

Redefining Ready – Reimagining Wells CSD
Reopening Plan Q & A for Parents/Guardians
Updated: August 19, 2020

Reopening Questions? Send us an email at wcsreopening@wellsd.org

1. Is the Wells CSD planning to reopen with in-person instruction in the fall?
A: Yes. The district is currently planning to reopen with all in-person instruction in the fall. There are metrics in place where we may be forced to close the building, in which case the district would immediately shift to the remote, at-home learning option for all students. The daily remote learning schedule would follow the same/similar schedule as if students were in the building.

2. Do I have to conduct a health screening with my child(ren) before school every day?
A: Students must have a health screening every day before school begins. Screening at home is the preferred method of both NYS and the Wells CSD. The district will use the Remind App and push out a notification for parents each morning to complete a very brief Google Form Health Questionnaire. However, students who are unable to have a health screening conducted at home will have one conducted upon arrival at school.

3. What does a health screening look like?
A: Temperature check (under 100.0°F) and check for symptoms such as cough, sore throat, body aches or nausea/vomiting. The district will provide thermometers for at home use at no cost to families if they would like one.

4. Does my child have to wear a mask on the bus?
A: Yes. This is an extremely important requirement by NYS due to the challenge of physical distancing on the bus. If a student does not arrive on the bus wearing a mask, one will be provided at no cost to the families.

5. Will seating on the bus be different than in year's past?
A: Yes. Siblings/same household will be required to sit together in the same seat. Children with no siblings will sit alone in a seat. The bus will load from back to front, and unload from front to back. Physical distancing (6 feet apart) will be in effect during drop off at the school.

6. Should I transport my child to and from school?
A: NYS encourages parents/guardians, if they are able, to transport their child(ren) to and from school. This is to reduce the number of students on the bus. Parents are asked to drop off their child(ren) between 7:30-7:40am, and use the first lane in the parking lot (not the lane where buses line up/drop off

students.) However, this is not a requirement and the district will gladly continue to transport your child(ren) to and from school.

7. Does my child have to wear a mask all day while in school?

A: No. Students do not need to wear masks while engaged in instruction, eating, or during scheduled mask breaks. Physical distancing needs to be in effect. Children in the lower elementary grades may have more flexibility, as long as physical distancing is maintained (6 feet apart.) Masks will be provided by the district at no cost to families.

8. When must my child wear a mask?

A: All students and staff will be required to wear masks in common areas (e.g. hallways, passing from class to class, cafeteria (when not eating,) library, and any other location where physical distancing cannot occur.)

9. What is the district doing to keep the building clean and disinfected?

A: Staff members will be trained and have refreshers on proper cleaning and disinfecting protocols, following CDC and NYSDOH guidelines. Additional staff will be on site during the school day to consistently clean and disinfect high touch and common areas of the building. In addition, the district has done the following:

- i. installed touchless paper towel dispensers to use in place of hand driers.
 - ii. purchased multiple touchless hand sanitizer units that will be installed in high touch/common areas.
 - iii. installed two touchless water filling bottle stations in the main hallways.
- All students will be provided with a water bottle at no cost to families.

10. How will breakfast and lunch be different this year?

A: Students will need to be physically distanced in the cafeteria. Classes may choose to eat in their classrooms. Districts are encouraged to have meals prepackaged for students, so as to reduce the time they may be in line. Options may be more limited this year, but will still follow all child nutrition guidelines. The cafeteria tables will be cleaned and disinfected after each group of students exit the cafeteria.

11. Are there any sports or extracurricular activities this fall?

A: The start of fall sports has been delayed until the end of September, at the earliest. The Wells CSD is not allowing any after school events/extracurriculars, or use of the building by outside groups until further notice. The district anticipates bringing in all students in the morning and sending all students home on the 3pm bus/parent pickup. No late bus runs until further notice.

12. What if I want to bring my child(ren) to see the school before the first day, Wednesday, September 9th?

A: The district is planning an orientation for students and parents/guardians on both Thursday, September 3rd, and in the afternoon on Tuesday, September 8th. This will give students a chance to meet their new teacher(s), see the new routine, and help everyone feel more at ease with the safety guidelines and protocols that will be in place. This will be by appointment, only. More information will be forthcoming from your child's classroom teacher or class advisor.

13. How will instruction be different this year?

A: All students will be provided with a learning device before school begins in the fall (Chromebook, iPad, etc.) Many classes will be shifting to a more online format (Google Classroom.) The district needs to ensure that if remote learning is put in place, teachers and students can shift as seamlessly as possible to remote learning. Instruction will be provided and daily attendance must be recorded as if the students were in the building.

14. My child(ren) attends an educational program at HFM BOCES. Is that changing?

A: The HFM BOCES CTC program (Career and Technical Center) intends to be open every day, since they have enough space to accommodate all of their students. The Adirondack Academy is implementing a hybrid model of one week at BOCES, one week of at-home remote learning. The P-TECH program is implementing a hybrid model, where students will be on a rotation at P-TECH and at-home remote learning.

15. How will the district keep families and the community up to date as school reopens in the fall?

A: The district will continue to push information out on their Facebook page, the Remind App and the school website, www.wellscsd.org. To sign up for Remind updates, please contact the school at 518-924-6000. If you have additional reopening questions, you can send an email to wcsreopening@wellscsd.org.