

West Essex Regional School District Board of Education Meeting

August 16, 2021



Reports

- Board President - Mary Wojtowicz
- Superintendent - Damion Macioci

Vaccination Survey Data

Employees: 217 responses

Fully Vaccinated: 87.% (189)

Partially Vaccinated: .9% (2)

Unvaccinated: 6.9% (15)

Plan on getting vaccinated: 1.4% (3)

Undecided: 3.7% (8)

Students: 1056 responses

Fully Vaccinated: 50.5.% (533)

Partially Vaccinated: 4% (42)

Unvaccinated: 26.8% (283)

Plan on getting vaccinated: 8.3% (88)

Undecided: 10.4% (110)

Masks Update

- [Executive Order No. 251](#) - Effective Monday, August 9
- Requires all students, educators, staff, and visitors to wear face masks indoors (including school buses) for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Aligned with CDC recommendations for universal masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masking protocols are no longer a local decision
- [Exceptions](#) will remain unchanged from last year.

Supplies and Equipment

- Ensure adequate supplies (i.e. classroom supplies, equipment) to minimize sharing of high-touch materials or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect routinely and preferably between use.
- Encourage hand hygiene practices between use of shared items.
- Discourage use of shared items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Schools should follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- This means at least daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- If a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, school staff should clean and disinfect the spaces occupied by the person.
- Close off areas used by the person who is sick or positive and do not use those area

Improving Airflow

Improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. This can be achieved through several strategies:

- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
- If safe to do so, open windows and doors.
- Use child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
- Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.
- Consider having activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- Open windows in buses and other transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk.

Parental Screening

Parents/caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. **For 2021-2022:**

- Yearly Screening Form - administered through Genesis (parents will complete at the beginning of the year).
- Signs/Symptoms/Protocols
- Directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences

Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

- Schools should ensure that procedures are in place to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Designate an area or room away from others to isolate individuals who become ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

Exclusion

- Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:
- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder (smell), or new taste disorder.

Symptoms listed in the Genesis Screening Form

Remote Instruction

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases amongst staff and/or students. If an LEA is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of the scenarios listed above, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the LEA should be prepared to offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible:

- Asynchronous Instruction
- Access to Google Classroom
- ***Final procedures are still under review - TBD***

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus.
- School and local health officials work together
- Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.
- In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

Testing

- In some schools, school-based healthcare professionals (e.g., school nurses) may perform SARS-CoV-2 antigen testing in school-based health centers if they are trained in specimen collection, conducting the test per manufacturer's instructions, and after obtaining a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate of waiver.
- At this time, West Essex Regional School District will **not** perform on-site testing.

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING

Item	2020-2021	2021-2022
Face Masks (Indoors)	Yes	Yes
Face Masks (Outdoors)	Yes	No
Face Masks (Buses)	Yes	Yes
Physical Distancing (indoors)	6 feet	3 feet or the greatest extent possible
Physical Distancing (outdoors)	6 feet	None required
Full Day In-Person Instruction	No	Yes
Full-time Remote Instruction Option	Yes	No
Remote Learning for Quarantined Students	Yes (synchronous)	Yes (final procedures are still under review)
Cohorts	Yes	No
Lunch in school	No	Yes

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING

Item	2020-2021	2021-2022
Enhanced Ventilation	Yes	Yes
Signage (Masks, Hand Hygiene)	Yes	Yes
Hand-Sanitizing Stations	Yes	Yes
Daily Temperature Checks	Yes	No
Daily Screening	Monthly Form	Yearly acknowledge form
Travel Quarantine Required	Yes	Yes (differences in vaccinated/unvaccinated)
Contact Tracing	Yes	Yes
Isolation Area in Each School	Yes	Yes
Extracurricular Activities	Yes (virtual/in-person)	Yes - In-person
Athletics	Yes (virtual/in-person)	Yes - In-person
Buses	Yes	Yes
Late Buses	Yes	Yes
ACTs/SATs/PSATs	Yes	Yes
Board Meetings	Virtual	In-person

Upcoming Board Meetings

West Essex High School Auditorium

Monday, August 30 - 7:30 pm

Monday, September 13 - 7:30 pm

[West Essex Youtube](#)

For Board Information:

https://www.westex.org/district/board_of_education