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# Wishek Public School

## HEALTH & SAFETY SMART RESTART PLAN

Wishek Public School Board Approved

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Wishek Public School Families

It has been a challenge for our entire community since March, but we hope you have found ways to cope and embrace this new normal. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped us succeed in these difficult times. The 2021-2022 school year we are hopeful to continue with face-to-face learning like we did in the 2020-2021 school year.

The challenge now is planning for continued face to face learning while analyzing loss of learning, understanding how that has impacted underrepresented subgroups, that occurred during the end of the 2020 school year and throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Furthermore, our focus will also be on acceleration of learning throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

This plan will try to address these challenges, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the next school year.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to continue in our in-person model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The district must consider all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community.

This plan presents hundreds of hours of critical thinking, research, modeling, and work by our educators, staff, and school board. This group reviewed input gathered from our employees and parents.

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should do or should not. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner, if we work together to solve problems.

Respectfully,

Shawn Kuntz  
Superintendent

Curt Meidinger  
School Board President

# Assumptions & Assurances

## Wishek Public School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

## Our Planning Team

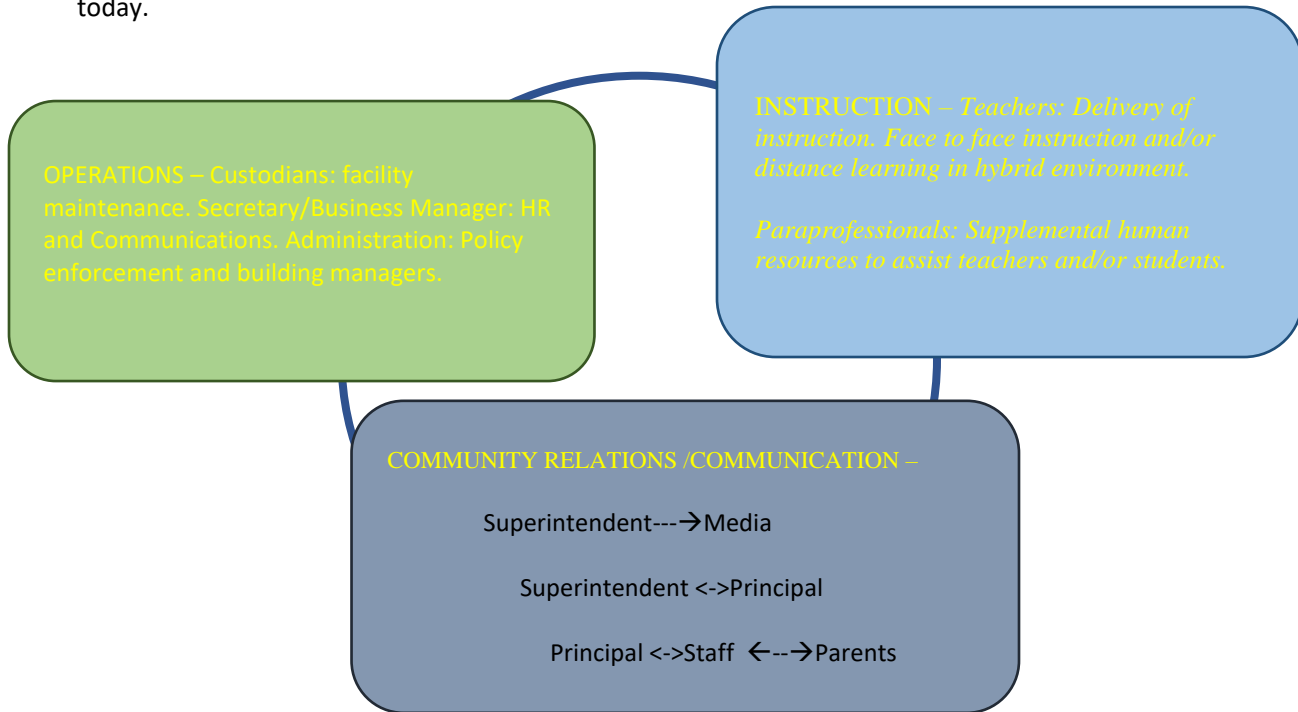
Wishek Public School's Return to Learning Plan was crafted and reviewed by a team consisting of the following :

- Educators
- Custodial Staff
- Parents
- Your local health office (NDDoH)
- Secretaries
- School Board members
- School Principals

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of input, while maintaining social distancing.

# COVID-19 Response Team & Coordinators

This organizational structure was crafted to assist in the development and monitoring of the district return to learning plan. This structure identifies leaders and guiding team members that will serve as a voice in how the district responds to COVID-19 during the school year. This plan is designed to address the issues of reopening as well as provide a nimble and responsive process to address issues that may not be recognized today.



The three components have been identified as key operational teams that consist of multiple departments. Each operational team will work implement the return to learn plan and address challenges as they arise.

## COVID-19 Building Level Coordinators

Each school building will have an identified COVID-19 Coordinator who will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. Coordinators will make themselves available to the NDDoH 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. The coordinator will be report cases of COVID-19, found in the school setting, to health officials and the State Superintendent’s office.



***Shawn Kuntz, Superintendent*** will assume the role of building level coordinator in all *Wishek Public School* buildings. If the coordinator is unable to be reached the secondary contact will be *Rena Bosch, PreK-12 Principal*.

# Health and Safety Guidance

The district strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all who occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to COVID-19.

## Resources

ND Department of Public Instruction - <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>

ND Department of Health - <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

## Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is no guarantee that our school will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

## Protect Yourself and Others

### *Wash your hands often*



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

### *Avoid close contact*



- Keep social distance from others, especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation may be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Physical separation on busing, one student per seat, will be recommended but cannot be guaranteed.
- *Parents will continue to follow same protocol for entering the building. Parents will be expected to wait outside or by the main elementary doors when picking up children. Parents will be expected to eventually have their children walk in on their own into the building. Wishek Public School understands this might take longer for our students who are experiencing the school setting for the first time.*

### *Cover coughs and sneezes*



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

### *Clean and disinfect*



- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Encouraging good student hygiene will be encouraged by having students be responsible for cleaning equipment they recently used.
- Shared materials (not recommended) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

*Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.*

## Health & Safety Protocols

### Student & Staff Health

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. Wishek Public School will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

### *Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk*

- Back to School and enrollment processes will include questions asking families to identify if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. This information will be provided to the Superintendent (COVID-19 Coordinator) who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
- The *Business Manager*, will inquire of all employees if they are at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. The Business Manager office will work in partnership with the building principal/superintendent and the employee to coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- When the NDDoH or our local health inform the district of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to Business Manager and the building principal as allowable within district policy and law.
- Wishek Public School will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDOH and local health unit.

*If a student or staff members display any of the following symptoms: Fever or chills. Cough. Shortness or breath or difficulty breathing. Fatigue. Muscle or body aches. Headache. New loss of taste or smell. Sore throat. Congestion or runny nose. Nausea or vomiting. Diarrhea.*

- **Student**
  - Direct / escort the child directly to the office.
  - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in the building sick room.
  - Parent / guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
- **Staff**
  - Inform your supervisor immediately and wear a face mask / shield until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.

- Leave the school building/grounds and consult with a health care professional for further directions.

### *Return to School*

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined as directed by NDDoH or local health unit they will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by the NDDoH.

Blue / Green FACE to FACE Instruction Model	
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home.</li> <li>• Implement reasonable accommodations to reduce school-wide and community spread.</li> </ul>
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing where possible and reasonable.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distancing on a school bus will be unachievable, we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation for their child.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas.</li> <li>• Handwashing integrated throughout the day.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer available throughout each building.</li> <li>• Support and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.</li> </ul>
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective measures will be implemented in office spaces.</li> <li>• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled.</li> <li>• Access to campus may be limited, with new protocols.</li> </ul>
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students issued “technology” and trained on how to access online learning resources through Office 365 adopted by school.</li> <li>• Limited use of shared materials and supplies.</li> <li>• Desks arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.</li> <li>• Staff and students working in close proximity will be advised to wear a face covering.</li> </ul>
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students when moving around the building will move in cohort groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups.</li> <li>• Schedules may be altered to reduce cohorts passing in common areas.</li> <li>• Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular& Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.</li> </ul>
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> </ul>