

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return to Learn/Continuity of Services Plan

2024-2025

Watersmeet Township School District will continue to prioritize in-person student learning from caring teachers in the school community. The 2024-2025 Return to Learn/Continuity of Services Plan provides guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff in Watersmeet Schools. This plan was developed using guidance from the WUPHD to ensure that our school district has a successful and safe return to school and learning environment plan. Additional supporting documents include the Michigan Department of Education/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [“Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools”](#) resource.

Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also need to vary based on in-school COVID-19 activity and outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the district or building to adjust mitigation strategies. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant, the plan will be reviewed, and updates will be made, if deemed necessary.

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, in consultation with the WUPHD, the District will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders

The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high. The levels do not apply in situations of COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, classrooms, or athletics.

Low	Medium	High
Instructional Format		
In-person instruction will	In-person instruction will	In-person instruction will
occur	occur	occur, but some classes or grades may be moved temporarily to remote instruction if required due to outbreaks and to control in-school spread.
Athletics		
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. Additional health and safety protocols may be put into place. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
Cleaning and Disinfecting		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms.
COVID-19 Testing		
Testing will not be required but may be offered to families		
Extracurricular and Field Trips		
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.
Face Coverings		

Face coverings are not required for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors.	Face coverings are not required for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors.	The District may choose to require face coverings when required by the WUPHD for students, staff, volunteers, and visitors.
Food Service		
Normal food service operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur.	Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as required by the WUPHD.
Gatherings and Facility Use		
No restrictions on gatherings	No restrictions on gatherings	Restrictions on gathering size
or use of facilities.	or use of facilities.	and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Use of facilities by outside organizations may be restricted.
Hand Hygiene		
Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.	Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.	Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.
Isolation and Quarantine		
The District will follow requirements of the WUPHD		
Offices		
District will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.	District will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.	District will be open for normal school business. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place. Visitors and guests may be limited.

Remote/Virtual Learning		
<p>All students can be in a fully remote learning environment as a result of an order from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure may be provided remote learning opportunities through our district's learning management system throughout the closure.</p>		
Social Distancing		
<p>Social distancing measures are not required.</p>	<p>Social distancing measures are not required.</p>	<p>Feasible social distancing measures will be put in place. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to meet social distancing requirements.</p>
Health Screening		
<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school. DO NOT send students to school when they are sick. See the student illness section.</p>		
Student Illness		
<p>Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per board policy 3404 Communicable Diseases. Students exhibiting the following symptoms that are new or different/worse from their baseline of any chronic illness shall remain home or excluded from</p>		

school or excluded from school until the student is symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated for their illness (see [Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)).

- Severely ill (lethargic or less responsive, has difficulty breathing) ● Fever (temp over 100.4) or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough, shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting(two or more times)
- Diarrhea (two or more loose or watery stools)
- Abdominal pain
- Rash with fever or changes in behavior
- Skin sores that cannot be covered
- New loss of taste or smell

Transportation

Normal transportation operations will occur.	Normal transportation operations will occur.	Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate or required.
--	--	--

Vaccinations

The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The WUPHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person.