



## WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

August 11, 2021

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and you were able to spend time with family and friends. I am looking forward to beginning the new school year. In preparation, I would like to take this opportunity to share some important information with you, including the district mask recommendations. As we proceed through the school year, I would like to ask for your continued understanding and patience. Coronavirus has taught us that each day can be met with new challenges, new information and creates a need for flexibility in our schools and in our lives.

Willoughby-Eastlake will continue to work with the Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) in order to remain up to date on our recommendations to families. In addition to the LCGHD, the district will stay current on the recommendations from the [Ohio Department of Health](#) (ODH), and the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC). While our goal is to keep students in school to the greatest extent possible, we are required and obligated to consider the well-being and safety of our students, staff and community first. We will continue to keep this fact at the forefront of all decisions.

Willoughby-Eastlake plans to utilize the following measures and protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID:

- Face masks are not required on district campuses and schools, but it is highly recommended that all people wear one. Wearing a mask may greatly reduce the risk of quarantine if a COVID-19 positive case is reported in school and is highly recommended by the CDC, ODH and the LCGHD. The district respects all decisions with regard to wearing masks and will make all attempts to support families regarding this choice.
- Whenever possible, students will be spaced socially distant. Because all students will be returning to the buildings for in-person learning, maintaining a distance of three feet may not be possible throughout the school day.
- A COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement for students and staff. Vaccinations are however, strongly recommended for those that are able to receive one. This recommendation has been made by the ODH, the CDC, and the LCGHD.
- Face masks must be worn at all times while using transportation provided by Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools. This is a federal mandate. ([Federal Mandate](#))
- In collaboration with the LCGHD, people that have been identified as a close contact to a person that has been medically identified as positive for COVID will be contacted and be required to follow health department guidelines for quarantine.

- Students and staff that are ill are asked to remain at home. Parents and staff are asked to conduct a wellness check each morning before arriving at school.
- Willoughby-Eastlake staff members will continue to mitigate the spread of COVID by continuing to implement the following practices:
  - Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the buildings
  - Additional cleaning will be continuing using CLOROX 360 machines and appropriate sanitation materials
  - Cleaning of buses will be completed on a stringent schedule
  - Ventilation filters will continue to be replaced on an accelerated basis
- For families who would like their child to attend school using an online option, Willoughby-Eastlake is partnering with the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve. If you utilize this option, your child will remain a Willoughby-Eastlake student and will be able to participate in extracurricular activities within the district. You can learn more about this option by emailing Mrs. Robin Hopkins at [Robin.Hopkins@weschools.org](mailto:Robin.Hopkins@weschools.org).

Please keep in mind that the information shared with you today is subject to change. I understand that the recent rise in the cases of COVID have created questions, anxiety, and concern for many of our parents, staff members, students, and community members. In light of that, I ask that you continue to be kind and support one another, our children and our staff regardless of your thoughts about COVID, masks or other issues. We can be strong but only if we work collectively as one.

Wishing you all good health,

***Steve Thompson***

Steve Thompson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools