

Wesclin Unit School District #3

2021-2022 Learning Plan

March 21, 2022

Introduction

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Wesclin School District has prioritized our students' education. We were fortunate to provide a quality education for students, while keeping the students safe, during the 2020-2021 school year. This included an in-person learning option that allowed the students to be in person for over 75% of the school year as well as a remote learning option if chosen by the parents. Working Together, the students, parents, faculty, staff and administration made the 2020-2021 school year a success.

During 2021-2022 school year, we will welcome all students back for in person learning unless there is a specific medical concern that has been documented, discussed and approved by the administration. We have asked for local control, in consultation with the Clinton County Health Department, to base the decisions on the local data of COVID in our schools and our zip codes. In addition, we will also base the decisions on the requests and needs of our community.

School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms. If there are infection rate changes in our schools/zip codes it may become necessary to revisit/modify this plan.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

Wesclin Unit School District #3 will be operating on the schedules stated below. Our bus routes and cafeterias will be open at full capacity.

Our school hours will be:

- New Baden and Trenton Elementary – 8:00-2:45
- Wesclin Middle School – 8:15-3:03
- Wesclin High School – 8:00-2:48

1. Mask Wearing

Mask wearing is recommended but not required at all Wesclin facilities and on all district owned vehicles.

2. Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing is not required.

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Wesclin School District will continue to encourage and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - Continuing to teach and assist our younger students with proper handwashing which includes the use of soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Reminding everyone to wash hands frequently
 - Using hand sanitizer when entering or leaving an area of the building
 - Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes)

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- Disinfectant will be available in every classroom should a student like to clean their area when changing classes.

- Areas will be cleaned immediately when necessary due to illness.

5. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Wesclin School District will implement the following procedures:

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, need to stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
 - i. If experiencing COVID 19 symptoms, a return to school note from a physician or a negative COVID-19 test will be necessary. With parent/guardian permission, symptomatic students can be tested at school with a Binaxnow rapid antigen test.
- Individuals become ill while at school will be evaluated by the nurse or related personnel. If the student is ill or symptomatic and cannot remain at school they will need to be picked up from school immediately.

Quarantine Guidelines

COVID+ individuals must isolate/quarantine for 5 days after symptom onset/positive test ~~or close contact. This is assuming that a mask is able to be worn when returning.~~ To better understand the timeline, see below:

Day 0 – Symptom onset or positive test result (whatever happens first) or close contact

Day 1 – Remain at home

Day 2 – Remain at home

Day 3 – Remain at home

Day 4 – Remain at home

Day 5 – Remain at home

Day 6 – Return to school*

* COVID+ - This individual can return on Day 6 as long as symptoms have improved and are fever free for at least 24 hours prior without medication.

Close Contact

To the greatest extent possible, close contacts to a COVID+ individual will be contacted. Testing will be offered but not required.

6. Vaccination Status

- Working with the Clinton County Health Department, COVID vaccine clinics have been held at Wesclin High School. In the future, the school district may consider conducting another clinic.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can contact the Clinton County Health Department and/or Wesclin School District for assistance in scheduling an appointment.

7. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's building principal.
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact the superintendent to discuss the need(s).

8. Athletics and Spectators at Events

- a. Athletics will follow guidelines and schedules as specified by IHSA, SIJHAA, and our specific athletic conferences.
- b. Mask wearing is recommended but not required at all Wesclin facilities

9. Field Trips, Visitors, Volunteers, and Meetings

- Fieldtrips may return during the 2021-2022 school year. Faculty, staff and administration will determine if schools/classes will be taking field trips. Students will not be required to attend field trips.
- Visitors will be allowed to return to buildings to work in specific classrooms.
- Meetings may be held in person.

10. Collaboration with Public Health Officials/Review

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Clinton County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.
- We will review the plan often and make changes as necessary.