



COVID-19 UPDATE

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Good Evening Parents, Guardians, and Staff.

Over the past two years we have worked together toward successful in-person learning given the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to our responsive approaches to management, implementation of best-practices, and access to resources, we remained successful in our mitigation measures. Throughout this time, we learned WHAT WORKS BEST FOR WESTON. This year, we are making a shift from pandemic management to endemic management with a focus on supporting students and staff who are symptomatic while promoting equal access to supportive services in school. As a district, we are continuing to shift from school-based management toward home-based management. Utilizing what is known with regard to best-practices, and in accordance with DESE/DPH guidance, we will be implementing the following COVID-19 mitigation practices during the 2022-2023 school year. As always, we thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Remain Home When Sick:

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 remain home and test. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 while in school, seek assistance in the health office. Students and staff who are identified by the school nurse as exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and have consented to testing, will be tested by the school nurse. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to begin isolation.

Masking in Schools:

Masking will be optional for students and staff. Masking continues to be one of the single most important measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. As such, masking is strongly encouraged for those who are immunocompromised or have been advised by their personal physicians to do so.

Masking is required for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and continue to rapid test positive during Days 6-10 of their isolation period. Masking will still be required in school health offices, consistent with last year's guidance. N95, KN95 and surgical masks are available for all students and staff.

Changes to Isolation/Quarantine Process:

In accordance with recent changes to CDC (August 11) and DESE/DPH (August 24) isolation guidance students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must remain home from school and in isolation for Days 0-5. Students and staff who remain fever free with improved symptoms may return to school on Day 6. **Masking is recommended for days 6-10.** Students and staff who are unable to tolerate masking can opt out of mask wearing with proof of negative rapid test

result. Consistent with last year, please forward screenshots of negative rapid test results to your building-based school nurse.

Students and staff who are exposed to a COVID-19 positive person no longer are required to quarantine. We ask that you remain vigilant at all times, especially if you were informed you are a close contact, and access testing if symptoms occur. Masking is not required of students or staff who were exposed.

Changes to Reporting Process:

Weston Public Schools will not be actively participating in contact tracing. Furthermore, cases identified in school will be reported to the state, however, close collaboration with the Weston Board of Health will be primarily focused on identification and management of any clusters that may occur.

Livestream Access:

Students will be able to livestream into classes during their COVID-19 isolation period. Please contact your student's building principal to obtain links for livestream access.

I continue to be grateful for the tireless support of the Weston community. Our combined efforts will ensure another successful year.

Warmly,

Jamy Gaynor, Ed.D., MS, RN, NCSN
Director of Health Services