



WILLIAMS COUNTY SCHOOLS - 2021-2022 COVID SAFETY PLAN

In recent weeks all schools in Williams County have released back to school information containing important updates for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Noted in each plan was the need for **flexibility** as we monitor the recent COVID Delta Variant, the mandates, and the recommendations centered around providing safety for our students as we return to school.

In an effort to remain consistent for the safety of our students across Williams County we have developed a common safety plan our schools will adhere to.

The information, mandates, recommendations, and policies administered by the Ohio Department of Health, the CDC, and our local health department in response to the Delta Variant are **changing rapidly** as the start of the school year approaches. **Please understand that information contained in this communication could change abruptly, and with little notice.**

School districts are in a very difficult position as they are required to follow **mandates** from agencies while balancing **recommendations** that allow for interpretation.

- **Mandates** are orders issued by agencies that schools are required to follow.
- **Recommendations** allow district stakeholders (students, staff, parents, etc.) to educate themselves on the topic and make informed decisions on how to proceed.

Please review the safety plans Williams County Schools will adhere to for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. **We encourage you to research reliable data and informational sources that will allow you to make informed decisions on the best practices to follow.** We thank you in advance for your time and understanding.

Respectfully,

Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools
Kermit Riehle, Edgerton Local Schools
Anthony Stevens, Edon Northwest Local Schools
Jim Wyse, Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
Jamie Grime, Montpelier Exempted Village Schools
William Hanak, North Central Local Schools
Nate Johnson, Stryker Local Schools
Jim Watkins, Williams County Health Department



Mask Wearing:

Buses:

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has issued a mask wearing MANDATE for public transportation, including school transportation. This [Federal Mandate](#) does not allow for local decision making and therefore must be followed. **Students/staff are required to wear masks on school transportation (buses, vans, etc.).** As of this print date this CDC mandate is set to expire on September 13, 2021.

During School:

The Ohio Department of Health, the Williams County Health Department, and the CDC **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** masks to be worn by students and staff while **inside** of the school. Therefore mask wearing in school is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Schools will continue to monitor guidance and data from the Ohio Department of Health, the Williams County Health Department, and the CDC to stay informed and make appropriate decisions on this topic. **Flexibility** will be key as information is monitored. Data will be reviewed and districts may require masks if COVID cases rise locally.

Contact Tracing:

The Ohio Department of Health recently released contact tracing and quarantine protocols schools must follow. Please take a moment to review the protocols by clicking [HERE](#). A flowchart of this information can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Please note that quarantine protocols are influenced by mask wearing vs non-mask wearing situations. This decision by the Ohio Department of Health may influence your decision regarding mask wearing and/or vaccination status.

Vaccinations:

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students/staff, but remain an optional and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED resource for eligible ages (12+). We encourage families to perform appropriate research on the vaccines which will allow you to make the decision you see fit for your child/families.

Physical Distancing:

Every effort will be made to maintain a distance of 3 feet between students in school settings. Please understand that there may be circumstances that don't allow for 3 feet of distance.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Handwashing will be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands frequently. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be reinforced.

Facilities:

District cleaning protocols will continue to follow strong disinfecting routines. Ventilation systems will be monitored to utilize appropriate fresh air intake, circulation, and filtering processes that promote safety. Plexiglass barriers will remain in place at various locations throughout some facilities.

Health Screening:

As always, district stakeholders are asked to complete a self-health assessment prior to arriving on a school campus. If an individual feels sick, or has flu-like symptoms, they are asked to remain home.