

# WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## SAFE RETURN PLAN 2020-2021

**APPROVED BY YHD**

Updated December 1, 2020

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## Summary

Welcome back to the West Valley School District!

Just as COVID-19 has been described as a fluid situation; we must adapt with the same fluidity and become prepared for anything. As a District, it's important for us to remember that our primary mission is to educate students. However, we also have an obligation to ensure the health and safety of our students and our staff. In recent weeks, the Yakima Health District (YHD) has started allowing school districts to reopen under approved safety plans and procedures because the County is currently not seeing a wide-spread of cases, but situational outbreaks influencing the County case numbers. Most areas of the County, including West Valley, are within the Governor's qualifications for returning to schools. If COVID-19 cases or hospitalizations increase, YHD may require schools to return to remote learning until cases again decline.

So why return to schools now instead of waiting? The simple answer is that our students are not thriving under remote learning.

As of September 30:

- 10% of students still can't access the internet, even though we have distributed 340 total "hotspots" through T-Mobile grant.
- Over 87% of students are behind on assignments.
- Only 672 students have all assignments up to date.
- One month into school there are currently 1135 F grades compared to
- a total of 886 at the

We need to provide students a safe, face-to-face learning option to ensure their educational needs are met.

This document is a district-wide overview of the safety measures at all West Valley sites to support face-to-face learning. It is based on guidance from Washington State's Departments of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Labor and Industries (L&I), as well as YHD. This document describes the processes and procedures implemented to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. In addition to the District-wide guidance, school principals may also provide additional site-specific information to families, staff, and students as it becomes available. West Valley School District V.8 9/24/20 4

The purpose of this document is to guide families to make informed decisions for their student and to prepare families and students for district-wide safety enhancements.



### Recommended Return Schedule

The following schedule or sequence of returning to school was developed based on the work of the planning teams and recommendations from the Yakima County Health District. The YHD has approved our plan.

October 1	DLC and Preschool
October 19	Kindergarten - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade, every day
November 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade, every day
November 16	5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades, hybrid schedule. 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades return in small groups for assistance from teachers.
January 25 (Start of Second semester)	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades, hybrid schedule

## Safe Return Family Choice

As the opportunity for face-to-face learning becomes available, families will have a choice of learning models for their students. Students will remain in this model until at least the end of the semester on January 22. This allows West Valley staff to plan effectively for health and safety protocols, such as social distancing in the classroom.

### Elementary Choice 1: Daily Face-to-Face Learning at School

- Students attend all day, every day during regular school hours.
- Classes are kept together (cohorts) with limited exposure to other classes.
- Students return to classrooms with their current assigned teacher unless the teacher is reassigned to the remote teaching pool.
- Health, safety, and well-being are emphasized throughout the day including enhanced cleaning, mandatory masks, frequent hand washing and physical distancing.
- If YHD requires classes, schools, or the District to quarantine or close, students will return to regularly scheduled, daily classes online with their face-to-face teacher.
- Students needing to quarantine will receive instructional materials from their teacher while they are at home but will not attend online classes.

### Elementary Choice 2: Continuous Remote Learning from Home

- Students attend daily, regularly scheduled online classes with a WVSD teacher.
- Remote teachers will be WVSD teachers but may not be in grade level or subject matter.
- Remote teachers will follow the same curriculum as face-to-face but may not maintain the same pacing.
- Elementary students may return to face-to-face learning as space and safety protocols allow beginning second semester, January 25, 2021.
- Students may return to the same class they were assigned to at the beginning of the school year after returning from the remote option only if space allows.
- PE, Music, Library and some other classes may not be available online.
- LAP, Title 1, and other resources may not be available online, but determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

\*The district will do its best to accommodate students and staff needs to ensure health, safety, well-being and subject matter consistency.

## **Secondary Return in Small Groups - 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades**

- High School students will return to school in small groups of less than 5
- These are students classified as furthest from what is termed educational justice, as well as students who are not performing in the remote option and need more individual assistance.
- Students who need intervention, remediation and assistance will be notified for a day and time for work with teachers.

## **Secondary Choice 1: Hybrid Face-to-Face Learning at School 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades.**

- Students attend full day 2 days a week in hybrid model.
  - **Group A** (last name A-L) attends in person on Monday and Thursday.
  - **Group B** (last name M-Z) attends in person on Tuesday and Friday.
  - Students needing additional support, such as students with special needs, English language learners, and others may attend on Wednesday.
- Students engage in additional online academic courses facilitated by West Valley teachers.
- Students follow pacing guides for the school year.
- Health, safety and well-being emphasized throughout the in-person school day including enhanced cleaning, mandatory masks, frequent hand washing and physical distancing.

## **Secondary Choice 2: Continuous Remote Learning**

- Academic courses provided online through WVSD remote teachers as assigned.
- Secondary students may have the opportunity to return to face-to-face learning as space and safety protocols allow.
- Students returning to face-to-face learning following remote learning may need additional classes or credits to stay on track for graduation with their class.
- College in the High School, PAL, Drone Manufacturing, Pre-engineering, Machining, Sports Therapy, and Fire Science, among other classes may not be available
- Students with documented health conditions or living with those with medical provider-documented health conditions may be eligible for different accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

*\*The district will do its best to accommodate students and staff needs to ensure health, safety, well-being and subject matter consistency.*

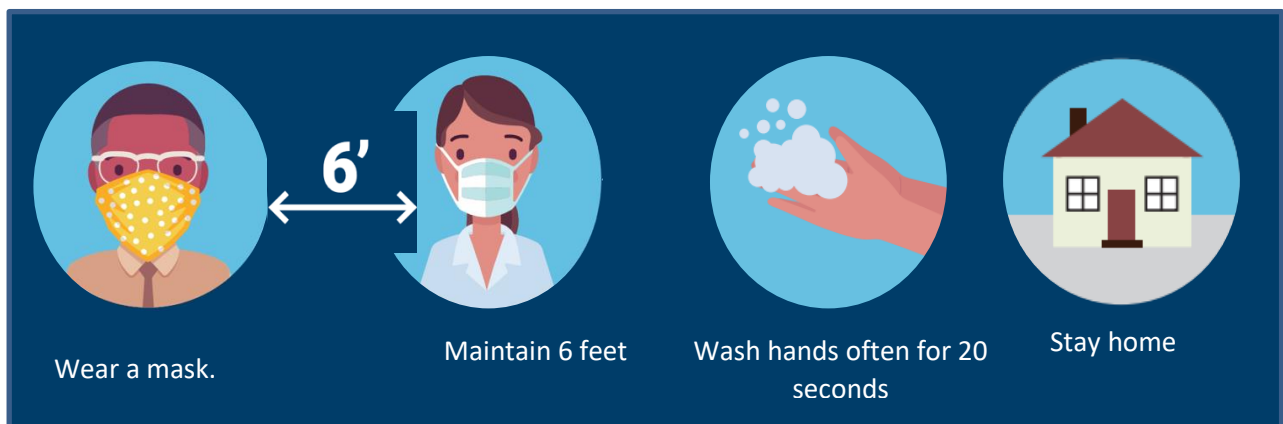


## Safety & Operations

The Safety and Operations protocols were developed with recommendations and guidelines from:

- Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
- Washington State Department of Health
- Yakima County Health District

When students and staff begin to return to school, all departments are prepared to adapt as guidance and regulations change to meet the current health and safety needs of our students, families, and staff.





## Health Protocols

**All safe-school operations within the district address the following:**

- Health screenings
- Health safety
- Masks required for all students, staff and visitors (as per OSPI)
- Dedicated entry and exit zones
- Frequent hand washing
- Physical distancing measures
- Social distancing signage
- Building sanitation and cleaning protocols (with emphasis on high-touch areas)
- Nutrition Services
- Transportation Services
- School ventilation and outside air exchange

**The Washington Department of Health requires the following:**

- Cover face with cloth mask
- Screen for illness at the beginning of each day
- Remain home if sick, exposed to COVID-19, or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Maintain six-foot physical distance
- Practice safe hygiene: wash or sanitize hands often
- Clean and disinfect following CDC guidelines
- Separate people with symptoms; send home as quickly as possible
- Maximize ventilation of outside air

**Given current regulations, the West Valley School District will follow these health and safety protocols:**

- Parents/Guardians will attest to their student's health each day
- Staff will attest to their health each day
- Students and staff will enter school each day through Safe Entrance Zones that follow processes for health and safety
- Students and staff will effectively wash their hands often following guidelines
- Students will follow a process for entering their classrooms at the start of the day
- Students and staff will meet guidelines for returning to school after having suspected signs of COVID-19
- Students and staff will follow strict protocols when symptoms develop at school (see flow chart on page 10)
- Students and staff will follow requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Staff members will follow enhanced cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing protocols in all areas in and out of school buildings.

## Health Screening

General requirements for all buildings:

All staff, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, vendors, or guests must provide an attestation and/or have a temperature check before entering the building.

No one will be allowed on-site if they:

- Are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with someone who has confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days\*.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days.

\*Health care providers, EMS workers, who wore proper personal protective equipment (PPE) during potential COVID-19 exposure are permitted to be on site.

### Attestation Questionnaire:

Staff, students, and visitors will provide an attestation and/or get a temperature check upon entering any building.

If an employee or visitor answers YES to any of the screening questions, the designated screener should consider:

- A review of the screening results;
- Recommendations for possible exclusion of the employee or visitor from the facility; and
- Recommendations for medical follow-up.

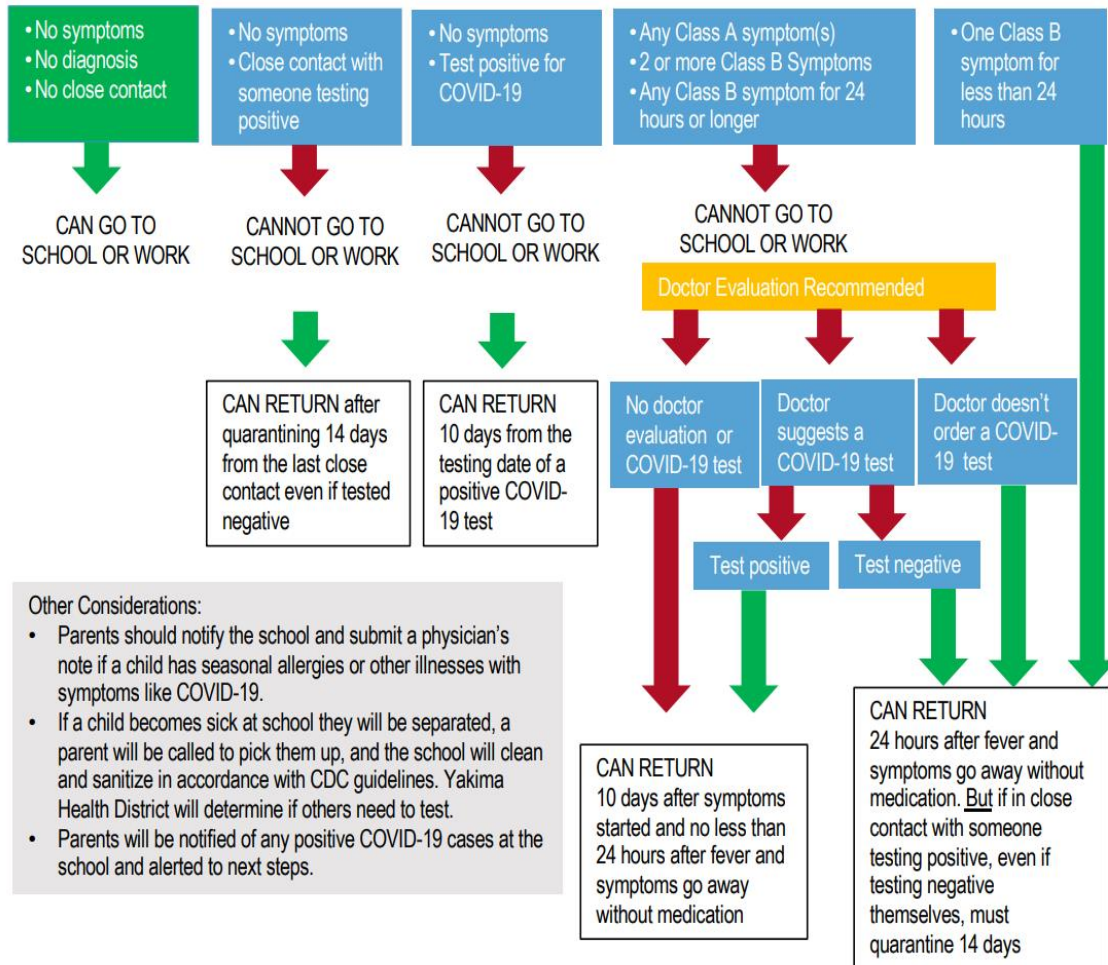
If the answer is NO to all of the aforementioned questions, the following is required for entry:

- Wear a face covering or mask.
- Follow all health and safety protocols.

Class A Symptoms		Class B Symptoms			
Fever of 100.4° or higher	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Fatigue	Congestion or runny nose	Chills	Nausea or vomiting
Cough	New loss of taste or smell	Headache	Sore throat	Diarrhea	Muscle or body aches

\*Two or more loose stool in 24 hours

## COVID-19 Symptom Flow Chart



**Other Considerations:**

- Parents should notify the school and submit a physician's note if a child has seasonal allergies or other illnesses with symptoms like COVID-19.
- If a child becomes sick at school they will be separated, a parent will be called to pick them up, and the school will clean and sanitize in accordance with CDC guidelines. Yakima Health District will determine if others need to test.
- Parents will be notified of any positive COVID-19 cases at the school and alerted to next steps.

## **West Valley School District protocol for ill students and positive COVID cases:**

### **Protocol for Student developing symptoms at school:**

1. Teacher places the student in a hallway or an isolated part of the room and calls the nurse or secondary staff.
2. The nurse or secondary staff walks to the classroom and escorts the student, while maintaining 6-foot distances, to the isolation room – an infrared forehead thermometer is used to take a temperature.
3. The student is placed in the isolation room and the door is closed. Time in and out of the room as well as 15-minute wellness checks will be documented.
4. Family is notified of the need for immediate pick up.
5. Family signs out the student and the nurse or secondary staff release the student to their family.
6. Nurse or secondary staff cleans and disinfects the area the student was waiting in including the chair or cot, door handles and any other surfaces that were likely to have been touched.
7. Nurse or secondary staff follow up with a phone call, email or letter recommending testing and explains how long the student must be out of school.
8. Nurse or secondary staff notify the attendance secretary about the length of time the student must be gone.
9. Attendance secretary/para pro marks the student absent for that period of time.

### **Protocol for Notification of positive case (student) who is at school:**

1. Whoever takes the initial call, will locate where the student is and call the teacher.
2. The teacher will place the student in the hallway or isolated place in the classroom. Information about when the student tested positive will also be gathered by the caller.
3. The initial call taker will notify the nurse or secondary staff about the positive case.
4. The nurse or secondary staff will walk to the classroom and escort the student while maintaining 6-foot distances, to the isolation room. An infrared forehead thermometer is used to take a temperature.
5. The student is placed in isolation and the door is closed. Time in and out of the room as well as 15-minute wellness checks will be documented.
6. Family are notified of the need for an immediate pick up if they have not already been notified.
7. Family will sign out the student. Nurse or secondary staff releases the student to the family member.
8. Nurse or secondary staff cleans and disinfects the area the student was waiting in including the chair or cot, door handles and any other surfaces that were likely to have been touched.
9. Nurse or secondary staff follows up with a phone call, email or letter explaining how long the student must be out of school.
10. Nurse or secondary staff notify the attendance secretary about the length of time the student must be gone.
11. Attendance secretary/para pro marks the student absent for that period of time.
12. Nurse or secondary staff will assist the Yakima Health District to identify close school contacts of the student.

**Protocol for Notification of positive case of student or staff, who are not at school:**

1. Whoever takes the initial call will forward the student or staff members name and good contact numbers to Alyssa Kidder.
2. Alyssa will contact the family or staff member to find out when they tested positive and discuss when they can return to school or work.
3. Alyssa can direct staff members to call Human resources for leave options.
4. Alyssa will call the attendance secretary to let them know how long the student will be absent for.
5. Alyssa will assist the Yakima Health District to identify close school contacts.

**Protocol for student calling in sick:**

1. Attendance secretary/para pro will ask about symptoms. If any COVID symptoms are present, the secretary/para pro will encourage testing and explain how long the student must be gone. They will advise them to call the school when they receive the results of their test. Written proof of negative test results will be required for return before 10 days. Attendance secretary will mark the student absent for 10 days.
2. If a parent calls to say the test is negative, the attendance secretary will advise the parent that the student can return 24 hours after their symptoms and fever subsides without any medication.

**Protocol for staff member calling in sick:**

1. Supervisor will give the name and contact information to Alyssa Kidder.
2. Alyssa Kidder will ask about COVID symptoms and encourage the staff member to get tested. She will also discuss when the staff member may return to work.

School	Nurse	Secondary Staff	Secondary Staff	Attendance Secretary
Ahtanum	Alyssa Kidder	Pam Rafferty	Richard Pryor	Pam Rafferty
Apple Valley	Tamra Fewkes	Heidi Sutton		Amanda Ward
Cottonwood	Lisbeth Kaplan, Irene Macias	Stacey Drake	Door Monitor	Holly Phillips
Mountainview	Lisbeth Kaplan, Irene Macias	Jenna Martin	Stacey De Wet	Tammy Heary
Summitview	Tamra Fewkes	Leslee Hebdon	Eva Lust	Leslee Hebdon
Wide Hollow	Lisbeth Kaplan, Irene Macias	Ashley Belles	Richard Ferguson	Ashley Belles
Middle School	Mary Lou Shean	Russ Tuman		Pam Stonecipher
Junior High	Kristal Graham	Kevin VandeBrake		Sharon Herke
High School	Alyssa Kidder	Sarah Flickinger-Peterson		Selena Koreski and Val Serrano

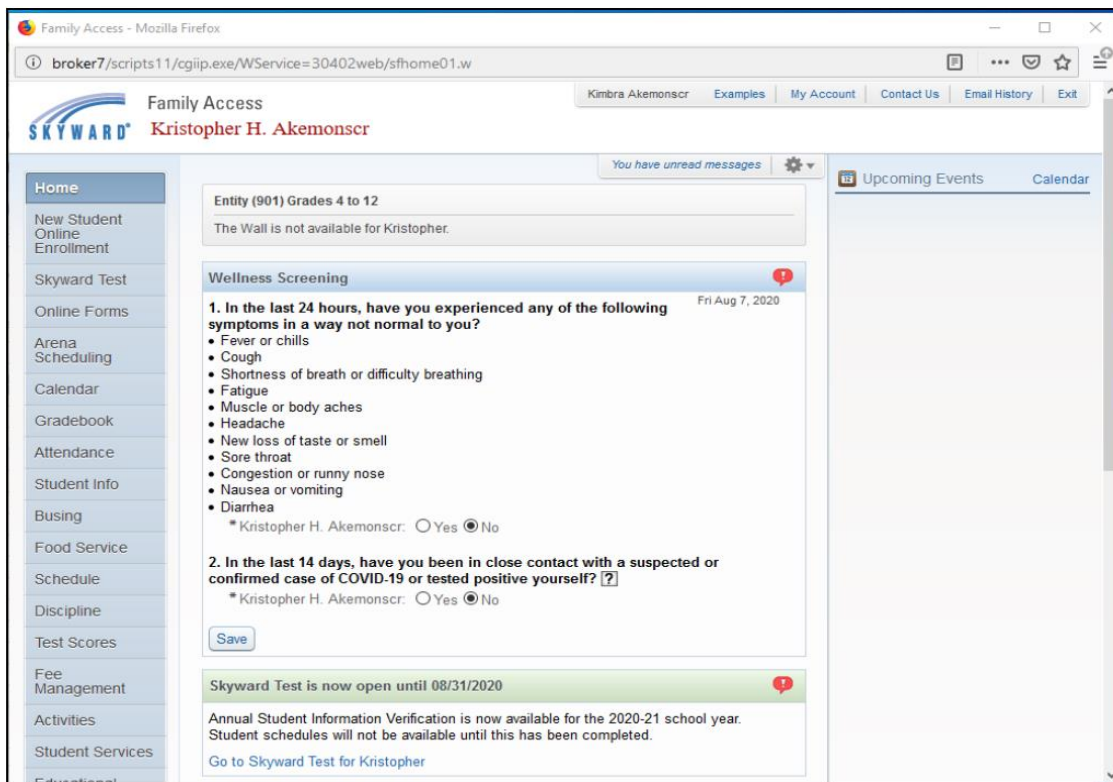
Does your student have...



Or has your Student...

Been in contact with someone with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes?)

The Skyward Wellness Screening form that families use to attest that their child does not display any of the COVID 19 symptoms is below.





## Transportation

Parents and Guardians will help students:

- Maintain social distance at bus stops
- Wear masks or face coverings at the bus stop and on the bus
- Stay home if not feeling well or showing any signs of COVID-19
- Keep personal items from being shared with others
- Bus passes will be temporarily suspended

Students will:

- Load from back to front
- Unload from front to back
- Not sit in front row
- Sit in assigned seats
- Sit with household members in assigned seats
- Wear face coverings
- Maintain social distance to the extent possible

District staff will:

- Maximize social distancing in loading and unloading areas
- Clean and disinfect following local, state, and federal guidelines
- Clean and disinfect high touch and common areas between elementary and secondary runs
- Clean and disinfect the entire bus after morning, midday and afternoon routes
- Open windows and vents to allow for maximum circulation of outside air to the extent possible given weather and air quality



## Child Nutrition

### Elementary Level

- Nutrition Services and staff members will continue to follow strict processes for preparing and serving meals
- Meal times will allow for safety guidelines
- Meals will be delivered to classrooms
- Cafeteria space will be utilized where social distancing is possible
- If using the cafeteria, seats will be assigned
- Use of tally sheets will eliminate point of sale interaction

### Secondary Level

- Nutrition Services and staff members will continue to follow strict processes for preparing and serving meals
- Meal times will allow for safety guidelines
- Several meal stations will be set up to move students through lines quickly
- “Grab and Go” style meals
- Use of tally sheets will eliminate point of sale interaction





## **Extracurricular Activities and Athletics**

Most secondary athletics are governed by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The 2020-2021 seasons have been substantially altered to best accommodate a chance to return to interscholastic competition. All sport competitions have been postponed to later in the school year.

As of November 1, secondary students will be allowed to participate in sports practices. Coaches will follow strict guidelines and protocols from the WIAA and the Department of Health. To practice, students must have their current physical on file at the high school. Additionally, students are required to pass their daily attestations.

For more information on WIAA guidelines and protocols please visit:  
<https://www.wiaa.com/subcontent.aspx?SecID=1240>

For more information on West Valley sports, students can email their coaches or contact the Athletics Office at: (509) 972-5942

## **Physical Education**

Physical Education (PE) will focus on individual skills or activities and will be held outside whenever possible. If PE takes place indoors, 6 feet of distance will be maintained between students. Strenuous activity will be avoided so students can wear their face coverings. Outdoor students will initially be required to wear masks during PE and recess, until such time that students show they can realistically maintain social distancing while outdoors. Then masks will not be required outdoors.