

# West Central Area Schools

Serving the communities of Barrett, Elbow Lake, Hoffman, Kensington & Wendell

## COVID – Safe Return to In-Person Learning

August 18, 2021

The Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan was developed by the WCA Administrative Team and faculty representatives. We are excited to begin the school year without many of the restrictions we faced last year. It is imperative that we continue to provide a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff.

Guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Education, Horizon Public Health and input received from staff and families aided in plan development. The plan will be presented to the WCA Board of Education for approval or modification on August 18, 2021. The plan is subject to change and will be modified if our local circumstances change or if state agencies adopt specific requirements for schools.

- Instruction:** In-person learning for five days per week  
Distance learning will not be offered other than for inclement weather days  
Absences due to quarantine will be managed as other absences
- Face Coverings:** Face coverings are recommended for indoor activities, but not required  
Any parent who wants their child to wear a mask or face covering will be supported by school personnel  
The Center for Disease Control requires masks on school buses  
Face coverings will be required on contracted buses and on school provided transportation  
Passengers refusing to wear an approved face covering will not be allowed to enter the vehicle
- Vaccinations:** The District will not require vaccinations  
The CDC and MDH recommend vaccinations for eligible students and adults  
Vaccinations may reduce the quarantine time for those exposed to COVID  
Proof of vaccination will be required for a shortened quarantine period
- Social Distancing:** Classroom desks will be arranged to maintain a minimum 3-foot distancing  
There will be no restriction on school transportation other than the vehicle's capacity rating
- Contact Tracing:** District personnel will conduct contact tracing and notification for exposures occurring in school or during school activities  
Masks are required on school provided and contracted transportation so contact tracing will not be conducted
- Quarantine:** The District will comply with quarantine timelines directed by medical providers  
WCA personnel will determine quarantine periods resulting from contact tracing completed by WCA staff or its designees  
The length of quarantine periods resulting from close contact will be dependent upon the nature of the exposure, whether the person was vaccinated and is without symptoms  
Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and free from symptoms will not need to quarantine

- Testing: Plan to be developed
- Other Precautions: Hand washing and hand sanitizing will continue to be emphasized  
Covering face when coughing or sneezing  
Use of shared resources and supplies will be minimized  
Clear plexiglass barriers will continue to be used in many areas  
Stay home when you are ill or have a fever  
Remain home 48 hours after a fever has subsided without the use of medication  
MDH and MDE requirements will be implemented  
MDH and MDE recommendations will be considered for implementation
- Meals: Regular student meals will be provided at no cost by the USDA  
All table seats will be available for use at lunch
- Communication: Changes in the plan will be conveyed through our school messaging system  
The Safe Return to In-Person Learning will be posted on our District Website  
The District will distribute information provided by the CDC, MDH, MDE and Horizon Public Health
- Plan Changes: After consultation with the Board Chair and notification of the Board, the superintendent has authority to modify the health and safety plan

Please keep in mind that change may occur due to mandates from the CDC, MDH or MDE or as local circumstances change. Students, families and staff demonstrated phenomenal cooperation during the 2020-2021 school year. We request your continued understanding and support as we provide a safe and healthy environment for in-person learning.

(COVID – FY22 – Safe Return to In-Person Learning for 2021-2022 – 8 17 21 (2))