The District will track school staff members who are excluded from school because they have COVID-19-like symptoms, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are isolated at home (quarantine). The District's tracking process will be consistent with the ISBE/IDPH/Hancock County Health Department Guidance. In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case, the District will report the staff member's name and contact information to the local health department for contact tracing as required by the Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting Requirements. The District will inform the school community of confirmed COVID-19 cases consistent with local and state health department guidelines and confidentiality laws.

Close Contact

The District will comply with local and state health department guidelines related to informing the school community consistent with confidentiality laws.

Building Protocols

- *Food service protocols; The cafeteria will be cleaned following strict guidelines that comply with local and State health department guidelines.*
- *Cleaning protocols; The custodial staff members will maintain a clean and safe school building. Classrooms will be cleaned each school day following strict guidelines. Other staff members will be provided cleaning supplies to maintain a clean and safe classroom.*