

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

(Executive Order 2020-142 District Preparedness Plan Template)

07/09/20

Name of District: Whitmore Lake Public Schools

Address of District: 8845 Main St, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

District Code Number: 81140

Web Address of the District: www.wlps.net

Name of Intermediate School District: Washtenaw ISD

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable): NA

Preparedness Plan Introduction

Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-142](#) "provides a structure to support all schools in Michigan as they plan for a return of pre-K-12 education in the fall. Under the order, school districts must adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan laying out how they will cope with the disease across the various phases of the [Michigan Safe Start Plan](#). In turn, the accompanying Michigan Return to School Roadmap offers a guide to the types of safety protocols appropriate during each phase. There's no one-size-fits-all solution: What works in Lansing may not work in Sault Sainte Marie. Districts will retain the flexibility to tailor their instruction to their particular needs and to the disease conditions present in their regions." (EO-2020-142)

Each district (public, public school academy (PSA), nonpublic, and intermediate school district (ISD) that educates pre-K-12 students) shall submit a single completed Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan to its Board in time for approval by August 15 or seven days before the first day of school, whichever comes first. This template, when completed, serves as a single Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan.

The Preparedness Plan will be collected by the Intermediate School District for public school districts, the authorizing body for public school academies, or the chief/designated school administrator for nonpublic schools for transmission to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Treasurer by August 17, 2020. Additionally, this Preparedness Plan must be posted on the district's/PSA's, or nonpublic school's public website home page no later than August 17, 2020. A single application should be filed by the district rather than multiple applications for individual schools within a district.

Preparedness Plan Assurances

The District agrees to meet all of the following requirements of Executive Order 2020-142

- ✓ The District assures that when it provides in-person instruction to its students without disabilities, the district must also provide in-person instruction to its students with disabilities, consistent with their individualized education programs (IEPs).
- ✓ The District assures that when schools are closed to in-person instruction, districts must strive in good faith and to the extent practicable, based upon available resources, technology, training, and curriculum, as well as the circumstances presented by COVID-19, to provide equal access to any alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities from birth through age 26. This assurance includes the provision of auxiliary services under section 1296 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1296.
- ✓ The District assures that while any state of emergency or disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it shall comply with guidance from the United States Department of Education, including its Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the Michigan Department of Education concerning the delivery of alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities in light of the impact of COVID-19.
- ✓ The District assures that it shall, to the extent practicable and necessary, make individualized determinations whether and to what extent compensatory services may be needed for students with disabilities in light of the school closures during the 2019–2020 school year.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will close its buildings to anyone except: (a) District employees or contractors necessary to conduct minimum basic school operations consistent with a Preparedness Plan, including those employers or contractors necessary to facilitate alternative modes of instruction, such as distributing materials and equipment or performing other necessary in-person functions. (b) Food-service workers preparing food for distribution to students or their families. (c) Licensed child-care providers and the families that they serve, if providers follow all emergency protocols identified by the state.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will suspend athletics, after-school activities, inter-school activities, and busing.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continued pay of school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Preparedness Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.
- ✓ The District assures that in **Phases 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continuation of food distribution to eligible students.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 4** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will prohibit indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.
- ✓ The District assures cooperation with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and agrees to collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present in school.

Preparedness Plan

Every district must develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (“Preparedness Plan”) that is informed by [Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#) (“Return to School Roadmap”) from the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and Return to School Advisory Council.

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-142 a plan must include all the following parts:

- A.** The policies and procedures that the District will follow when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.
1. Describe how the district will offer alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction and a summary of materials each student and the student's parents or guardians will need to meaningfully access the alternative modes of instruction included in the Preparedness Plan. If the Preparedness Plan relies on electronic instruction, the Preparedness Plan must consider how the district will aid students who lack access to computers or to the internet. This is also in the Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan submitted in April. You may want to update and link to this plan in your response below.

In Phases 1-3, Whitmore Lake Public Schools will enact its Continuity of Learning Plan (COL). The COL will reflect current grading practices and curriculum/grade advancement policies.

- B.** The policies and procedures that the District will follow when the region in which the District is located is in **Phase 4** of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. Those policies and procedures must, at a minimum, include:
1. **Face coverings** (p. 22)
 - a. Please describe how the district will implement **requirements** for facial coverings that at a minimum require the wearing of face coverings, except during meals and unless face coverings cannot be medically tolerated, for:
 - i) All staff and all students in grades preK-12 when on a school bus.
 - ii) All staff and all students in grades preK-12 when in indoor hallways and common areas.
 - iii) All staff when in classrooms.
 - iv) All students in grades 6 and up when in classrooms.
 - v) All students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class.

In Phases 4-6, Whitmore Lake Public Schools will implement in-person instruction with all required elements of the Roadmap to Reopening Schools met. A virtual program will be in place by August 31 and will be made available to parents who choose not to send their children to in person instruction.

Phase 4 In person District Implementation Plan:

- The expectations for the wearing of face coverings and how to obtain clean face coverings will be included in all district to parent communications, all student orientations, and all staff orientations. (Aug. 1 - Aug. 30)
- Students and parents will have a safety video made available to them on the wearing of and expectations for maintenance of face coverings. Students and parents will sign-off on their awareness of these policies before the students are permitted to enter the classroom on the first day of school. (Aug. 31 – Sept. 8)
- Building, grounds, and transportation signage will be prominent throughout all school facilities and clearly identify who is required to wear face coverings in each designated area of the building, grounds, or bus. (Aug. 31)

- Fabric face coverings will be ordered and provided to every student and staff member on a daily basis. These will be placed on busses and in the classrooms every evening by the custodial and transportation staff. (Aug. 25)
- Fabric and clear face coverings will be provided to preK-5 teachers with the requirement to wear the clear mask during instruction. Any other teacher at any grade level may also request a clear face covering if they so choose.
- Individuals (staff or students) who claim medical exemption will need to meet with the Principal to provide rationale and documentation. (Begins Aug. 17 and continues throughout the school year)
- PreK-4 students will not be required to wear a face covering once they are situated in the classroom unless the classroom activity places them in close (2 feet or less) proximity to other students.
- The wearing of face coverings will be added to the District/Building PBIS matrix. School staff will define, teach and prompt the wearing of face coverings within their predictable school routine. Re-teaching will occur daily until predictable school routines are established.
- School staff will acknowledge those wearing face coverings using the positive reinforcement designated in the District/Building PBIS plan.
- Students requiring special considerations (example: 504 Plans, IEPs, health care plans) regarding failure to wear a face covering will be referred to their specific case manager for the development of additional interventions.
- Guests to the school building (presenters, substitute teachers, etc) will be issued a disposable face covering upon signing in at the main office and will be instructed to wear the face covering at all times. Instances of non-compliance will result in the guest being escorted from the building by the school safety officer or building administrator.
- In instances of uncertainty about individuals not wearing face coverings, these matters will be relayed to the building administration for review and decisive action.

2. Hygiene

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for hygiene protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 22-23).

Hygiene during scheduled face to face instruction and counseling for Phase 4:

WLPS schools will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques). Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Supply sharing will be discouraged or very limited. Personal items will be kept separate.

District and Building Implementation Plan:

- Every classroom area will be supplied with a fixed or portable handwashing/sanitizing station.
- Supplies (paper towels, soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, trash receptacles) will be checked daily and restocked in the classroom.
- Teachers will contact the office immediately if supplies run out during the school day.
- Each classroom will have a hygiene protocol with timelines that are posted and communicated via newsletters, web pages, bulletin boards, and the like. It will include

- Hand-washing schedule
 - Room and materials cleaning schedule
- Staff will teach students the following on the first day of school and reinforce weekly or more often as needed (this may be done via video)
 - proper handwashing on the first day of school and reinforce weekly or more often if needed
 - how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue and dispose of it in the trash
- Proper mitigation strategies including hand washing and sneezing will be communicated to families via newsletters, web pages, bulletin boards, and the like. Parents and caregivers will be asked to review and reinforce with their students.
- Custodial staff will
 - Procure adequate soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues by August 21, November 20, February 19, and April 23
 - Post signage related to cleaning and hygiene strategies in each room, restroom, throughout the hallways by August 20
 - Monitor hygiene supplies and refill as needed three times daily
 - Procure hand sanitizing stations as deemed necessary during walk-through with building leader by August 28
- Sharing school supplies will be limited, and each student will have their own supply box for materials.

3. Cleaning

Please describe how you will implement the cleaning **requirements** for cleaning protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 27).

District and Building Implementation Plan:

- Administrators and Building Operations staff will meet to review all guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting of buildings and to review the Building Operations the MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap.
- An inventory related to all cleaning supplies that are in compliance with the EPA-approved related to COVID will be taken and orders will be made to address increased cleaning protocols.
- Cleaning stations will be identified around the building that hold materials for usage in different wings. I.e. Curriculum closet in third grade hallway, gym storage room, custodial closet in 5th grade hallway.
- All classrooms will be provided spray bottles with EPA-approved disinfectant, paper towels, face shield and gloves in order to address new cleaning protocols. Staff must wear gloves, a mask and face shield when cleaning.
- Each building custodial team and administrator will tour their building and identify areas of frequent usage throughout the building. A map will be created and kept secure in the head custodian room and office to ensure compliance when custodial substitutes are in the building.

- Custodial staff will walk the building wiping all high frequency usage areas at 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m, 4:00 p.m. and following any evening activities in the building. Staff will note the time and date and initials on a chart that is kept daily.
- All special classrooms i.e. art, music, gym and media centers will have EPA-approved cleaning supplies stored in the classroom away from students. The teacher of record for the area will wipe down all frequently used materials after each class has exited with EPA-approved disinfectant. This will occur prior to the entrance of the next class.
- Classroom teachers will wipe down the students desks every time students exit the room at the elementary or after every period at the secondary level with EPA-approved disinfectant. Locked storage units with ventilation for cleaning materials will be available for all staff as needed. All classrooms will have the appropriate EPA-approved disinfectant in their rooms.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- A training on cleaning materials and protocols will be provided to the staff training will show the use of PPE when cleaning, protocols for the classroom and storage of cleaning materials.

4. Athletics

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for athletics protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 27).

All aspects of WLPS athletics will comply with guidance published by the MHSAA and policies of the MIAC. This applies to offseason and in season workouts, practices, and competitions. Spectator allowance will comply with the most recent Executive Order, which currently limit outdoor event capacity at 100 and indoor capacity at 10.

5. Screening

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for screening protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 24).

District and Building Implementation Plan:

- WLPS will fully cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- WLPS will identify and designate a quarantine area and a staff person to care for students who become ill at school.
- Students who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in an identified quarantine area with a surgical mask until they can go home using their mode of transportation to school or be picked up by an adult.
- School staff caring for these children will wear a surgical mask, with the exception of students with special needs requiring aerosolized procedures in which an N95 mask is required. Symptomatic students sent home from school will be told to stay home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.
- Staff will conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to coming to work. If they exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they will stay home.

Families will be encouraged to check their child's temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will be expected to stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present. Families will be encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider.

6. Testing

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for testing protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 25).

WLPS will fully cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.

Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school will be told to stay home until they have tested negative for COVID-19, or have been released from isolation according to CDC guidelines. Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. In the event of a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, WEOC will cooperate with the health department to make immediate efforts to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than six feet in close proximity to the student or staff member) so that they can be quarantined for 14 days at home. Students and staff should be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, only those that develop symptoms of COVID-19 require testing for COVID-19.

7. Busing and Student Transportation

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for busing and student transportation protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 28).

District and Building Implementation Plan:

WLPS will continue its busing of students. However, WLPS encourages parents to find alternatives to busing their children to school while in Phase 4.

- Students should be temperature screened at home prior to going to the bus stop. Temperatures greater than 100.4 should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptom of COVID-19 are present.
- Before proceeding to a seat, students will be required to have a mask and use hand sanitizer (installed on all buses).
- Students from the same household will sit together as capacity allows.
- Seat assignment will be utilized at the discretion of the transportation department as needed.
- Signage will be added to each bus to address the use of face masking of all students and drivers, use of hand sanitizers and cleaning protocols.
- WLPS will assess the number of buses that may be on the road and re-evaluate weekly based on student participation rates.
- Begin the ordering of hand sanitizer and supplies in which to brace/mount the hand sanitizer at the entrance of each bus.

- Busses will be properly cleaned after the departure of the last child from each run once the bus has returned to the transportation garage.
- Face masks will be available at the entrance of the bus in the event that a student does not come to the bus equipped with the necessary item.
- An assigned adult bus aide, trained in student management techniques and implicit bias training will be assigned to each bus run in addition to the driver. This bus aide will sit in the front of the bus facing toward the passengers to monitor behavior.
- Communication will be sent to families related to the mandatory nature of wearing a face mask on the bus and that all staff and students, if medically feasible, must wear it in order to be transported, unless “It is determined on a case by case basis that it is not safe for the bus driver to wear a facial covering.”
- Communication documents will be developed to enable the drivers of the buses to know what the safety plans are for any specific students and who for medical reasons will not be wearing a face mask.
- Professional development will be required for all bus drivers related to the changes including the appropriate usage of face masks and policies regarding the requirement of their usage on the bus, hand sanitizing, and cleaning protocols to address the cleaning and disinfecting of the bus before and after every route. A check sheet with time and date of each cleaning will be provided to staff to complete each time the bus is cleaned.
- Bus drivers, weather permitting, will keep windows open on the bus both in route and when stopped.
- On those buses with specialized transportation and equipment needs, bus aides or drivers will wipe down the equipment upon entrance to the bus. This will be noted in the cleaning log.

- C. 1. Indicate which strongly recommended protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* the district will include in its Preparedness Plan when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 5** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.

All strongly recommended protocols will be followed. WLPS will maintain its COVID-19 FAQ to update parents on changes to all protocols in Phase 5.

2. Indicate which strongly recommended protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* the district will not include in its Preparedness Plan when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 5** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.

All strongly recommended protocols will be followed. WLPS will maintain its COVID-19 FAQ to update parents on changes to all protocols in Phase 5.

- D. After considering all the protocols that are strongly recommended in the *Return to School Roadmap*, please indicate if a school plans to exclude protocols that are strongly recommended for any of the categories above in **Phase 4**.

Yes. Social distancing of 6 feet in classrooms is an expectation that cannot be guaranteed until class enrollments are verified. WLPS will not exclude a student who chooses to attend in-person unless

his/her health poses a risk to others.

Final Steps for Submission

Each district shall submit a single completed Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan to its Board of Education (in the case of a PSA, the Academy Board of Directors; in the case of a nonpublic school, the chief or designated school administrator) in time for approval by August 15 or seven days before the first day of school, whichever comes first.

Date of Approval by the District Board of Education, PSA Board of Directors, or nonpublic school chief/designated school administrator:

Link to the Board Meeting Minutes or Signature of Board President, or signature of nonpublic school chief/designated school administrator:

Link to the approved Plan posted on the District/PSA/nonpublic school website:

The Preparedness Plan will be collected by the Intermediate School District for public school districts, the authorizing body for public school academies, or the chief/designated school administrator for nonpublic schools for transmission to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Treasurer by August 17, 2020. Additionally, this Preparedness Plan must be posted on the district's/PSA's, or nonpublic school's public website home page no later than August 17, 2020.

Name of District/PSA/Nonpublic Leader Submitting Plan:

Date Received by the ISD/Authorizing Body/Chief or designated School Administrator:

Date Submitted to State Superintendent and State Treasurer: