

School District of Niagara

Return to School Plan for 2020-2021

*Our students and staff health and safety is our number one priority. We have established these health measures to promote everyone's safety. These guidelines were created in accordance with guidance provided by the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. **Please note we will continue to monitor guidance and adjust these measures as necessary.***

Summary of Educational Plan – 4K will attend face to face three days a week and grades K-12 will attend five days a week face to face. All grades will have a virtual option for those that request. Virtual option will be Google Classroom with teachers leading the instruction. We will also use Acellus in other instances of instruction.

General Good Hygiene Practice for all staff and students

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, especially after eating, using the bathroom and touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
- Staff to disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

School Specific Guidelines for COVID-19

- Students and staff will be educated on properly washing hands and everyday protective measures to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, like COVID-19. Educational signs will be posted throughout the district.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-11x17-en.pdf>
- School will create strategies to restructure locations and activities where students are in close contact with each other to encourage six feet of physical distancing between people.
- Hand sanitizing tables will be located at entrances, classrooms and common areas in school.
- Each student's belongings will be separated and students are discouraged from bringing in extra toys or materials from home. Students will be educated to avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books and other games or learning aids.
- Supplies or equipment that is used by multiple students will be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles labeled with their name from home.

- In order to limit contact points - Only staff and students will be allowed inside of all school buildings.
- Recess will be staggered to avoid contact between cohorts.
- No large assemblies or other large gatherings.

School Exclusion Guidelines

- Symptoms that require absence:
 - Fever (+100.4), fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose (unrelated to seasonal allergies), nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or if a doctor note indicates need.
- When to return after illness:
 - If COVID like symptoms (listed above) present - [Exclusion Criteria and Return Guidance](#)
 - Absence required for 10 days after the symptoms first appeared
 - AND: 72 hours (3 full days) symptom free without the use of fever / symptom reducing medication
 - If ill and test negative for COVID - may return after 24 hours symptom free (excluding contacts of a case)
- If an individual has been exposed to a person positive for COVID-19, they should remain home in self isolation for at least 14 days following exposure. If he/she develops any illness symptoms; he/she should contact their primary care provider.
- Exposure is contact with another person who has COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes and within 6 feet apart without any PPE.
- Students and staff with an underlying health condition or known weakened immune system are encouraged to contact their primary care provider for guidance before attending in-person school at this time.
- **Fever**
 - Temperature 100.4 °F or greater
 - Child must be fever-free without fever medicine for 72 hours before returning to school.
- **Vomiting**
 - A child who is vomiting needs to stay home until symptom free for 72 hours.
- **Diarrhea**
 - A child who has diarrhea (two or more watery stools in a 12-hour period) needs to stay home until symptom free for 72 hours.
- **Rash**
 - Your child should stay home if they have a rash that is spreading, open and cannot be covered. A doctor should evaluate the skin rash before your child returns to school. Your child may return to school after seeing a doctor with a note stating the rash is not contagious and may return to school.

- **Coughs and Colds**
 - Your child should stay home if they have continuous nasal drainage and/or a cough.
- **Pink Eye (conjunctivitis)**
 - Your child should stay home if they have red watery eyes, swelling of the upper or lower eyelids, or eye drainage. If your child is prescribed antibiotics, they should be used for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Strep Throat**
 - If your child is diagnosed with strep throat, they must remain home until 24 hours after antibiotics have begun.
- **Pertussis**
 - If your child is diagnosed with pertussis, they must remain home until five days of appropriate antibiotic is completed.

School Health Screening Guidelines

- All parents/guardians of students attending school will be advised to complete a daily health screening at home every morning before bringing their child to school. The health screening will include temperature screening and the following questions:
 - Does your child have a temperature over 100.4 Fahrenheit within the last 48 hours?
 - Has your child been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Is your child experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or sore throat within the last 48 hours?
 - Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?
 - Does your child have muscle pain or chills?
 - Does your child have any other illness symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, continuous nasal drainage, or rash in the last 48 hours please follow the above School Exclusion Guidelines
- All staff will be advised to complete the same health screening and questions, directed at themselves, every morning at home before coming on school property.

Guidelines for Face Masks and Cloth Face Covers

Please note in regards to face coverings: All our School District of Niagara staff and students will be provided and required to wear a face covering unless an underlying health condition does not allow. Students in 4k are encouraged to wear a mask. Students in grades K-12 are required to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be obtained. The school district asks for medical documentation from staff who cannot wear a mask. Students who cannot, the district asks for a parent slip. We understand face coverings may be challenging for many students to wear all-day in a school setting. The district is encouraging teaching staff to allow for outdoor breaks where students can take a mask removal break.

- If a student absolutely cannot wear a facemask, we ask for parent documentation to confirm the student cannot wear a mask.

- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone having trouble breathing. Staff and students should not wear a cloth face covering or mask while engaging in physical activity.
- Staff will be educated on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use this link to educate themselves and their child on face coverings. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Guidelines for students who become sick at school

- An isolation room will be near the health office in every building to separate anyone who exhibits above illness symptoms. The isolation room will be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
- Children will be provided mask or face cover to wear in the isolation room while awaiting pick-up.
- Parent/guardians will be contacted promptly to pick the child up as soon as possible.
- Staff person with face covering and eye protection, will stay with the student while awaiting parent/guardian's arrival.
- Students may not return to school until all above illness criteria are met. It is recommended parent/guardians call the child's primary care provider for further direction/recommendations.

Guidelines for Staff who become sick at school

- Staff will be sent home if they develop illness symptoms (see above illness guidelines) during work.
- The staff member may not return to work until all illness criteria is met. It is recommended the staff person call their primary care provider for further direction/recommendations.

Gym/Fitness Centers/Locker Rooms/Bathrooms

- Face coverings should not be worn during physical activity. It is recommended that when in the community and not engaging in physical activity, if physical distancing is not possible, face coverings/masks should be worn by children (over the age of 2) and adults.
- Frequently used items (such as barbells, weight machines, fitness equipment) will be regularly disinfected.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing will be required for staff and students before and after workout and use of locker rooms. Hand sanitizer station will be provided.
- Cleaning frequency for restrooms, showers, and locker rooms will be increased.
- Signs will be posted requiring students and staff to wash hands before and after using the restroom.
- Signs will be posted in locker rooms to specify physical distancing requirements.

Transportation

- School bus transportation will use CDC guidance to clean and disinfect school buses.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/rideshare-drivers-for-hire.html>
- School bus transportation will be structured to encourage six feet of physical distancing between people.
- Depending on the number of students on the bus, try to sit one per seat.
- If students have to sit two to a seat start with siblings sitting together
- If students have to double or triple up have neighbors and or class mates sit together.
- Masks are required on the school bus

Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Our schools will be cleaned and disinfected daily according to CDC guidelines.
 - CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Home. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Guidelines for Closing School Programs

- In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the community, it may be necessary for the school to close for a certain time period for cleaning and disinfection. The School District of Niagara will discuss the appropriate management with our local health department for guidance.

Resources:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/05_21_20_Interim_Guidance_for_School_Infection_Control_and_Mitigation_Measures_002.pdf

CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

The district will follow the COVID-19 Return to School **WASN & CESA 8 Practical Guidelines** to determine the level of risk the county is under which may change the guidelines of public access to our district.

*****If a visitor **must** come into the district, they **must** be masked

Tentative Daily Schedule

Breakfast

7:30 - 7:45- Breakfast for 5th-12th grade

7:45 - 8:00 - Breakfast for 4K-4 grade

Middle School Students will go directly to the middle school gym, cafeteria and or outside to the middle school recess area. A staggered schedule will bring grade levels in at different times to practice social distancing.

High School Students: Eleventh and 12th grade students will go to the main entrance commons area or cafeteria for breakfast until the bell sounds. Ninth and 10th grade students will go to the large gymnasium or cafeteria for breakfast.

Elementary students will continue the same practice of going to the elementary playground, and a bell will ring at 7:40 for elementary breakfast students. Students who do not eat breakfast will be required to stay on the playground until the school bell at 7:52.

Elementary students will remain in classrooms or will be in hallways at different times to be worked out by the teachers to minimize contact. When possible grades 6-8 will stagger release times between classes to minimize hallway contact. Grades 9-12 will release as usual.

Lunch time will look different for each level.

4K-2 - Stagger 3 minutes for release to the cafeteria Serving time will begin at 10:20

3-5 - Stagger 3 minutes for release to the cafeteria. Serving will begin at 10:50

9-12 Will be released at 11:29. Tenth through 12th grade students will be allowed to leave through the side door for open campus.

6-8 Will release in 3 minute increments starting at 12:00.

At the end of the day - K-2 students will be escorted by their teachers to appropriate buses or released to parents in back of the building. Grades 3-5 will be released to the playground and may be picked up by parents in the back of the building. Grades 6-12 will be released to the main entrance cafeteria and seated, according to bus route, at cafeteria tables. High school students may use the side doors for exit.

Lunch - Students will walk from their classroom's masked. Once they sit down with food on their tray they can take their masks off. Once done eating, they then put their mask on if they are returning to indoor activity. If students are going to the playground outdoors they can put their face mask in their backpack. Once in the school students need to put on face masks.

Classroom - If possible, you may teach with windows open as long as the screen is in place. Please shut at the end of day. Outside education is an option to expose students to fresh air without masks.

Playground- Once groups are done playing with playground hand equipment please wipe down after each use/recess rotation. Masks will not be required to be worn during outdoor recess. Social distancing is encouraged as best as possible.

Frequent mask breaks- If a teacher can schedule mask breaks to take students outside for fresh air, that is permitted.

Individual water bottles are encouraged as our bubblers will be shut off, water fillers will be available until further notice.

Auditorium Performance/Field trips

No Concerts for the 20-21 school year until risk restrictions are lifted

No field trips for the 20-21 school year unless to outdoor venues that can be visited by walking