



WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 323

304 East McNair Road

Winnebago, Illinois 61088

John Schwuchow
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Matthew Bennett
High School
T: 815-335-2336
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Cathy Finley
Middle School
T: 815-335-2364
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Sean Monahan
McNair Elementary
T: 815-335-1607
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Heather Baker
Simon Elementary
T: 815-335-2318
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Return to School Update

8/4/2021

Introduction

Winnebago CUSD #323 has been preparing and planning for a return to school plan based on the guidance from the Illinois State board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the state's five-phase reopening plan, Restore Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it is fully adopting updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) masking recommendations to protect against COVID-19 and the Delta variant. On July 27th the CDC **recommended that everyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor setting in areas with substantial and high transmission. CDC is also recommending universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.** On July 28, 2021 the Winnebago County Health Department is in alignment with the CDC recommendation of universal indoor masking

Based on the current conditions in our learning community and county, Winnebago CUSD #323 will begin the 2021-2022 school year by following the guidance detailed below. This guide outlines the educational plans and protocols for the entire school year relative to the phase the State of Illinois is in at the time. The fluidity of the situation may result in the school being in several different phases throughout the year. The protocols outlined in this guide are subject to change as the guidelines evolve.

We will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our students and staff and increase preventative measures accordingly if necessary.

The plan detailed below, including mandatory face masks for all regardless of vaccination status, will be put into place for 20 school days, then evaluated for efficacy and need based on both district and community metrics. If the metrics listed below are met, the District will adjust the guidance as needed in conjunction with the Winnebago County Health Department. This adjustment could include an optional mask mandate for all students and staff, among other changes as needed to ensure the safety of all those within our buildings (**Pending Current Executive Governor's Order 8/4/2021 @ 2:30 p.m.**). Please note - While we believe that these metrics will provide us a clear path for decision making, situations may occur in which we make



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the determination for additional masking or other additional safety requirements regardless of the metrics.

Metrics: (This Metrics section is pending Current Governor's Executive Order 8/4/2021 @ 2:30 p.m.).

- District: Less than 1% of positive COVID-19 student/staff cases in any one building
- District: No school outbreak as defined by IDPH in any one building
- Local: Percentage per 100,000K positive cases in Winnebago County in reference to county transmission rates

We will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our students and staff and increase preventative measures accordingly if necessary.

In-Person Learning

We are again returning to 5 days a week of regular in-person instruction, and will have one similar schedule for all buildings. The student schedules are listed below:

- Simon 8:05 -2:40 P.M.
- McNair - 7:55 - 2:50 P.M.
- Middle School - 7:55 - 2:50 P.M.
- High School - 7:55 - 2:50 P.M.

If there are any concerns related to homebound instruction for the entire school year due to a medical need, please contact your building principal as soon as possible.

Student Arrival

Students may begin entering McNair, Middle and High School at 7:40. Students may begin entering Simon at 7:45. All students must use hand sanitizer upon entry. Students will go to their designated locations based on their grade level until released to classrooms.

Physical Distancing

Students and staff will maintain three to six feet of social distance to the extent possible. Visual reminders will be posted throughout the school buildings.



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Arrivals and dismissals to and from busses or parent pickup/drop off will be controlled and staggered.

Face Coverings and PPE

- Face masks for all staff and students are required. AS stated above, this will be re-evaluated after 20 student attendance days (**Pending Current Governor's Executive Order 8/4/2021 @ 2:30 p.m.**).
- Face coverings must be worn by all passengers and drivers on school buses.
- Face coverings do not need to be worn outside while socially distanced.
- At specific times when three feet social distancing is not possible, masks may be required for all staff and students, and provided as needed.
- Disposable face coverings will be available everyday in the Main Office as needed.
- The District will not tolerate bullying of an individual for wearing or not wearing a mask

Hygiene

- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are important to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Staff and students must use hand sanitizer each time they enter a classroom.
- Visuals will be posted encouraging proper hand hygiene.
- If assisting students requires close contact, hand washing and sanitizing must be done before and after contact with the students.

Classrooms

- Arrange seating three to six feet apart, if possible.
- Class sizes will be limited to the greatest extent possible to maximize social distancing while still allowing all students to attend in-person.
- Shared supplies and materials will be limited.
- Increased ventilation.
- Need to determine if flexible seating is allowable or not, and if toys/games/decorative items can be used.

PE

- At this time, students will not be using locker rooms or changing clothes for PE.



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Hallways

- Maintain three to six feet distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Mark common gathering areas to show three to six feet spacing.
- Middle and High School Staggered passing periods between a block schedule.
- Provide visuals to indicate spacing and directional flow where needed and possible.
- Middle and High School students will be able to utilize lockers during the school day as well as carry backpacks to class if needed.

Cafeteria

- The cafeteria will be utilized as allowed for 3 to 6 feet of spacing between students to the greatest extent possible.
- Students may also be eating in alternate locations as necessary to maintain social distancing. Staff will be assigned to provide supervision by building administration as needed.

Daily Symptoms Check

- We will not require daily symptom screenings similar to last school year. Instead all parents/guardians will be required to sign a notice at the start of the school year ensuring students will be kept at home if they are experiencing specific COVID-like symptoms listed by the CDC. Parents/Guardians will be expected to check their child for symptoms each day and not send their child to school if they are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms.

Vaccinations

- The Winnebago County Health Department will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccine clinics to anyone in our area 12 years of age and older. The Winnebago School District will work collaboratively with the WCHD to provide and notify its families of local clinics to bring forward opportunities for vaccination.
- Vaccination status of all students and staff will be verified through I-CARE, in accordance with the IDPH/ISBE Guidelines. The district views the vaccination status of students and staff as private information.

Positive Cases and Close Contact

- Confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the Winnebago Health Department by the school nurse. Administration will notify students and staff deemed to be in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. This will be done through contact tracing in conjunction with the Winnebago County Health Department.



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Quarantine will be required for students and staff as determined in conjunction with the Winnebago County Health Department.

Instruction During Quarantine

Any student that is required to quarantine, and is experiencing symptoms making them too ill to complete work must have a parent/guardian call the school's Main Office each day to report the student as sick. Students will be considered "absent" and the regular absent policy from the Student Handbook will be followed for all missed work.

Any student that is required to quarantine at home, and not called in by a parent/guardian as absent, will be considered "EQL" (Excused Quarantine Learning). Students will be expected to complete all assigned work for each day with no due date extension. Students must complete all digital work on a District-issued device. Anyone experiencing issues with technology should contact helpdesk@winnebagoschools.org or call the school's Main Office for assistance.

PreK-2nd Grade

- Classroom teachers will communicate expectations to the parent through email.
- Attendance will be taken each day through an attendance form on the student's Google classroom.
- At the teacher's discretion, activities and materials may be provided online through Google Classroom, or paper copies which need to be picked up from the Main Office by a parent/guardian.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned work by the due dates conveyed by the teacher.

3rd-12th Grade

- Students should check Google Classroom at the start of each day (3rd-5th) or class period (6th-12th) to see assignments.
- It is strongly recommended that students work on their class activities during the regularly scheduled class period to receive support from teachers as needed and possible through Go Guardian.
- Attendance for each class period will be taken every day. Students need to either be actively working on assignments during class time as shown through Go Guardian, or have completed the attendance form/activity on the student's Google Classroom by the end of the class period. Students not meeting this expectation will be marked as unexcused, with the regular policy for unexcused absences from the Student Handbook being followed for all assigned work for that day.



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- Students are expected to complete all assigned work by the due dates listed in Google Classroom. All assignments not turned in by the due date will be subject to the grade/department's late work policy.

Visitors

- Limits will be placed on nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities with external groups.
- Essential visitors will be required to sign a District #323 COVID-19 Symptom Screening Log.
- Essential visitors will be required to wear masks and will be restricted in their access to the building as a whole.
- When appropriate, essential visitors should schedule an appointment before arriving at the school.
- Visitors will be screened and not allowed to go beyond the main office.

We will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed. Everyone should be prepared to have additional mitigations put in place if needed.

Any other questions?

Please contact Dr. John Schwuchow, Superintendent by calling the District Office or emailing schwuchowj@winnebagoschools.org