



WEAKLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS REOPENING 2021-22

Guidance on Operations, Safety and Health,
Transportation and Special Populations

Introduction

This document reflects the results of that work and aligns with the Tennessee State Board of Education's requirement to provide comprehensive and high-quality instruction regardless of COVID-19.

Due to the ever-changing circumstances and evolving research and guidance regarding COVID-19. Decisions will be based on the guidance of local health officials and/or a national or state executive order. Schools will follow a traditional in person, in classroom approach with adjustments for social distancing until notice of a closure is announced.

Operations/Safety and Health

The safety and health of our students has dictated various operational adjustments at each of our school facilities. Since some of our schools include kindergarten through 12th grade and others are focused on particular age groupings, each administrator has developed facility-specific operational practices. The following offers an overview of the guidance provided after safety and health-focused staff members reviewed resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics, National School Safety Center, the National Association of School Nurses, the National Association of School Psychologists, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, the Centers for Disease Control, the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Department of Health. The recommendations also reflect input received from the Weakley County Health Department and local medical personnel.

Definitions of CDC terms used throughout this document:

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

A **close contact** is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine for COVID-19 should last for a period of 10 days. After day 10 (return day 11) without testing if contact does not have symptoms. After day 7 (return day 8) if contact does not have symptoms and if they test negative by a PCR or antigen test collected after day 5.

Persons must be responsible for securing verification of a negative test result if using this quarantine release option.

Face coverings (masks) are simple barriers to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice.

START OF THE DAY (applicable for all Weakley County Schools)

Traffic Entry points into school buildings will be adjusted. As a result, drop-off traffic flow may be altered. Building administrators will announce changes.

Building Entry Hand sanitizer units will be positioned on either sides of entrances; *all* students, staff and visitors are required to use upon entry.

Face coverings are encouraged (available on buses, in the office and nurse’s office) when social distancing isn’t possible.

Students in common areas before the start of the school day should be assigned seating to enable contact tracing.

Breakfast Hand sanitizer used upon entry/exit.

Class Setting

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports 3 feet distance if needed (particularly with younger students). Schools are encouraged to maintain 6 feet between students whenever possible.

Seating charts and/or lists of group assignments must be maintained to enable contact tracing.

If the school is notified that a student or staff member has tested positive, building officials will conduct contact tracing that includes the previous 48 hours. Administrative staff will ensure transportation is notified within 48 hours if the student is a bus rider.

Individual/computer lab devices/surfaces wiped down twice a day.

Hand sanitizer used upon entry/exit – “sanitation station” supplies (hand sanitizer, wipes, gloves) and thermometers will be provided.

Staff who will be working within three feet of a student(s) will wear face coverings when working with a student(s) whose family has requested the student or teacher wear a face covering.

**Workrooms/
staff lounges**

Social distancing in these areas is recommended.

**Restroom/
Hydration**

No-touch hydration stations will be available.

Personal water bottles must be clearly labeled with student’s name.

Lunch

Hand sanitizer used upon entry/exit.

Visitors at lunch will be allowed only for special occasions as designated by the principal.

Schools should develop a rotation schedule or seating charts for class combinations to alternate between cafeteria/gym/classroom/outdoor settings according to facility/population needs.

Safety and Health – Special Considerations

Mental Health	<p>Building administrators will routinely remind students and staff of existing resources. Available resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local community mental health providers as facilitators for staff• EAP (Employee Assistance Program) available to staff insured through WCS.• SAP (Student Assistance Program) available to all WCS students.• School Social Workers will continue to assist schools in addressing student/staff social, emotional needs.• Training will be provided to teachers in the use of a new Safe Schools Alert module: <i>Handle with Care</i>.• Teachers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) may create online account, review course and complete quiz to satisfy 2-hour annual suicide prevention requirement, other traditional sources of suicide prevention and child abuse prevention/identification training resources will be provided prior to classes resuming.• Signage for Vector Alert, Text-a Tip, National Suicide Prevention Hotline, Child Abuse Reporting Hotline will be provided for all schools to display throughout buildings.• Support materials, information will be shared in multiple formats for distribution to parents/families, included in materials prepared for student engagement.
Daily Cleaning	<p>Building Administration will regularly review expectations with assigned custodial personnel, staff and students.</p> <p>Per the Weakley County Health Department, all students and staff using wipes to clean surfaces need to wear gloves.</p>
Visitors/ Vendors	<p>Visitors to campus will be limited.</p>
Parental Help	<p>Before students leave for school parents should take temperatures. If a fever exists, the child should stay home (see below for specific next steps).</p>

Sick Students/Possible Exposure

Each school will designate a separate, easily monitored triage room for students.

Sick students or students with possible exposure will remain in the triage room until a parent/guardian or designated emergency contact arrives.

The Department of Children Services will be contacted if a family fails to comply in a timely manner. Care will be taken to ensure that students do not feel isolated or stigmatized.

COVID -19 Exposure – INDIVIDUAL K-12 Setting

SYMPTOMS	NO SYMPTOMS	CLOSE CONTACT
<p>If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has symptoms</p>	<p>If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has no symptoms</p>	<p>If a student or staff is known to have been in close contact with someone who has or has had COVID – 19</p>
<p>Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and for at least 24 hours they have not had a fever and are feeling well. <p>For more information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html</p>	<p>Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test (assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test). If symptoms develop, then the symptom-based or time-based strategy should be used. 	<p>The student/staff must be quarantined for 10 days after the last contact with the infected individual. They may return to school/work on day 11.</p> <p>The student/staff may test between day 5-7 and return to school on day 8 if they have no symptoms and a negative test.</p> <p>If symptoms develop, the student or staff member will follow the guidelines for infected persons.</p> <p>If the person with COVID-19 and the close contact have been <i>correctly and consistently wearing well fitted masks</i>, the close contact does not have to quarantine.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine unless symptoms develop.</p> <p>Persons who have had Covid-19 illness within the previous 3 months do not have to quarantine unless symptoms develop.</p>
<p>According to the Weakley County Health Department, if someone tests positive for COVID-19, the quarantine period is 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The Health Department has the authority to enforce compliance.</p>		

COVID -19 Exposure – CLASSROOM/BUILDING EXPOSURE

When the school is notified of a positive case among the staff/student population, the school nurse and building administrator will conduct contact tracing within the school. Any student who fits the definition of having had close contact (less than six feet for more than 15 minutes) will be advised to not return for 10 days from the last exposure.

Transportation

Bus drivers will be provided a list of the students that will be riding their bus. Seating charts will be created and strictly followed.

Face coverings will be available and are encouraged during the duration of the route.

Social distancing will be followed when possible and when not in conflict with TN state law. Due to the high volume of bus riders and the limited number of buses and drivers, not all social distancing guidelines can be strictly followed on Weakley County buses.

In an effort to ensure shorter time on buses, students will be limited to one of two previously identified drop off locations.

For bus drivers to follow social distancing guidelines safely, no children will sit on the first row of the bus and when children enter and exit.

Parents are encouraged to take the temperatures of children prior to boarding the bus.

Families will sit together when possible.

Sanitizer will be provided on each bus.

Special Populations

Special Populations focused on re-opening strategies for continuing educational opportunities and services regarding our special populations, including special education and English learners. The social and mental health of students is a primary focus of this group. As a result, this document is fluid and responses will be adjusted as practices are put in place.

The following is their work-to-date.

Operations/Safety and Health

It is extremely important for special populations students to be given support in the areas of social distancing, personal space, hygiene, etc. It is suggested that visual signage be developed to support learning in these areas. In addition, visual schedules should be incorporated into student schedules, as needed. The incorporation of social stories to explain what a typical day will involve is appropriate for students with disabilities, English language learners, and young children. In addition, parents should be encouraged to have discussions about the upcoming school year with their children. This would involve any changes to the school day.

Outside providers for related services, such as physical therapy and speech/language, should have continued access into buildings to provide services. Outside counseling services, such as Carey Counseling, should continue to have access, if available.

To minimize traffic in school hallways, it is recommended that schools establish areas for parent meetings, evaluation, and therapy close to the school entrance. In addition, parent meetings could be offered virtually.

Transportation

Bus monitors will continue to be placed on all SPED buses. Mid-routes for SPED buses will continue.

Academics

IEP teams will determine appropriate services for students with disabilities to have access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Continued differentiation of instruction by general education teachers is encouraged to promote independence in all students.

Intervention and/or remediation is a priority for all students.

Advocacy

As advocates for special populations, special consideration of changes to the attendance policy, especially truancy, should be considered for students whose health may impede attendance during this time.