

West Prairie CUSD 103 – Return to Learn 2021-2022

The West Prairie CUSD 103 Board of Education voted at the August 17, 2021 regular meeting to begin the school year in compliance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools' July 9, 2021 declaration, all schools will be open fully for in-person learning for full day student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year.

Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

West Prairie schools will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools, also adopted by the IDPH. The CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies.

The following mitigation measures will be implemented at West Prairie CUSD 103 for the 2021-2022 Return to Learning Plan. All guidance is subject to change and may be reviewed and amended by the West Prairie Board of Education no less than every six months.

Mask Use – Mask use is required indoors for students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Unless exempt by CDC Order, all passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses. Double layered gaiters are permissible. *Mask requirements moved to recommended, not required, per the Governor of Illinois (22-23)

Physical Distancing – To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:

1. Arranging furniture, controlling movement, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet;
2. Providing assigned seating for students and requiring students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible;
3. Developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.
4. School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors.
5. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette – School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation – School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.

Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters.
Masks must be worn on all buses.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine

1. Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation.
2. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school as soon as practicable after being notified.
3. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
4. Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.
5. Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, schoolwork missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in a remote setting in accordance with the school's or teacher's policy. Social, emotional, mental health, or other needed supports will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss those needs.
6. Remote instruction will be made available only to students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
7. To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with McDonough County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. The school's health care professional will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
8. The school's health care professional will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights. Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the McDonough County Health Department guidelines to determine when they can return to school. Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school's health care professional.
9. A student must quarantine until a test result is received.

Screening Testing – The District is currently in the process of developing a COVID testing program for West Prairie students and staff. Testing will help prevent outbreaks and allow for reduced quarantine time. As required by Illinois State Law, a consent form

will be provided to students and their parents before any testing is implemented. Please look for additional information in the coming weeks. Self-administered COVID home tests will not be accepted for return to school. *Testing program was created and executed on a weekly basis according to CDC and McDonough County Health Department guidelines.

Collaboration with Public Health Officials – District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and McDonough County Health Department officials throughout the pandemic on various planning and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

Symptoms – The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestions or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

Siblings Sick at Home – If a sibling has symptoms prior to attending school, all siblings should stay home until the ill child has a negative COVID test. If a sibling becomes ill while at school and is sent home, the other siblings may stay in school the remainder of the day, however, may not return to school the following days until the ill child has a negative test result.

Board review

During the review process, the public is invited and encouraged to provide input regarding the plan and its implementation. In-person input is allowed during the public comment section of all school board meetings as well as through communication with the superintendent at any time. Communication via the superintendent is then provided to the board during the plan review.

Dates of review:

January 25, 2022

July 26, 2022

January 24, 2023

August 24, 2023