



# WCS Newsletter

October 2, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 5

## Dates to Remember

Oct. 13 – Wood BOE Meeting  
Oct. 16 – NT Day: No School  
Oct. 27 – Wood BOE Meeting  
Oct. 31 – Halloween (Saturday)

## IMPORTANT LINKS

**[Wood County  
Schools Website](#)**

**[Wood Schools  
Innovate](#)**

**[WV Dept of Ed  
Re-entry Map](#)**

**“Our vision is to work as a community to inspire a passion for learning, pursue excellence and empower students to reach their potential.”**

- Wood County Schools

## Staying on Track

Wood County Schools will remain on a blended learning model through the month of October.

Though officials are dedicated to returning students and staff to as “normal” a schedule as possible, there are still a few hurdles to cross before full-week in-person classes are possible.

The main question: How do you follow all of the state and federal guidelines for COVID-19 while feeding children? Lunch is one time of the day when masks must be removed, and social distancing is difficult if not impossible due to space constraints in school cafeterias and classrooms. Some schools are looking at alternative dining areas, especially while the weather is still relatively warm and some older students are able to eat in outdoor areas. Many of the elementary schools have students eat meals in classrooms.

But elementary schools differ in how students are grouped during the day. Those schools have “cohorts,” a group of students who spend the majority of the day together. Each class of students tends to interact only with each other and a small number of adults, such as teachers and aides. Being able to keep those smaller groups together allows the elementary schools a little more flexibility on things like removing masks to eat lunch, because the chance of infectious spread is lower.

Middle and high school students switch classes multiple times a day, interacting with many different groups of peers. A student can easily come in contact with multiple other students and staff during the course of a regular day. That also makes eating in one area with a smaller group a less effective way of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Wood County Schools will continue to address these concerns in the coming weeks as we work to provide a safe and effective educational environment for all students, teachers and staff.



A summary of Wood County Schools instruction levels can be found [here](#). The district’s re-entry plan can be found [here](#), and a list of Frequently Asked Questions concerning COVID-19 precautions can be found [here](#).

**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."**

**Benjamin Franklin**



## **Schoology Useful Links**

- [WCS Innovate](#)
- [On Facebook](#)
- [On Twitter](#)
- [The TIS Team](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Schoology FAQ](#)

### **Wood County Schools**

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## **Cornering COVID**

Tracking and preventing COVID-19 infections can be a challenging process. Officials are looking to expand testing in order to identify those who may be carrying the virus but are asymptomatic. Expanded testing also will be key in lowering the percentage of positive cases in Wood County.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department will be holding a free Drive-thru COVID-19 Testing event 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 9 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 10 at South Parkersburg Baptist Church on Blizzard Drive in south Parkersburg. Community members are encouraged to take advantage of the event.

In addition to COVID-19, other illnesses like influenza are still around, and health officials recommend everyone receive a flu shot this season.

The MOV Health Department will hold a Drive-thru Flu Clinic from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3, Oct. 10 and Oct. 24. The clinic will be held at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Juliana in downtown Parkersburg. The shots are for ages 6 months and up, and anyone older than 9 must wear a mask. Health officials ask visitors to have insurance information ready as the MOVHD bills most insurances. Those getting the shot must wait 10 minutes after vaccination in a designated area and will stay in their vehicles, though walk-ups are still welcome.

Any questions should be directed to the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department at 1-304-485-7374 or by visiting [www.movhd.com](http://www.movhd.com).



*Do you have feedback on the parent newsletter? Any questions or suggestions can be emailed to the Wood County Schools Communications Department at [merb@woodcountyschoolswv.net](mailto:merb@woodcountyschoolswv.net) and all parents and community members are encouraged to download the Wood County Schools app for news and announcements from the district's Central Office.*