

Northwestern Local Schools

**2021-2022**

**COVID-19 Protocols**



# Northwestern Local Schools



## COVID-19 Protocols

On June 2nd, 2021, all health mandates were lifted by the Ohio Department of Health. This lifts the restrictions placed on schools and how they must operate during a global pandemic. However, COVID-19 continues to be a health concern for our community and safety protocols will continue to be used. This document outlines what Northwestern Local Schools will need to do to keep our students and staff healthy.



## Warrior Health & Safety

The recommendations from the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Clark County Combined Health District on how to stop the spread of COVID - 19 have not changed. The following were reported as confirmed ways to limit the transmission of the virus:

- Physical or social distancing
- Face masks
- Eye protection
- Good hand hygiene

*The Lancet. Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2820%2931142-9/fulltextutm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter\\_axioscience&stream=science](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2820%2931142-9/fulltextutm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axioscience&stream=science)*

## Warrior Health & Safety - Assess for Symptoms

Since COVID-19 spreads so rapidly, it is **recommended** that students (and their caregivers), staff, and volunteers conduct daily health checks **prior** to going to school which should include taking their temperature and assessing their symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (described below) or a temperature above 100°F should stay home. - *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools*

Symptom	Yes	No	Onset Date	Still experiencing?
Fever/chills* _____ temp taken				
Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing*				
Cough*				
Sore throat*				
Symptoms of respiratory infection*				
Headache				
Unexplained muscle/body aches				
Diarrhea or Vomiting				
Abdominal pain				
Taken medication to control symptoms				
Loss of taste or smell				
Other (list): _____				
*Indicates specific symptoms of interest to ODH Other is ANY change in health conditions.				

**\*\*\*Students must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. Using medications that are designed to diminish the symptoms precludes a student from returning to school as symptom free.\*\*\***

## Warrior Health & Safety - Students in Classrooms

In classrooms, Desks will be used when possible. In classrooms where desks are used, the desks will be spaced as far apart as possible and all desks will face forward. Science and Art classrooms may use tables. To mitigate the risk exposure for the students and the staff, **masks are recommended for students and staff who have not been vaccinated.** This a recommendation not a requirement.

For individuals who are not vaccinated, wearing a mask will allow students to interact with their fellow students and teachers more freely. Students and staff who are wearing masks can communicate with each other at distances of less than 6 feet with an extremely low risk of exposure. - *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools*

## Warrior Health & Safety - Students on Buses

Students who are being transported to school via school buses are at increased risk for transmission by nature of being in an enclosed space for an extended period of time. Additionally, buses often transport children from multiple grade levels from different parts of the community. - *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools*

There is no way to physically distance students on the bus and still transport all of the students who need to be on the bus. Students will **NOT** be required to wear masks while being transported on school buses. A recommended substitution for school transportation is voluntary parent transportation. **Masks are recommended for students and staff who have not been vaccinated.**

## Warrior Health & Safety - Hallways & Cafeterias

Social distancing is still recommended but will be limited by enrollment numbers. Keeping a distance of 3 feet or more between people adds another layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the chance of coming into

contact with the virus through respiratory droplets. Distancing of 3 feet or greater is key in preventing droplet spread when speaking loudly, singing, or playing a musical instrument, which have been connected to increased respiratory droplet spread.

Anfinrud, Philip, Stadnytskyi, Valentyn, Bax, Christina E., Bax, Adriaan. Visualizing speech-generated oral fluid droplets with laser light scattering. April 15, 2020. *New England Journal of Medicine*. [https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2007800?query=featured\\_home#arti-clecing\\_articles](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2007800?query=featured_home#arti-clecing_articles)

- School staff should try when possible to maintain at least 3-foot social distance among students, staff, and volunteers in all school environments, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, playground, drop-off and pick-up locations, and school buses. Where social distancing is difficult, face coverings are even more essential.
- Reinforce distancing with visual cues such as floor markings and signs.
- Reduce the mixing of student groups.
- Teachers and students should maintain as much distance as possible when actively playing and performing.
- School officials should endeavor to do the best they can to keep social distancing on buses. - *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools*

There are some situations in the hallways, in the cafeterias, or in other areas where social distancing will be difficult. To mitigate the risk exposure for the students and the staff, physical barriers **may** be used to separate students. Additional lunch periods will be added and class changes may be staggered to reduce the number of students in specific areas. Some students may be assigned to eat in a designated classroom.

## Warrior Health & Safety - School Staff

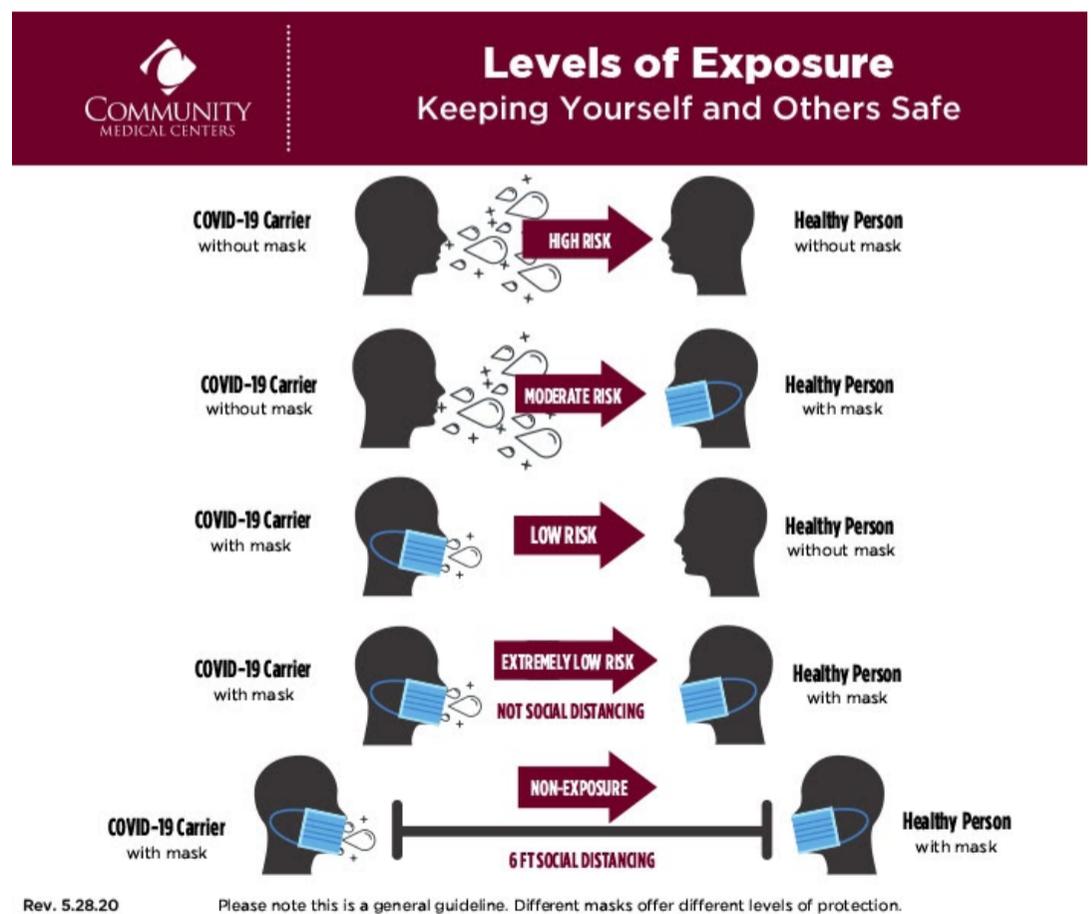
School staff are **not** required wear masks. As with other businesses, all school staff and volunteers are encouraged to wear face coverings unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process.

**Masks are recommended for staff who have not been vaccinated.**

Possible reasons why a person might not wear a mask:

- Facial coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards
- Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons
- Facial coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies
- Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area
- There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

(Schools must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.) - *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools*



# Educational Options

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## Warrior In-Person Education

Northwestern Local Schools intend to start school on August 18th using an in-person model of learning. Students and staff will be in their assigned classrooms 5 days a week and teachers will use Northwestern Local School's developed curriculum. Each student will be assigned a laptop to use for the year. Students will be expected to have their laptop with them for class. Teachers will use a combination of Google Classroom lessons and live instruction in the classroom. Lessons will be recorded when possible and posted to Google Classroom. Teachers will try to social distance themselves while in the classroom. Students will not have 6 feet between themselves and the next student. Physical barriers may be placed between students when appropriate. To mitigate the risk exposure for the students and the staff, **masks are recommended for students and staff who have not been vaccinated.**

## Warrior Online Education

Florida Virtual Learning will **not** be offered to Northwestern students. The expectation is for all Florida Virtual Learning students to return to in-person learning at Northwestern. The Clark County Educational Service Center may provide online classes for those student who prefer online classes but want to stay a Northwestern Warrior.

## Important Points

- Masks are optional, **masks are recommended for students and staff who have not been vaccinated.**
- All students are expected to return for in-person learning. The ESC online school may be an exception to the expectation.
- Social distancing will continue, when possible.
- Good hand hygiene will be encouraged.
- Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to assess themselves daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students and staff need to be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- BinaxNOW rapid tests may be given to students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19.
- A negative BinaxNOW test result will allow a non symptomatic student or staff member to return to school after being exposed to COVID-19.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine as directed by the Clark County Combined Health District.
- Field trips and over-night trips will resume.
- Concerts and performances will resume.
- Visitors will be allowed in the schools.
- Exterior doors will no longer be propped open during student arrival and departure times.
- Meetings with parents and students may be in-person or may continue to be online.
- Sporting events and concerts will not have a capacity restrictions or social distancing.
- **Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students.**
- Masks are optional on buses, **masks are recommended for students and staff who have not been vaccinated.**
- Lunches will return to traditional service.
- Open house and orientation will resume.
- Outside organizations may resume using indoor facilities.