



2021-2022 School Opening Plan

Updated August 4, 2021

As stated in our District Vision, Wheaton Area Schools (WAS) is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff. The WAS 2021-22 School Opening Plan was created using the limited number of requirements set forth by the federal government and state of Minnesota, along with feedback collected over the summer. This plan has been reviewed by our district COVID Advisory Team.

Wheaton Area Schools will return to typical school operations and programming in the fall of 2021. This includes:

- All students will be in school five days/week.
- Normal start and end times will be in place.
- Students will have lunch in the lunchroom.
- Students will transition from class to class following a normal schedule.
- Special area classes (music, PE, etc. in elementary) will be held in the special area classrooms.
- The 2021-22 calendar posted on the district's website will be followed (www.wheaton.k12.mn.us).

Face Coverings

Face coverings are optional within our school facilities. Wheaton Area Schools will maintain a limited supply of face coverings for students or staff who choose to wear them. Face coverings are still required while on a school bus per federal guidelines.

Physical Distancing

There are no physical distancing requirements.

Vaccines

Wheaton Area Schools is not requiring vaccinations for students, staff, or visitors/volunteers.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, including Improving Ventilation

- HVAC systems are running to maximize air flow and monitor air quality.
- Cleaning practices continue to support mitigation of COVID 19.
- Routine cleaning is scheduled when students and teachers are not occupying the space.

Drinking fountains and water refill stations are open with no restrictions.

Health Screening, Quarantine, and Isolation

Self-Screening for symptoms of illness is a practice that keeps us all safe. If you are ill, stay home.

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined according to MDE guidelines.
- We are mandated to report any positive cases to MDH.
- Our current practice regarding someone who is in close contact with a person who is COVID positive is to notify any staff or students in close contact with a positive case and ask them to monitor their symptoms closely. They will NOT automatically be sent home to quarantine.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Students will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks, before meals, and any time facial tissues are used.

Materials/Meals

Wheaton Area Schools food service and purchasing departments have established material and food procedures that meet the requirements of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Accommodations for Special Populations

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. To learn more about accommodations, parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager.

Coordination with State / Local Health Officials

Wheaton Area Schools will continue to collaborate with state and local public health officials.

Visitors/Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers who are ill are not to enter the elementary or high school buildings. Visitors and volunteers will follow regular protocols when checking in at each school building during the day.

Conclusion

We are committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, and community members. We believe it is important that we all remember to respect the decisions and actions of others in our community while we seek the common goal of a safe environment. We will continue to actively monitor our local COVID data to determine strategies necessary to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

This plan is subject to change to remain in compliance with the most current MDE requirements.