IMPORTANT COVID-19 HEALTH INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

~ August 26, 2020 ~

REISSUED: August 31, 2020 (as Page 2 has been slightly revised for greater clarity)

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Opening school buildings for in-person instruction requires all stakeholders (Parents, Students, Staff and Administration) to have a role and responsibility in keeping our students and staff healthy. Please read the following health message carefully and sign the Parent “Healthy” Pledge at the close of this communication. The documents on PAGES 2 & 3 are very important (please keep them close by)!

As a parent/guardian you play the important role in monitoring your child(ren)’s health daily. WTS needs your help in screening your child(ren) each morning before beginning the school day. This begins with a temperature check and a health assessment based on the symptoms of COVID-19 as identified by the Centers for Disease Control. It is important to note that the symptoms of COVID-19 are also common in other illnesses like the common cold, the flu, or seasonal allergies. Having symptoms of illness does not mean your child has COVID-19.

To assist you with the daily screening process of your child(ren), WTS is providing you with a screening tool titled COVID-19 Daily Health Screening Tool for Parents/Guardians and Their Children to help you determine if your child may have COVID-19. The document is on PAGE 2 of this communication and can also be found on each of the District’s home pages under Headlines & Features located in the center your screen (simply click on School-Home Communications Reopening 2020 and COVID-19).

IMPORTANT {FEVER}!: ⇒ Please note that if your child has a fever (≥ 100.4°F per CDC guidelines) s/he must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND a doctor’s note will be required to return to in-person learning. WTS is requiring doctor’s notes as yet another key step in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

If you have any questions about your child’s health, please always err on the side of caution and seek medical attention for evaluation. Your child’s physician will then be able to make a thoughtful, medically-based decision with regard to returning for in-person learning. As a reminder, if children are at home and are feeling well enough to participate in the day’s classroom lessons please access the classroom remotely based on the link(s) provided by your child’s teacher(s). If they are not, please report absences directly to the schools:

BAC 908.850.3161 • FKS: 908.850.1010 • OFRS: 908.876.3865 • LVMS 908.876.3434

CONTACT THE SCHOOL NURSE ASAP IF YOUR CHILD HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

It is important to note that our Township is not currently experiencing any widespread outbreak of COVID-19 (Current Activity Level is LOW) and that our collective efforts to mitigate the risk of the virus through healthy practices (social distancing, cloth face coverings, and hand hygiene) have a positive effect on the health of our community. In the event COVID-19 enters any of the District’s schools, WTS leaders will communicate directly with Local Board of Health Officials and the School Medical Inspector to determine appropriate courses of action. PAGE 3 of this communication provides information to parent regarding the District’s COVID-19 Response Protocol.

UPDATE of Face Coverings: This week, our local Board of Health advised that bandanas and masks containing valves are not permitted inside schools. The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. Masks with one-way valves or vents allow exhaled air to be expelled out through holes in the material. This can allow exhaled respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus (source: Centers for Disease Control). 2-Ply gaiters are still acceptable! Click HERE to learn how to safely wear and remove a face covering!

Please click HERE to take the Parent “Healthy” Pledge ... Thank you!

Thank you for joining in this community-wide effort to reduce the spread of illness in our Washington Township Schools Community.

Jeff Mohre, Superintendent of Schools
SECTION 1: Symptoms

Any of the symptoms below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

Please check your child(ren) DAILY for these symptoms:

- [ ] Fever (measured or subjective) ≥ 100.4°F per CDC guidelines
- [ ] Cough
- [ ] Chills
- [ ] Shortness of Breath
- [ ] Rigors (shivers)
- [ ] Difficulty Breathing
- [ ] Myalgia (muscle aches)
- [ ] New loss of smell
- [ ] Headache
- [ ] New loss of taste
- [ ] Sore Throat
- [ ] Nausea or Vomiting
- [ ] Diarrhea
- [ ] Fatigue
- [ ] Congestion or runny nose

If your child has ANY of the symptoms above keep your child home, notify your child’s school, and contact your medical provider for further instructions.

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Please verify EACH day if:

- [ ] Your child has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- [ ] Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19
- [ ] Your child has traveled to an area of high community transmission.

If ANY of the fields in SECTION 2 (see directly above) are checked off, your child MUST remain home for at least 14 days from the last date of exposure (if child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case) or date of return to New Jersey.

Contact your child’s medical provider and your local health department (908.876.3650) for further guidance.

SUMMARY:

- Keep Your Child at Home if any symptom in SECTION 1 is encountered. Students should remain home from school for at least 24 hours after being symptom free unless otherwise instructed by your medical provider.
- Keep Your Child at Home if any exposure or close contact occurs as listed in SECTION 2. Students must remain home from school for at least 14 days after close contact or potential exposure.
- Please note that if your child has a fever s/he must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND a doctor’s note will be required to return to in-person learning.
SCENARIO:

What IF an Individual has Symptoms of COVID-19 While at School?

It is important to note that the symptoms of COVID-19 are also common in other illnesses like the common cold, the flu, or seasonal allergies. Having symptoms of illness does not mean your child has COVID-19.

RESPONSE:

- Children and adults will be screened by the School Nurse.
- Individuals who are ill will be sent home.
- Refer children and adults to their medical providers for follow-up.
- Individuals suspected of having COVID-19 will be placed in the “Q”uarantine Room until they can be transported home.
- District communicates promptly with Local Board of Health and School Medical Inspector if anyone is placed in the “Q”uarantine Room and appropriate actions are then determined.
- Fever? A doctor’s note will be required for return to school.

IMPORTANT:

IF an individual has a symptom of COVID-19 AND:

- has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- or someone in their household is diagnosed with COVID-19
- or has traveled to an area of high community transmission

THEN: The individual must remain home for at least 14 days from the last date of exposure or date of return to New Jersey.

SCENARIO:

Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Parents and guardians PLEASE notify school administration if they, their children, or anyone in their immediate household tests positive for COVID-19.

RESPONSE:

- WTS Administration consults with the Local Board of Health.
- WTS Administration notifies the school community for confirmed cases within the District’s school buildings.
- WTS Administration communicates promptly with Local Board of Health and School Medical Inspector to determine appropriate school or district-wide actions.

Source: NJ Department of Health