

Western Dubuque Community School District

2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan Updates Summary

This is a draft document subject to change. Last updated 7/28/2020



ON-SITE Students

- Students in grades PK-12 will return to school on-site at the start of 2020-2021 school year on Thursday, August 13.
- Regular, full days of school will be held Monday-Thursday. Students will not be in schools on Fridays; Friday's are reserved for teachers to attend to virtual teaching needs.

(Families that are not comfortable sending their student(s) to on-site school for COVID related reasons can apply to participate in online learning OR contact the district office for homeschooling paperwork – skip to slide 7 for more information about these options)




ON-SITE Students

While in school, the focus will be on providing students direct instruction and support in core subject areas as they normally would in the classroom setting.

Besides our COVID-19 mediation efforts, students will experience a normal school day.

On-site students will receive educational opportunities to complete on Friday's while at home, however, these will not require the use of technology in most cases.




ON-SITE Students – Face Coverings

NEW: Face Coverings (masks and/or face shields):

Staff will be required to wear a face covering unless social distancing can be practiced.

Face coverings will be encouraged for grades PK-1

Face coverings will be required for grades 2-12 unless social distancing can be practiced, or student has a documented medical reason.



ON-SITE Students – Social Distancing

All students will have assigned seating in all classrooms and areas of the building for contact tracing. Social distancing will be applied where possible. All classrooms are working to arrange desks/seats as far apart as physically possible. We cannot guarantee six feet will be maintained everywhere in our buildings. We will apply social distancing in every instance we can control.



ON-SITE Students – Lunch

Changes in lunch structure will be in place to utilize alternate spaces if needed, adjustments to reduce congregation, and keeping students in cohorts similar to the classroom. **(specific plans and adjustments will be determined by each school – contact individual schools for specific details).**

All food service staff members will follow all personal protective and food safety guidelines as required for food service operations.



ON-SITE Students – Temperature Screenings

Students will be required to have their temperatures checked at home by their parents/guardians prior to reporting to school.

Staff will be required to check their temperatures before reporting to work.

*Students or staff with a measured temperature of 100.4 or higher should not attend school/work and remain home until fever-free for 72 hours (without using fever reducing medication).




ON-SITE Students – Reporting of Symptoms/Cases

WDCSD will follow the guidelines from the Linn County Public Health regarding student attendance. (we are waiting for Dubuque, Jones, and Jackson County to issue their guidance)

“Students that are identified to have a positive case of COVID-19 will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days. Anyone that was within 6 feet of this individual for 15 minutes or longer, will also be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days.” - Linn County Public Health

Students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms or are diagnosed positive must immediately notify their teacher or another adult staff member and report the health office.



ON-SITE Students – Reporting of Symptoms/Cases (continued)

The Iowa Department of Education has informed school districts that guidance regarding adjustments of school operations will be provided to districts the first week of August.

Following is information from the latest Iowa Department of Education guidance:

Decisions on when to temporarily move to primary remote learning for an entire building or district because of public health conditions will be done in consultation with the Department of Public Health.

The Iowa Department of Education and the Department of Public Health are developing additional guidance to help schools manage virus activity when positive cases are identified among students, teachers or staff. This additional guidance will be provided in early August and will inform schools what to do regarding quarantining students and teachers, or when determining whether to close a classroom or school building.



ON-SITE Students – Transportation

All students will have assigned seating and students in grades 2-12 will be required to wear face coverings on the bus.

Windows and vents will be opened to allow for air circulation whenever possible.

Hand sanitizer stations will be available on all buses.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected before and after routes.

Please note: Routes may need to be adjusted if there is a shortage of drivers.

Virtual Students – by family choice

- Families that are not comfortable sending their student(s) to on-site school for COVID related reasons can apply to participate in online learning as part of our return to learn plan for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Since school is open, this virtual option is temporary and will have limitations as compared to students attending on-site. Specific courses with hands-on requirements will not be offered to students choosing this temporary virtual option (specific details to come).
- WDCSD will provide eligible students with virtual learning taught by our certified WDCSD teachers.
- Learning will not be taught “live”; content, recorded videos of teachers, assignments, etc. will be provided for a week at a time (when applicable) through our new Learning Management System, Itslearning (training on this LMS will come out in August)

Virtual Students – by family choice, continued

- Students utilizing this option will stay in virtual learning for one trimester. At that time, each family will have the choice to continue in this virtual environment for another trimester or choose to send their child(ren) to on-site schooling for the remainder of the year.
- **ALL** students need to follow the full registration process as they do each year regardless if you are choosing in-person or virtual. <http://www.wdbqschools.org/Registration.aspx>
- If selecting Virtual for first trimester, please follow the directions in this link. <http://www.wdbqschools.org/OfficialVirtualRegistrationInformation.aspx>
- If families do not want to send their student(s) to on-site school, and don't want to participate in our virtual, distance instruction, the other option is to complete a homeschooling application and provide your own schooling.. *See links below for additional information on Homeschooling:*
 - Form A Competent Private Instruction <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2020-2021FormA6-29-20.pdf>
 - Handbook (has not changed from 2019-20) <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2019-2020PrivateInstructionHandbook2019-06-05.pdf>
 - Private Instruction Comparison Chart <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/PrivateInstructionComparisonChart.pdf>
 - Acceptable Tests for Baseline/Annual Assessment <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/AcceptableTestsForBaselineAndAnnualAssessmentOption.pdf>

Virtual Students – Technology Access

- Families will need to complete a home technology survey if not already done so.
- Personal devices that will work for remote learning are; Laptops, Desktops, Chromebooks, Macs, iPads, iPhones, and Android phones.
- A District device checkout form will be made available for families in need.
- Internet Broadband access will be available in the front parking lot of Cascade High School, Drexler Middle School, and Western Dubuque High School.
- District owned devices will be filtered off-site, for safety of students, protection of device, and internet usage / history reporting.
- Drop off / pick up locations will be made available and communicated to families

Virtual Students – Technology Support

Parents and students have access to technology support. The support page on the district's website shows more information on the different support options that are offered for both district owned and personal devices.

Support page

- <http://www.wdbqschools.org/Helpdesk.aspx>

Email and phone support is available

- helpdesk@wdbqschools.org
- (563)744-3885 ext. 6500

Create a support case using the online ticket system

- <http://helpdesk.wdbqschools.org/HelpDesk/Tickets/New>

Remote support via TeamViewer allows district support to remote into your device to troubleshoot / fix issues

- <https://get.teamviewer.com/64nb4rz>

Virtual Students – short-term because of exposure or positive cases

- First, if your child is ill, the obvious priority is to focus on health, rest, and recovery.
- If students are home strictly for exposure/proactive measures and are still able to participate in academics, they can access content on a weekly basis via our Learning Management System, Itslearning.
- The learning plan for these students is to provide continuity between in-person learning and the time they are in distance learning on a short-term basis (**two weeks or less**) to minimize the disruption to learning.
- This plan is not meant as a replacement for in-person instruction; individual live instruction is not available due to teacher instruction schedules Monday-Thursday.

School Shutdowns/ Moving to Exclusive Distance Learning

- The determination of whether the district exclusively moves from the on-site and hybrid models to only providing distance learning is made by Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and/or the Western Dubuque Community Schools Board of Education.
- In this case, we will continue academic learning in accordance with our Return to Learn plan utilizing our new learning management system, Itslearning.