



“Where Excellence in Education is a Tradition”

Dear Northwestern Families and Staff,

Northwestern School Corporation is continually striving to do what is in the best interest of students, staff, and the community. After reviewing data associated with only Northwestern students during the **current** school year and with the support of the Northwestern Board of Trustees, NWSC will make the following adjustments to the Return to In-Person Learning plan:

1. Masks are required. However, the parent/guardian may sign a waiver to opt their student out of wearing a mask if the parent/guardian believes this is appropriate and safe for their student. It is up to the parent/guardian to determine what is in the best interest of their student in regards to wearing a mask at school. Masks are always required for all students on the bus.
2. A close contact is a person who spends greater than 15 minutes within six feet of a positive COVID-19 person within a 24 hour period.

If a close contact, students who meet ONE or more of the following criteria do not have to quarantine.

- Students who are vaccinated (verified by school nurse)
- Students who correctly and consistently wear well-fitted masks
- Students who have verification of being COVID positive in the last 90 days

If a close contact, students who meet ONE or more of the following criteria do have to quarantine.

- Students who opt out of wearing a mask AND are not vaccinated
- Students who display COVID symptoms

3. Quarantining will be for 10 days after the date of last exposure.

Additional Information:

1. Parents are expected to monitor their students before each school day for the symptoms of COVID. Children with fever, cough, runny nose, congestion, shortness of breath, headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue, muscle or body aches and sore throat should not be sent to school without a different diagnosis.
2. Parents/guardians should encourage their students to wear a mask if they feel that is most appropriate for their student's health and well-being.

Parents/guardians will be receiving an email on Friday, September 3, 2021, with a Google Form to complete for **EACH** of their children. This form **must** be completed by the parent/guardian to signify if they are opting in or opting out of mask wearing. We believe that encouraging the use of masks will help cut down on the spread of COVID and will help keep our students safe and present in school where they learn best. NWSC is implementing these new policies and procedures while still trying to be respectful of personal beliefs.

The policy adjustment will start **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**. Parents/guardians will have until next Monday to complete the Google Form on **each of their children**, opting in or out of the mask wearing requirement. If a form is not submitted for a student, the student will be expected to wear a mask. Please take the time to communicate your decision to your children and encourage them to cooperate with that choice.

Sincerely,

Kristen R. Bilkey
Superintendent