

Wetzel County Schools plans to open its doors for in-person learning to *all* students on August 23, 2021. We know that students benefit from in-person learning. We are excited to get back to the business of educating students, engaging families, and promoting leadership!

The following guidelines and procedures are in place beginning August 11, 2021:

1. If Wetzel County is ***NOT red*** on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) map, we will give parents the preference of whether or not their student will wear a mask. If Wetzel County ***IS red*** on the WVDHHR map, all students and employees will wear masks while indoors. We will keep our students, families, employees, and the public informed of our status daily.
2. Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.
3. All bus drivers and passengers on our school buses must wear masks regardless of the WVDHHR map color.
4. Students and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness.
5. The same stringent cleaning and disinfecting procedures that have been in place since March 2020 will remain standard protocol for all Wetzel County Schools and buses.
6. All hand sanitizing stations put in place during the pandemic have remained in the schools and on the buses.
7. High-touch classroom areas will be sanitized between classes.
8. Students and staff will be retaught and practice handwashing and respiratory hygiene.
9. Buses will be sanitized between runs.
10. We will provide water for students. Bottled water will be provided, and bottle filling stations will be open. Water fountains will be closed.
11. We will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Contact Tracing Updates: [WVDE Contact Tracing Guidance](#) If there is a positive COVID case, students who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine. Students who are unvaccinated will quarantine if they are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person for a period of 15 minutes or longer. In the classroom setting, students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students are wearing masks will not have to quarantine regardless of vaccination status.

We will continue to work with the Wetzel-Tyler Health Department, West Virginia Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor of West Virginia on issues such as community transmission, vaccination coverage, testing, and outbreaks to determine the safest way to educate our students moving forward. If any changes occur to the guidance we receive, we will adjust accordingly.

We thank our citizens for their patience during the pandemic and are eager to start the 2021-22 school year as “normal” as possible.