

Webutuck Central School District

Reopening Handbook for Students and Families

August 2021

Introduction

The Webutuck Central School District is committed to reopening our schools with the health and safety of our students and staff as one of our top priorities with a focus on in-person instruction as our other top priority. Our Team reviewed guidance documents from the Center on Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), State and County Health Departments, in addition to the New York State Department of Education (NYSED).

This document may be updated, as new information is available. The most up-to-date information and communications can be found on our District Website on the COVID-19 Resources tab found at: <https://www.webutuckschools.org>

Health and Safety

COVID-19 Coordinators

The nurses in each building are the main contact for the identification of positive cases and are responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents/guardians regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and plans implemented by the school. The building coordinator will report to the district coordinator.

District Coordinator and Contact Information:

Robert Farrier, School Business Administrator, (845) 373-4100 extension 5500

Alternate: Raymond Castellani, Superintendent of Schools, (845) 373-4100 extension 5505

Building Nursing Staff: Webutuck Elementary School

Brandice Roberts, RN (845) 373-4100 extension 1110

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School/Webutuck High School Charles Davis, RN (845) 373-4100 extension 2117

Daily Health Screening

Health screening, including daily temperature checks and completion of a screening questionnaire, is no longer required by the CDC or the State Education Department.

It is important that everyone is proactive in monitoring his or her own temperature and the existence of other COVID related symptoms. If an individual has a fever or other, COVID related symptoms they should stay home, and remain home until a physician clears them, receive a negative COVID test result or remain home for ten days.

Return to School following Screening Positive for COVID-19 Symptoms

Students/Staff may return to school with documentation to be given to the school nurse, prior to re-entry if possible, when all criteria is met in the appropriate return to school protocol below:

A. When a Health Care Provider is visited, the student may return to school after:

1. Documentation from a Health Care Provider following evaluation is received and cleared your student to return. Health Care Provider will determine necessity of COVID-19 test based on nature of symptoms. If a COVID-19 test is ordered, follow the guidelines below.
2. Individual must be without a fever, unmedicated, and have a progressive improvement of symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning.

B. If your student has a NEGATIVE test result for COVID-19 (PCR), they may return to school after:

1. Documentation from a Health Care Provider following evaluation is received and cleared your student to return.
2. Individual must be without a fever, unmedicated, and have a progressive improvement of symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning.

C. If your student has a POSITIVE test result for COVID-19, they may return to school after:

1. Isolation for a minimum of 10 days from start of symptoms.
2. Individual must be without a fever, unmedicated, and have a progressive improvement of symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning.
3. Release from Isolation from the Department of Health.

D. If your child does not see a Health Care Provider or COVID-19 test is refused, they may return to school after:

1. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms.
2. Individual must be without a fever, unmedicated, and have a progressive improvement of symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning.

These return-to-school protocols are the minimum required for re-entry. The Dutchess County Department of Health and/or WCSD may issue additional case specific clearance measures. The CDC recommends a COVID-19 test immediately upon symptom onset or 3-5 days after an exposure for unvaccinated individuals. The CDC recommends fully vaccinated individuals who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms. The School Nurse and COVID Coordinator will review all results. In the event there is a positive result, we will work with the Dutchess County Department of Health to act swiftly to track and notify those that may have had close contact.

If you have any health questions or concerns, please reach out to one of the nurses.

Face Coverings - Masks

All students, faculty, staff, and all other individuals will be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when inside

school buildings, school facilities, and on buses. Acceptable face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth-based face coverings and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Face coverings are not required outdoors at school facilities for students, faculty, staff, and all other individuals.

Faculty may use alternate PPE (i.e. face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction that requires visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g. speech therapy). These coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g. hearing impaired) who benefit from seeing more of the face of faculty/staff.

If an individual forgets their mask or does not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided.

Mask Breaks

Mask breaks will be provided throughout the day at the direction of the teacher.

Social Distancing

All buildings will maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, and staff to ensure appropriate social distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when in school facilities.

Specifically, a minimum of three feet of physical distance will be maintained to the best of our ability all directions between individuals when possible or individuals will use appropriate physical barriers between them that do not adversely affect airflow, heating, cooling, or ventilation, or otherwise present a health or safety risk.

A minimum of six feet in all directions will be maintained between individuals while participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g., singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in physical education classes inside school facilities).

Schedule

The 2021-2022 School Year begins Tuesday, September 7th. We will follow the school calendar as adopted by the Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

All buildings will be open for in-person learning Monday through Friday using their normal operating schedule. The school start and end times are listed below:

- Webutuck Elementary School: 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Eugene Brooks Intermediate/Webutuck High School 7:59 a.m. – 2:43 p.m.

Remote Instruction

Remote instruction will not be provided. In the event a student has provided medical documentation that indicates they are not able to attend school in person, the District will provide 1 hour a day of tutoring at the elementary level and 2 hours a day tutoring at the secondary level. Please schedule this with the Building Principal if needed.

Transportation

On school buses, masks must be worn at all times. Seats will be assigned in order of embarkation in the morning, and debarkation in the afternoon, to the extent practicable. The front row of every bus may be exempt from seat assignment to maintain social distance from bus drivers.

Athletics

Varsity seasons are anticipated to begin on August 23rd. The modified sports (seasons are anticipated begin on September 13th, subject to NYSPHAA, MHAL and Section 9 rules.

School Meals

To ensure everyone's safety, we will be following all CDC, SED and Department of Health safety measures for food handling, personal health, and safety by practicing social distancing, the use of masks and gloves, the washing, rinsing, and sanitizing of kitchen workstations and utensils.

All meals will be prepared with the utmost of care and safety with minimal handling and processing. This will include the use of individually wrapped service ware and pre-portioned food items.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

The school will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health (DOH).

Custodians will clean and disinfect every shift as time allows. Extra attention will be paid to student desks and contact areas each morning with extra help assigned. Custodians will have at their disposal proper disinfectants, supplies and all required PPE.

Drinking fountains will be closed. Individuals will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles or use disposable ones.

Restrooms will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

All buses that are used every day will be cleaned/ disinfected once a day. High-contact areas will be wiped down after the a.m. and p.m. run depending upon the disinfection schedule. (For example, some

buses might be cleaned between the a.m. and p.m. runs while other buses may be cleaned/disinfected after the p.m. run).

Visitors

School buildings will be closed to all visitors without prior appointment. Parents/guardians visiting buildings for any reason other than arrival and dismissal are expected to follow all district COVID-19 protocols.

References

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) (July 2021). *COVID-19 Guidance for Safe*. Retrieved from <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (August 2021). *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>