

Redefining Ready – Reimagining Wells CSD

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students, our staff and their families is our top priority. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to the school campus. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#).

The following protocols and procedures will be in place for the 2020-21 school year should in-person schooling resume. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact our COVID-19 safety coordinator, Superintendent Thomas Sincavage, at tsincavage@wellscsd.org or 518-924-6000.

Health Checks

The district has developed resources to educate parents/guardians and staff members regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening measures that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. The resources include the requirement for any student or staff member with a fever of 100.0°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection to not come to school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [list of Coronavirus symptoms](#) was used to develop these resources.

The Wells CSD will implement the following practices to conduct mandated health screening:

1. Parents/guardians will be provided with a thermometer by the district and so that a health check can be conducted before students either get on the bus or dropped off at school. This is the preferred screening method referenced in the NYSED guidance. Students who are unable to have their temperature taken at home will report to the nurse's office to have a health screening.
2. Daily temperature checks and completion of the screening questionnaire provided in the [New York Forward Pre-K to Grade 12 School Guidelines](#) for staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors either prior to arrival or at school.
3. Daily temperature check and completion of the screening questionnaire for students prior to arrival or at school:
 - a. For prior to arrival screening of students- students whose parent/guardian were unable to complete the screening will not be singled out. Surveys sent out to parents showed 93% of parents/guardians approved of conducting a health check prior to leaving home.
 - b. The process of the health screening will not be used as a basis to exclude students from school.
 - c. Students who require a screening to be completed at school will be treated in a confidential manner and the screening is completed as quickly as possible to minimize time away from class.
4. The screening data will be maintained (cleared/not cleared only) by confidential staff and the data will be retained in accordance with public health guidelines.
5. If an individual has a temperature of 100.0°F or greater or has a positive response to a screening question, the individual will be isolated from others and dismissal from school will occur as soon as practicable.
6. Students and staff are required to notify the school when they develop symptoms or if their answers to the questionnaire change during or outside school hours. Parents and staff may call the school or use the dedicated email address to inform the school.
7. The School Nurse will review the incoming reports of screenings by staff and parent/guardians and attest that they are completed.

8. The School Nurse will be the contact for staff or students to inform if they later experience COVID-19 symptoms.
9. Frequent reminders to staff and parents/guardians regarding the health screening protocol will be posted on www.wellscsd.org and the district's Facebook page.
10. For information relating to teaching and learning in BOCES special education and Career and Technical Education programs, please see the HFM BOCES website at www.hfmboces.org.

COVID-19 Testing

Contact Tracing

The district will notify the local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the district.

To assist the local health department with tracing the transmission of COVID-19, the district has developed a plan to trace all contacts of exposed individuals in accordance with protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

The district may assist with contact tracing by:

1. Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members.
2. Ensuring student schedules are up to date.
3. Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited.
4. Assisting the local health department in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program.

If /when COVID-19 cases are discovered in the school, the school will immediately close off the areas or classrooms, clean and disinfect the area. The district will immediately contact the local health department, as well as any affected families or staff.

In the event that a large-scale testing will need to be conducted at the school, the district administration will work with the Hamilton County Department of Public Health.

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.