

## WPS K-12 Covid19 Protocols September 2022

**Outbreak Response Protocols: Pre K-12 (Version 10.0 (Updated August 24, 2022) provides a revised approach to case investigation and contact tracing.**

<https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidance/Outbreak-Response-Protocols-Pre-K-12.pdf>

Westerly Public Schools will continue to promote vaccination as the most powerful tool to keep everyone healthy and safe and to return to normal activities. We will continue to encourage everyone to stay home and get tested if they have symptoms and to work closely with their school nurse to determine the return to school dates based upon symptom presentation.

When speaking with families we will continue to recommend best public health guidance based upon CDC/RIDOH.

**Outbreaks: RIDOH defines an outbreak/cluster as 3 or more cases/10% of a group (e.g., classroom, grade, bus, team).**

- Notification to RIDOH is for the purpose of collaboration and to obtain recommendations for that population.

Outbreak Protocol:

- Nurse to notify the Principal and Covid Coordinator
- RIDOH will be notified (after consultation with above) per the Playbook
- Notifications will be determined based upon information recommended and individual situations.
- The Principal or Covid Coordinator will inform the Superintendent.

**Testing:**

Encourage testing as needed through:

- Health Care Provider, Primary Care Provider, and Pediatrician
- Urgent Care Centers
- Retail Pharmacies, CVS, Walgreens, Seaside Pharmacy etc.
- Home self-test kits are available through the school nurses upon request.

**Responding to Students and Staff with Symptom:**

Students and staff who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school should:

- Be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building; and either sent home and encouraged to get tested or test for COVID-19 at school.
  - If the test result is positive, isolate\* and send students and staff home; or
  - If the test result is negative, use clinical judgment to decide how to respond to the symptoms in line with illness policies (e.g., students and staff who have fevers or are vomiting should be sent home).
- Send home self-test kit (while supplies last) with symptomatic students, recommend to test that day and the following morning - can return with negative results. Send instructions on when to test at home if symptoms haven't improved, test again at the 24 hour mark. Request that they notify the SNT of the results.
- If the family chooses not to test, the student can return when there is symptom improvement and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

**Masks:**

- Masks should be worn at all times in school nurse offices/spaces when there are symptomatic individuals
- Mask **is required** for + case for 10 day period. When students return on day 6 they **must** wear a properly fitting mask for the remainder of the 10 day isolation period.
- Mask mandate has been lifted. WPS' is now optional.
- We will support those who continue to choose to mask

## **What to do with a positive case:**

Obtain and document;

- Date of positive test,
- Type of test, (PCR, Antigen at home)
- Symptom onset, or note asymptomatic,
- Notify teachers of need for educational support
- Bus number

### **Elementary:**

- Will monitor the case for 14 days.
- Trends in data will be monitored.
- No notification required - Self awareness and advocacy is communicated and promoted.
- Note which bus the student rides, looking for trends.
- Nurses continue to notify each other about siblings in other schools.

### **High and Middle:**

- Will print the student schedule when identified as positive.
- If a second case is identified within 14 days, schedules will be compared looking for mutual classes.
- Note which bus the student rides, looking for trends.
- Nurses continue to notify each other about siblings in other schools.
- No notification required - Self awareness and advocacy is communicated and promoted.

### **Positive student returns:**

- Mask **is required** for + case for 10 day period.
- When students return on day 6 they **must** wear a properly fitting mask for the remainder of the 10 day isolation period.
- Nurse to assess positive students on morning of return (no earlier than day 6).
- Assess for: symptom improvement, proper fitting mask.
- Reinforce the mask wearing through day 10.
- If unable to wear a mask or chooses not to, they **must** remain home.

### **Non stable classroom positive faculty -**

Obtain a list of all students that are serviced by the positive staff member - that becomes "classroom" for tracking purposes.

For example; specialists, intervention, OT, allied arts, etc. Nurses track any positive students over the next 14 days.

**Mitigation:** Covid 19 is now a preventable, treatable disease. However the virus still is in our communities and layered prevention strategies should remain in place.

- Promoting vaccination;
- Optimizing ventilation;
- Promoting hand and respiratory hygiene;
- Cleaning and disinfection;
- Integrating staying home when sick, isolation, and managing exposure protocols into illness policies;
- Offering school-supported diagnostic testing;
- Masking at all times in school nurse offices/space when there are symptomatic individuals;
- Maintaining the capacity for screening testing.

## Westerly Public Schools Symptomatic Testing Protocol

WPS will make available symptomatic COVID testing for all Westerly Public Schools students and staff beginning the week of September 6, 2022. Each occurrence will have a one time verbal consent to be utilized for the 2022-2023 school year.

**WPS requires students and staff to screen daily, at home, for COVID symptoms which include:** cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, fatigue or recent loss of taste or smell.

**If a student or staff member has any of the symptoms of COVID-19, DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL, isolate at home, Test for COVID-19** and consult with your healthcare provider.

- If a student or staff member becomes symptomatic with one of the listed symptoms, during the school day, the school nurse (or trained designee under the CSNT's direction) will be able to perform symptomatic COVID testing.
- Parents or guardians of ill students will be consulted and will be asked to pick up the sick student.
- Prior to testing, the CSNT will assure that there is informed consent on file or that verbal consent is obtained.
- Verbal consent is allowable only between parent/guardian and CSNT. Consent will be documented in Skyward.
- For each testing session, students or staff members will self-swab (if 12 yrs or older) their nasal passage. If under 12, the school nurse (or trained designee) will perform the swabbing.
- Covid tests performed at school will be reported through the RIDOH portal.
- The results of this test will be available within 30 minutes.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified of the results.

At any time, a parent or guardian of a student or staff member may decline to participate in the WPS testing program. If testing was recommended and it is refused (either here or private testing) the student or staff member will be sent home, advised to consult their healthcare provider. They may return when there is symptom improvement, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

Reference:

Outbreak Response Protocols: Pre K-12 Guidance for COVID-19 outbreak response in Pre K-12 Schools

9/9/2022

**Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies  
Westerly Public Schools**

Date Submitted: 8/3/22

| Checklist  | Policy  |
|--|---|
| <b>1. What kind of symptom screening will your LEA/school conduct for students, teachers, and staff and how will you implement it?</b>   | Signed agreement at start of school   |
| <b>2. Has your LEA/school integrated these isolation protocols into illness policies?</b>  | Require shortened isolation (5 days) at home and attend school for days 6-10 while wearing a mask (as long as the individual meets all other criteria for ending isolation); Other  |
| <b>3. What quarantine protocols will your LEA/school plan to implement for people who are not up to date with their vaccines/not exempt from quarantine for other reasons?</b> | While RIDOH continues to recommends to quarantine for unvaccinated individuals for 5 days from date of last exposure, Westerly Public Schools will continue to recommend the best public health guidance based upon CDC/RIDOH while recognizing that this is not a district requirement; Monitor-to-Stay protocol. Note: this is recommended at medium community levels   |
| <b>4. Which strategies will your LEA/school have in their testing program?</b>   | Symptomatic on site; Close contacts exposed at school; Screening testing for higher-risk activities (i.e., sports and extracurricular activities). Note: This is recommended at medium and high Community levels; Screening testing for return from breaks. Note: This is recommended at medium and high community levels; Test to Stay program Note: This is a school-based quarantine approach that is recommended at high community levels; Screening testing for those who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19, such as those with moderate or severe immunocompromise or complex medical conditions. Note: This is recommended at medium and high community levels |
| <b>5. Which strategies for masks/face coverings will your LEA/school have in their policies?</b>   | Require for days 6-10 for shortened (5-day) isolation in illness policy   |
| <b>6. How will your LEA/school optimize ventilation?</b>   | Portable air cleaner with HEPA filters  |
| <b>7. What physical distancing measures will your LEA/school plan to use?<br/>Note: This is recommended at high community levels.</b>  | While social distancing is recommended during high community levels, WPS will encourage best practice based upon CDC/RIDOH guidance.  |
| <b>8. LEA/School will utilize CDC guidance for cleaning, disinfection, and hand hygiene guidance.</b>  | Confirm   |
| <b>9. LEA/School will promote COVID-19 vaccination to school community, including teachers, staff, household members, and eligible students.</b>                               | Confirm   |
| <b>10. LEA/School will provide appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</b>                                       | Confirm   |
| <b>11. LEA/School will revise/continue to follow sick policies aligned with current guidance, and communicate it to staff, students, and families.</b>                         | Confirm   |
| <b>12. LEA/School will communicate information to staff, students, and families in their preferred language or easiest mode of communication.</b>                              | Confirm   |
| <b>13. Please include URLs to external documents or school policies, as applicable.</b>  | N/A   |