



Update August 5, 2020

Governor DeWine announced yesterday, August 4, that the Ohio Department of Health will issue a health order requiring that K-12 children wear face coverings while at school. The new mandate comes after the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter [issued a joint letter](#) today recommending widespread use of masks in schools with the following exceptions:

1. Children under the age of 2 years old
2. Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance
3. A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by the use of a facial covering (e.g. severe anxiety or a tactile aversion)
4. A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask
5. A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your patience as we have worked with area superintendents, our district's administrators, VWFT Association representation, and the Board of Education to put together the guidelines for reopening Van Wert City Schools for the upcoming school year. We have appreciated the survey input from our community, parents, staff, and students. The current decisions that have been made are done with thought, and careful consideration has gone into planning reopening our district.

The purpose of this letter is to share some initial information with you. More specific information will be forthcoming from building principals as well as specific information posted on the homepage of our district website under *Reopening VWCS 2020-2021*.

Our school calendar has been slightly altered with more professional development for our staff during the week of August 17-21. The first day for students in grades 1-12 is Monday, August 24. The first day for preschool and kindergarten students is Monday, August 31.

REMOTE LEARNING - As parents/guardians, you have the choice to **PARENT-SELECTED REMOTE LEARNING** for your student(s). Every student will be considered a school-based learner (traditional education in the school buildings) unless the parent contacts the appropriate building principal requesting remote learning by Friday, August 7. The district's *Remote Learning Plan* is posted under *Reopening VWCS 2020-2021* on the homepage of our district website.

DAILY CHECKS - As parents/guardians, your help is needed in completing daily symptoms checks, including a temperature check, every morning before sending your student(s) to school. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If your student(s) has any of these symptoms or has a fever of 100F or higher, your student(s) should not come to school. Call the appropriate building office and report your student(s) absent. Student(s) need to be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.

STUDENTS - All students, except preschool students, riding buses to and from school will be required to wear masks/face coverings. This will permit us to seat two students in the same seat together. During the school day, it is recommended that students in grades K-2 wear masks/face coverings, and required that students in grades 3-12 wear masks/face coverings. All employees are required to wear face coverings.

We know that information continues to change, and we want you know we are moving forward with positive energy at VWCS. Let's continue working together to meet the educational needs of our students. More information will be forthcoming from the building principals and/or placed on the district website, but don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Bagley, Superintendent