



**This communication supersedes all previous communication.**

Previous communications are archived on the District's [COVID-19 Webpage](#).

**Friday, December 4, 2020**

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and found ways to celebrate despite the limitations imposed as a result of the pandemic. While our current focus may appear to only be on the pandemic and mitigation efforts, our priority is still the day-to-day business of educating our students. It's hard to believe it's already December and our Administrators are beginning to plan for the 2021-22 school year. Over the past couple of months, we've held departmental/building budget meetings, have been looking at personnel planning and working on curriculum. I invite everyone to attend the December 8, 2020, Budget and Finance meeting via Zoom (link on our website). It will be at this public meeting that our Board will discuss the preliminary Budget for the 2021-22 school year.

### **COVID-19 Updates**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently updated their [quarantine](#) and [isolation](#) guidelines to include an option for a reduced quarantine/isolation period. However, it often takes time for the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) to review and adopt national guidelines, and at this point, current PA guidelines remain unchanged. As you can imagine, we have received several questions about this; as a Pennsylvania public school district, we are required to abide by Pennsylvania's guidelines. We will notify the community of any changes to those guidelines.

By now, you may have seen the COVID-19 Dashboard on our [website](#) that shows, at a glance, where we stand with the number of recorded cases in a West York school setting and within a rolling 14-day period. A recorded case includes any confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 when the individual was physically present in the school setting during the infectious period, including but not limited to, instruction, work, sports, or extracurricular activities. All recorded cases will be communicated to the community. Thank you all for your patience as we receive and interpret the latest guidelines from the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education.

If you've not already done so, please take a moment to follow the links below to stay up-to-date on the latest guidance and how that may impact you and your families, especially in light of any potential travel you may be planning for the December holiday break:

- [New Travel Guidance](#)
- [Updated Mask Order](#)
- [Masking FAQs](#)

If you have any questions about either of these orders, please contact your child's building principal or Nurse Cindy Rose.

From the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, we have communicated that virtual learning is not for everyone and many of our students learn best when in the classroom. Our goal has always been to provide students and families with the option of in-person learning for as long as possible. However, with the rise of COVID-19 in the county, we all have to consider the possibility of West York moving to a 100% virtual learning environment. In light of this, I am asking all families to be prepared for this possibility by having a contingency plan in place that might include childcare and informing employers.

As I have conveyed in prior communications when it comes to mitigating the spread of COVID-19, the District can only control what happens within our buildings' walls, and due to the diligence of our students, staff, and families, we continue to be successful in our efforts. At this point, even though most of the transmission of COVID-19 is occurring outside of our facilities, positive cases involving our students and staff may still lead to short-term building closures.

The fact is, most of our families and students want and NEED the option of in-person learning. The best way to keep COVID-19 out of our schools and our buildings open to students is to practice healthy habits and encourage family members to do the same. Please continue to monitor symptoms and report them to our school nurses, along with any testing for COVID-19 and close contact with any positive cases. The symptom monitoring tool and nurse contact information can be found in the [Family Information Packet](#).

Keep in mind that if we do have to close a specific building or the entire District to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, we not only have to move classes to a virtual platform, but we must also cancel all co-curricular activities - this includes all athletics.

### **Important Information and Reminders:**

#### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

|                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 8, 2020 5:00 PM  | Budget & Finance Committee Meeting |
| December 8, 2020 6:30 PM  | Board Meeting                      |
| December 14, 2020 5:30 PM | Co-curricular Committee Meeting    |
| December 15, 2020 5:30 PM | PRIDE Committee Meeting            |
| December 15, 2020 6:30 PM | Facilities Committee Meeting       |

Due to the 10% capacity limit, all Board and Committee meetings are open to the public via Zoom, and Board meetings may be viewed via Livestream on the District YouTube channel. More information and registration links may be found on our [website](#).

#### **Inclement Weather Days**

We are getting close to the time of year when we begin to anticipate inclement weather days. Because the pandemic forced us all to provide and receive instruction virtually, we can apply our Distance-learning platform to inclement weather days, just like our Wednesday Distance-learning Days.

Since Distance-learning days are handled differently at each building, be on the look-out for communication from your building's principal regarding how these days will look for your children. Also, since we can now use a distance learning option for weather events, we may limit or eliminate weather-related 2-hour delays.

For reference, the current 2020-21 District calendar may be found [here](#).

### **Student Meal Programs- Update**

We have received notice from the USDA that they have extended the free breakfast and lunch program through June 30, 2021. This is terrific news for our families and means that **all breakfast and lunch meals across the District shall be provided, free of charge, to ALL students.** This includes pick-up meals for WY Cyber Academy students as well as meals for anyone 18 and under who reside in our District. Please follow your child's home building guidelines for ordering pick-up meals. At the secondary level, a second meal may be purchased at the regular meal rate. Menus for all buildings are posted on our website. More information may be found on our [website](#). Please contact Mr. Scott Rutkowski at [scrutkowski@wyasd.org](mailto:scrutkowski@wyasd.org) if you have any questions.

### **Spectators at Sporting Events**

Please keep in mind that while spectators at District events are still limited, everyone may watch these events via live stream. Links to each live stream channel for District teams may be found [here](#).

### **Building Visitors**

All visitors must complete a screening form and have their temperature taken at each building. They will be expected to adhere to posted guidelines for social distancing to include wearing facemasks until further notice.

### **The Blue & White**

The Blue & White is published at the end of each week and delivered via email. Past issues may be found [here](#). Please continue to share your positive photos throughout the year - it's a bright spot for all of us! You can send them to [cmgreco@wyasd.org](mailto:cmgreco@wyasd.org).

Best wishes for a great weekend.

Sincerely,

**Todd M. Davies**  
Superintendent of Schools