

COVID Update August 19, 2021

Much like last year, the Walton County School District (WCSD) will continue to update our stakeholders with our current and total numbers of COVID-19 data for the 2021-2022 school year. In the spirit of transparency, we hope to share these numbers with you on a monthly if not weekly basis.

COVID-19 Statistics	Single Day Data (8/18/21)	% of total population (students & staff: ~13,000)	Overall Data to Date (8/10/21 – 8/18/21)	% of total population (students & staff: ~13,000)
Positive COVID-19 Cases of School District Students and/or Employees	30	0.2%	165	1.3%
Quarantined Due to On Campus Exposure of School District Students and/or Employees	59	0.5%	256	2.0%
Quarantined Due to Off Campus Exposure (Community/Family Exposure) of School District Students and/or Employees	24	0.2%	149	1.1%
Schools Involved in Positive Cases and/or Exposure	14		20	

Parents, please know you will be notified if your child has been directly exposed to COVID-19. The definition of exposure is being less than six feet for more than 15 minutes with a person who has tested positive. If you have not been notified, then your child has not been directly exposed.

WCSD is collaborating daily with local and state experts, as well as speaking internally at the district office and with school principals on a daily basis. We are currently focused on ten mitigation strategies district-wide. Please note strategy #10 is a revision from the start of the school year:

Walton County School District COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies for the 2021-2022 School Year

1. If a person is sick (students, teachers, staff, and visitors), they should stay home.
2. Face covering is optional for all, including the bus.
3. Hand sanitizer is available at various areas inside the school.
4. Social distancing from others is encouraged as much as possible.
5. Signs will be displayed to remind those in schools about social distancing, as well as the use of hand sanitizer, washing of hands, and face coverings.

6. Cleaning and disinfecting school facilities/buses which are occupied by students will be done daily.
7. Adequate mitigation supplies are on hand at all schools/facilities (hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, etc.).
8. COVID-19 vaccination is optional for all students and employees.
9. COVID-19 contact tracing is occurring in all schools/facilities (2021-2022 WCSD Decision Tree for employees and students).
- 10. At this time non-essential visitors and volunteers are not allowed to enter schools. This mitigation strategy will be reevaluated on September 1st.**

WCSD COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be updated as new guidance becomes available throughout the school year.

Regarding academics, please stay in close contact with your child's school and teachers this year, especially if your child has to quarantine. As always, when students are out for sickness or quarantine, please remember to document your child's absences and request, complete, and turn in make up work.

Finally, as your Superintendent, I want to say thank you to all our constituents. At the beginning of every school year, we are focused on safety – getting students in and out of our facilities effectively, on the correct school buses, and in the right classes. With the pandemic, we are doing all of that in addition to the mitigation strategies listed above – cleaning, contact tracing, calling parents, getting work to students, etc. I want to thank our schools, teachers, staff, and administrators for working tirelessly. I am proud of our employees! Parents, thank you for being patient with us, gracious to us, and continuing to trust us with your children and our precious students. We will continue to move **4wRd**, and we will continue to be EPIC in all that we do! Stay safe. I sincerely thank you for your support.