



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Question and Answer for Parents and Students

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that usually cause mild respiratory illnesses such as the common cold. This strain of the virus, COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new coronavirus that was not identified in humans before December 2019. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It takes 2 to 14 days after a person gets the virus in their body to become ill. COVID-19 is spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. With most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

What should I tell my child about the Coronavirus — if anything?

Be honest. Inform your child that there is a very serious virus that is showing up in different countries. It makes some people very sick.

How do we reduce our chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19?

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 6 feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
 - Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
 - Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

How long will we be out of school?

Governor Roy Cooper has closed all schools in the state of North Carolina until May 15, 2020. As updates are provided regarding school reopening, we will keep you posted.

What is the status of school events?

As of now, all school events such as graduation and prom will still occur. Based on the schools being closed, there will be a delay but these events are only postponed, not cancelled. All other events will be based on the timing and availability.

What school calendar are we using?

All schools are using the calendar that is assigned for their school. For example, if you are a year-round school, you are on track out.

How will my child be able to continue his/her learning?

On March 16 – 18, 2020 your child's school distributed educational work packets. In addition, access to web based activities were provided, if you have internet access. The web based activities serve as additional enrichment for students. Due to limited internet access in the County, the web based activities are not required.

Teachers are in the process of drafting additional educational packets for the next several weeks. Once the educational packets are created, schools will notify parents of the pickup days and times.

In addition, teachers have begun reaching out to parents and students by email and phone calls to provide instructional assistance and guidance. Our goal is to ensure that all students are able to continue their learning.

What happens to my child's completed work?

At this time we have not worked out a process to receive the work and to provide your child credit. Our immediate goal is to ensure that everyone remains safe and that students are able to continue their learning. Please keep all completed work and await further instructions. In addition, we are waiting on NC DPI for additional information in regards to the grading protocol for students to transition to the next grade and graduate.

What if I don't have internet access in my home?

Starting March 30, 2020 from 8am - 8pm we will increase the bandwidth at Vaughan Elementary School and Warren New Tech High School for students to access the internet on school grounds. Parents may drive up, park in the parking lot, remain in their vehicles and students will be able to connect to the school's internet. We ask that everyone remain in their vehicles to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus.

Can we get laptops from the school?

At this time, laptops will not be issued to all students. Due to the limited number of laptops our first priority is to ensure that all of the high school seniors receive a laptop and our students who are currently enrolled in the NC Virtual School program.

What is the district doing about food distribution?

Warren County Schools is distributing "Grab and Go" meals (breakfast and lunch) at Warren County High School, Vaughan Elementary School and Northside K-8 Monday through Friday from 10:30am – 3:00pm to all school age students. The students do not have to be in the vehicle for you to receive the meals.

What if my child is feeling anxious or worried?

Mental wellness is a priority when a country is experiencing a pandemic. Student services staff will be available to deal with anxiety, grief, and sadness; special attention will be given to helping children cope with their losses and confusion. You may reach out to your school's principal, guidance counselor or district social worker for additional support.

What is being done at the schools to ensure our students are safe when they return?

All of our schools and school buses have been deep cleaned and disinfected with the proper cleaning materials.