

COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan

Westmoreland County Public Schools

In-Person Learning

- a) WMLCPS will keep its COVID-19 Team intact. It includes the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Building Principals, Division Social Worker, and School Nurses.

The points of contact (POC) are: Division-level (POC) - Deputy Superintendent; W&L High School POC - Building Principal; MMS POC - Building Principal; CES POC - Building Principal; WDES POC – Building Principal.

- b) Westmoreland County Health Department (WCHD): 18849 Kings Hwy, Montross, VA 22520; Phone: (804) 493-1124
Three Rivers Health District: 2780 Puller Highway, Saluda, VA 23149; (804) 758-2381

These procedures are used to contact the Health Department if there is a suspected case:

- i) School-level POC contacts the Division POC if made aware of a positive case.
 - ii) Division-level POC contacts the WCHD if made aware of a suspected positive case. WMLCPS will follow the guidance of the WCHD after reporting the outbreak or positive case.
- c) *Monitoring Health and Absenteeism*
Staff attendance is documented and monitored through Human Resources and student attendance is documented and monitored through the Student Information System.

Staff, including a permanent substitute nurse, screens students who are participating in face to face instruction. There is a parent form for parents to check at home. Upon arrival at school, all personnel and students are given a temperature check. Every school has designated an isolation room for quarantine if warranted. All children are quarantined if they exhibit COVID symptoms.

Students are allowed to use inhalers, but not nebulizers while at school. The School Nurse coordinates with the Health Department to implement Tracing Protocols.

- d) *Communication Plan*
- i) New policies, procedures, and protocols are communicated to staff and stakeholders through emails, virtual meetings, and face to face.
 - ii) Communication to parents and students is multi-faceted. Alert-Now, the school division website, and social media are utilized.
 - iii) If an outbreak or positive case occurs, WMLCPS follows their standard procedures for communicating communicable disease information.

e) *School Health Service Providers*

School division health service providers assists in planning and implementation of additional programs and services.

f) *Medical-grade PPE*

Health services staff are provided medical-grade PPE. Others receive it upon request.

g) *Typical (non-COVID-19) Health Services*

Typical (non-COVID-19) health services are not neglected or eliminated in the emphasis of COVID19. Students have access to traditional services as appropriate and per policy.

h) *Providing Mental Health Services.*

Staff continue to work with community agencies and families to assist with mental health services for students. Students continue to have access to Counselors, the Division's School Psychologist, the Division Social Worker, and referrals are made to the Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck Community Services Board, as necessary and outlined in the division's threat assessment plan.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) continues to be available to employees who have personal and/or work-related problems. EAP addresses issues affecting mental and emotional well-being, such as alcohol and other substance abuse, stress, grief, family problems, and psychological disorders.

Promoting Good Healthy Behaviors

Westmoreland County Public Schools is committed to implementing strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID – 19. The COVID-19 Team has developed a plan for COVID-19 prevention education (hand washing, staying home if ill, etc.) These actions include the following;

a) *Creating an Education Plan*

Westmoreland County Public Schools provides training and emphasizes behaviors and practices that mitigate COVID-19. Prevention activities and materials include:

- i. Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- ii. Use of cloth face coverings and PPE according to CDC guidelines;
- iii. Staying home when sick; and
- iv. Testing and Screening
- v. Taking and Monitoring temperatures at home

b) *Provide Signs and Messaging*

WMLCPS provided signage and messaging to promote healthy hygiene. Schools have directional arrows in the hallways and post Posters throughout the facilities.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Westmoreland County Public Schools COVID-19 Team has discussed and developed a plan for maintaining a healthy environment for Westmoreland County School's employees and students. The components are shared below.

a) *Health Screenings*

- 1 Staff conduct daily health screenings of all students, staff and visitors. Staff receive a temperature check upon arrival at the school.
- 2 All students, bus and car riders, receive a temperature check upon arrival at the school.
- 3 All visitors and volunteers receive a temperature check upon arrival at the school.
- 4 Individuals who have questionable or failed screenings are denied entrance into the school or placed in the isolation room.

b) *Hygiene Practices*

The Maintenance Director implemented cleaning and disinfection protocols for all custodians. They include;

- Frequently Touched Surfaces: Staff members are provided disinfecting wipes and spray to use on door handles and frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- Increased cleaning - Additional staff and time allocation is employed.
- Routine Cleaning: School schedules designate areas to be cleaned and how often.
- Additional Hand Sanitizer Stations – WMLCPS strategically added hand sanitizers.

c) *Limiting Sharing of Supplies*

WMLCPS staff ensure adequate student supplies to minimize sharing to the extent possible. All students are assigned their own technology equipment and other dedicated supplies.

d) *Operable Ventilation Systems*

WMLCPS staff ensures ventilation systems operate properly and increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Filters are changed regularly or more often if needed. Coils are cleaned per our contract with our HVAC vendor.

e) *Water Systems*

WMLCPS staff ensures that water systems and features are safe to use by doing the following;

- The county checks all schools' water supply before re-opening.
- Taking the five steps recommended by the CDC to minimize mold.
- Taking the eight recommended steps by the CDC to minimize Legionnaires' Disease and Legionella.
- Drinking fountains are converted to touchless bottle stations. WMLPS encourages staff and students to bring their own water bottles.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

Westmoreland County Public Schools COVID-19 Team has discussed and developed a plan for maintaining “healthy operations” for Westmoreland County School’s employees and students. The components are shared below.

a) *Implementing Protections*

WMLCPS implemented protections for staff and children at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Staff work with families and private health care providers as appropriate and provide accommodations as deemed necessary.

b) *Limited Gatherings*

Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups are limited.

c) *Sick Leave Policies and Practices*

WMLCPS staff adhere to our sick leave policies and practices to enable staff and students to stay home or isolate when they are sick.

Protecting vulnerable individuals with underlying Health Conditions

Westmoreland County Public Schools COVID-19 Team has discussed and developed a plan for protecting those most vulnerable individuals in our community.

a) *Accommodations*

Accommodations are provided as needed, upon request, to support those at higher risk for severe illness to limit their exposure risk. Certain individuals and populations, such as those aged 65 and older, and those with underlying health conditions are at a greater risk for severe illness if COVID-19 is contracted. Under legal guidance, individuals over age 65 or with a documented medical condition making them vulnerable for severe illness, as outlined by the CDC, have their exposure risk limited by:

- Opportunity to telework, if appropriate for job duties.
- Working with employees and student families on an individual basis if appropriate in a modified but needed assignment.

b) *Options for Return*

Staff return to work after COVID-19 illness per the guidance of the WCHD, VDH, and the CDC. However, in order to return, staff and students must meet CDC guidelines.

c) *Isolation and Quarantine Guidance*

- Symptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status) should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.
- Persons who test positive (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate themselves at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to (school) after Day 5, provided:

- If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.
- If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time (including children under age 2), VDH recommends a negative test on or after Day 6 in order to return to (school) OR the person should remain home through day 10.
- If a student becomes sick at school, arrange for the student to be picked up, while the student waits in a separate isolation room/area.
- For exposed but asymptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended for the above settings. These individuals may continue to attend (school) as long as they remain asymptomatic.
 - Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person.
 - Masks: Students/staff that attend (school) during this time may consider wearing a mask around others indoors until Day 10.
 - If a student or staff person in this group has ongoing household exposure to a person with COVID-19, VDH recommends students, families and staff consider more frequent testing; please see Test to Stay protocols for more information.

Preparing for when someone gets sick

Westmoreland County Public Schools COVID-19 Team has discussed and prepared to address the situation where someone may get sick at school with these steps;

a) Students/staff who Present Symptoms

Students/staff who present symptoms of the coronavirus in the school setting will be addressed by;

- Immediately separating staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick will be taken immediately to the isolation room. They will then be sent home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are.
- School administrators, in consultation with school nurses, will place an individual in the isolation room who tests positive but does not have symptoms.
- Staff will contact a parent or guardian to facilitate safe transportation of those who are sick to home or healthcare facility.

b) Transportation

WMLCPS's protocols to facilitate the safe transport of those who are sick to their home or a healthcare facility include;

- Educating parents of the importance of maintaining up to date emergency contact information which is placed in the student information system.
- Alerting the ambulance or the hospital, that the person being transported may have COVID-19
- If for whatever reason transportation home is needed, transportation will be provided by a transportation professional in an appropriate school division vehicle. Mitigation methods will be taken.

c) *Maintenance Director*

In areas used by sick individuals, maintenance will apply cleansing and disinfection procedures. They include;

- Closing off areas used by a sick person for use until after these areas have been cleaned and disinfected in consultation with the local health department.
- Ensuring safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products including storing products securely away from children.

d) *Initiate Public Health Investigation*

After the School Level POC contacts the Division POC, the Westmoreland Health Department will be contacted to initiate a public health investigation.

WMLCPS will consult and wait for the next steps from the Westmoreland County Health Department.

Close Down, Due to Severe Conditions

There is always the option of shutting the face to face instruction down due to severe conditions.

- WMLCPS will follow state guidelines for conditions that will trigger a temporary return to virtual learning.
- WMLCPS will follow state guidelines for conditions that will trigger a complete school closure and return to virtual learning.