



Opening Schools Safely

Returning August 13, 2020

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

The Wakulla County School District (WCSD) believes in the strength and resilience of our nation, state, and county. We believe that students and parents, along with the community must resume the new school year with as much normalcy as possible, as we all learn to live in the Coronavirus (COVID) world. Life for students, families, community, and the school district must move forward, as the education of our citizens of tomorrow is a of paramount importance in our ability for us to thrive as a community. The community has proven its ability and determination to follow safe guidelines as is evidenced by the number of positive cases seen thus far in our county as we are compared nationwide. The WCSD will continue with the safety diligence our county has practiced by providing as many safety precautions as possible for our students and employees. With the support and lasting determination of all stake holders to responsibly follow the basic guidelines of wearing masks whenever social distancing is not possible, having daily temperature checks, staying home if symptoms are present, and practicing heightened hygiene throughout the day, we will all be able to perform our jobs and educate our students. This information bulletin is being provided so that all stakeholders know and understand how we as a school district plan to conquer and make the 2020-2021 school year a meaningful and positive experience for our students.

QUESTIONS

Will masks be required for students? Yes, if students are transported by a WCSD bus or van. During the school day, students will not be required to wear a mask, but they are strongly recommended to do so. All classrooms will provide masks for anyone who elects to wear them.

Will Distance Learning be an option? Yes. Wakulla Innovative Education will begin August 27, 2020. The Wakulla County School Board's Instructional Services Department can provide you with information about options available.

Will there be an Open House? That decision for that has not been made. The district is working closely with each school center to explore options. Parents will be notified once a decision has been reached.

What if there is a case of COVID at my child's school? This question is more difficult to answer as guidelines continue to be amended and each case is burdened with different variables. We will work closely with the Wakulla County Health Department to determine the most appropriate steps to take to keep our students and employees safe. We also have procedures in place at each of our schools to care for an individual who presents symptoms.

How will students be safely transported on a school bus? Students will have their temperatures checked daily before the bus leaves their stop, drivers will wear a mask, and students will wear a mask. Due to the large number of students utilizing our transportation services, keeping students socially distanced on a school bus is not possible.

PRECAUTIONS

With COVID information and guidance changing constantly, many opinions exist on the topic of prevention related to COVID. At this point with the information we have, wearing masks whenever social distancing is not possible, remaining home if symptoms are present, and being diligent with hand washing and other hygiene preventatives are some of the best ways to keep everyone healthy and safe.

All school district facilities and transportation vehicle are being sanitized to ensure a clean and safe return for faculty, staff, and students. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is being purchased for all locations, students, and employees. Each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectants, masks, and gloves as well as removing all unnecessary furniture so that student desks can be arranged as far apart as possible. Water fountains are being disabled and sanitization of all classrooms and high traffic areas cleaned thoroughly daily. Below is a list of some of the other precautions in place for the return to school. Included on the last few pages are more specific safety measures of preparing for back to school, please access the district or school websites/social media pages for the safety precautions list, procedures specific to your child's school, and call your school administrators for other related questions.

- Elementary students will remain in one class throughout the day except for recess and physical education.
- Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom at the elementary levels.
- There will be restricted access to the school buildings by anyone except employees and students
- Student seating in all venues will be spaced as far apart as space allows
- Water Fountains in hallways will be unavailable.
- Water bottles will be allowed at school and water will be provided for those students without a water bottle.
- Regular handwashing upon entering school and throughout the day will be taught and encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- Temperature checks will be done daily before anyone enters the school building and while students board a bus.
- Elementary and secondary schools have developed procedures specific to their schools for entry, transition, and exiting of the school building as well as plans for implementing safety procedures during breakfast and lunch.

RESPONSE TO ILLNESS

While the information below is based on current recommendations by our local Health Department and CDC guidelines, close communication for each COVID related illness will continue with the Wakulla County Health Department.

Should a child or employee exhibit symptoms of COVID while at school, the individual should report to the school clinic for initial evaluation. If necessary, the individual will be asked to go home until he/she is symptom free or has had a COVID test with a negative result or has been cleared to return to school by a medical professional.

If an individual is found to test positive for COVID, the local health department will assist the school district in implementing proper steps to prevent further exposure or transmission of COVID. An affected COVID positive individual will not be able to return to work or school until cleared by a physician. For the health, safety, and welfare of all individuals, this requirement cannot be waived. Student absences will be excused for the duration of time reflected on a doctor's note.

Students with any illness that exhibits a fever must remain at home and will not be allowed to return to school until fever free, without medication for 24 hours/1 day.

As a reminder, it is recommended that parents communicate with their child's doctor to make sure that he/she is current with recommended vaccinations required for school and overall good health.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Practice Social Distancing (at least 6 feet apart whenever possible)
2. Wear a cloth face mask in public
3. Wash your hands often
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
5. Cover coughs and sneezes
6. Clean and disinfect "high-touch" surfaces.



CONTACT INFORMATION

District Office: 926-0065, Superintendent Pearce
 Instructional Services: 926-0065, Sunny Chancy
 Human Resources: 926-0065, Angie Walker
 Wakulla County Prek: 926-8111, Principal Louis Hernandez
 Crawfordville Elementary School: 926-3641, Principal Alena Crawford
 Medart Elementary School: 962-4881, Principal Stan Ward
 Riversink Elementary School: 926-2664, Principal Simeon Nelson
 Shadeville Elementary School: 926-7155, Principal Nick Weaver
 Riversprings Middle School: 926-2300, Principal Josh Sandgren
 Wakulla Middle School: 926-7143, Principal Tolar Griffin
 Wakulla High School: 926-7125, Principal Michelle Yeomans
 Adult Education: 926-9701, Director Dod Walker
 Pathways: 926-0100, James Vernon