

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
AUGUST 16, 2021

COVID-19 has impacted the past two school years, and with a new variant, it appears COVID-19 will significantly impact the 2021-22 school year as well. We believe, as a school community, we did a great job managing the virus last year. Our parents did a tremendous job keeping sick children at home. We had no known cases of COVID-19 transmission at school last year. The few positive cases among our student population contracted the virus outside of school, and were quarantined before coming into school, preventing the spread.

As badly as we all want this school year to be as normal as possible, we do have to be cognizant that the pandemic is still active. At Wauzeka-Steuben School, we intend to monitor cases of COVID-19 within the school district, and adjust mitigation strategies appropriately as conditions call for.

Mitigation Measures:

1. Families, Students and Staff Monitor for Symptoms Before Coming to School

We expect students and staff to monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 prior to getting on the school bus, or coming into school. Anyone with 2 or more symptoms should stay at home and follow up with their physician. At this time, the school will not be administering COVID tests for staff or students.

2. COVID Vaccination

Currently, the Wauzeka-Steuben School District does not require staff or students to be vaccinated for COVID-19. In fact, only students age 12 or over are eligible for the COVID vaccine. We do not believe it is our place to make that personal decision for families. The CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Crawford County Health Department does recommend that all eligible staff and students get vaccinated. One advantage of being vaccinated is that if a staff member or student is identified as a “close contact” of a positive COVID case, is that the non-symptomatic vaccinated person would not have to quarantine out of school.

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Simply put, this is teaching students the best way to wash their hands, for 20 seconds with soap, as well as the proper way to cough or sneeze, into the inside

of their elbow. Students at Wauzeka-Steuben School will have regular opportunities to wash their hands.

4. Masks/Face Coverings

At this time, the CDC, DHS, and the Crawford County Health Department are all recommending masks or face coverings be worn by all staff and students inside of school buildings. As long as we do not see significant positive cases or spread within Wauzeka-Steuben School, we will recommend, but not mandate, masks inside of the school. It is our plan to respond to an increase in cases at school by possibly transitioning to a mask mandate for the duration of the outbreak. While the mask issue is a cause for considerable debate, we would rather continue with in-person instruction WITH MASKS, than to close school and do virtual instruction for everyone in the event of an outbreak.

As for masks on the school bus--as of right now, masks are still mandated by a CDC order. We will require children and staff wear masks while on school bus transportation. This order continues to be in place for all public transportation. If you travel on an airplane or public bus, you are required to wear a mask.

5. Cohorting Groups of Students

Last school year, we kept groups of students separated by cohort groups. As long as we do not have an outbreak or significant spread of the virus in Wauzeka-Steuben School, we will not be cohorting as strictly as we did last year. This is a strategy we could transition into, if necessary.

6. Social Distancing

We will continue to try as best we can to provide 3 feet separation between students as much as possible. If we see an increase in the virus in school, we may increase social distancing where possible.

7. Sanitization of Classrooms, Workspaces and Buses

Our staff will continue to spray-sanitize every classroom and bus on a daily basis. Teachers and students will continue to clean and sanitize workspaces between transitions. If we see an increase in positive cases, sanitization can increase in frequency.

8. Visitors

Visitors to the school building are expected to check in at the main office. All visitors will be screened before being allowed to enter the building. Visiting the school will remain limited for this school year, and restrictions may adjust depending on the level of virus spread.

9. Student Drop-off, Pick-up

Elementary Drop-off and Pick-up will still be required to wait outside of the building. The main elementary entrance will not be open for the time being.

10. Quarantine Protocol

In the event of a positive COVID case with a student or adult, the Crawford County Health Department will coordinate with the school district administration to determine any potential close contacts and quarantine restrictions.

Positive COVID cases will be required to quarantine for 10 days, or as determined by the Crawford County Health Department.

Students or staff that are vaccinated and come into contact with a positive case of COVID, and are asymptomatic, are not required to quarantine at this time. However, if someone is known to come in contact with someone that tested positive for COVID and are unvaccinated (cannot provide proof of vaccination), those individuals will be required to follow all Crawford County Health Department quarantine requirements.